

Ventura Social Services Task Force

Minutes of Meeting March 3, 2010

Attending - total of 28 (Neal Andrews, Jerry Breiner, Peter Brown, Cathy Brudnicki, Cindy Cantle, Jan Christian, David Deutsch, Bill Finley, Ken Finning, Jill Forman, Todd L. Goehner, John Jones, Shelli Locklear, Erika Manrique, Mike Merewether, Kate Mills, Rose Ann Morrissey, Ken Porter, Clyde Reynolds, Revis Robinson, Debora Schreiber, Karol Schulkin, Craig Shaw, Mark Stadler, Mary Stewart, Beth Sutherland, Kristen Tippelt, Jenny York)

Meeting called to order by chair John Jones

Self-introductions performed.

I. Report on City Activity by Peter Brown

1. Kingdom Center is open. Grand Opening Sunday March 21, 2-5 PM. All are invited
2. Warming Shelter will be open through the end of March, which will help to include people in the census.
3. Contract downtown with SGI for 3 people to work downtown as ambassadors. Brent in charge, assisted by Juan and Michael; they are cleaning up and answering questions. They wear bright blue shirts and have yellow trash cans. Peter gave them orientation on interacting with homeless and panhandling folks. Boundary to the East is Ash Street.
4. Council subcommittee met. Peter will report to Council probably April 12. On agenda is criteria for Safe Sleep and how Council interfaces with VSSTF. Also, recommendation is to make the committee a standing committee which will subject it to the Brown Act and make all meetings open and publically noticed.

II. Report on NAEH Conference

Over 700 people were in attendance. Opportunity was given not only to hear from HUD and Health and Human Services, and USICH (U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness), but the format allowed us to give them feedback on what we need at the local level, what helps, what doesn't.

Collaboration and coordination tend to be best metric for success, and also case management.

III. Report of VSSTF Ad Hoc Committee on funding

Request made by members that proposals include outcome measurements and accountability. Proposals should be directed at meeting the goals of 10 year strategy, although there is room for interpretation here. In future, all proposals submitted for funding will be on a form and include the above.

Brief reporting of progress and problems, and money spent will be required this year (probably at 6 month point and at end) with more structured reporting guidelines being developed. Rev Robinson will help with this. The proposal which was approved is as follows. City staff and elected officials abstained.

Starting with \$74,747.00--\$24,747 from previous year unused and \$50,000 new - \$23,000.00 Ken Belden's position

\$51,747.00

\$51,747.00

- \$15,000.00 Turning Point Foundation

\$36,747.00

\$36,747.00

- \$5,000.00 Outreach coordinator (under supervision of VSSTF steering committee)

\$31,747.00

\$31,747.00

- \$2,747.00 VSSTF Contingency Fund*

\$29,000.00

- \$2,500.00 Community Education (including cards for Prevention Funds)

\$26,500.00

\$26,500.00

- \$2000.00 Home Share

\$24,500.00 \$30,247.00

\$24,500.00 \$30,247.00

- \$500.00 - Flat Rental Subsidy Program – Part 2 (Pursuit of Rental Subsidy Funds)

\$24,000.00

\$24,000.00

- \$12,000.00 Salvation Army TLC - Funding for Children's Case Management/Case Management support and activities

\$12,000.00

\$12,000.00

- \$12,000.00 Operation Embrace Food Donation Coordinator

\$00000

Note: the VSSTF Contingency Fund was not in the proposals – with the concept coming up during the meeting. This fund would be for advertising for events, printing a program or flyer (maybe for November), door prize for an event, stipend for facilitator, gas or travel expenses for designated persons or speaker if decided on, joining with Lift Up Your Voice or other org. in some endeavor needing room rent or whatever, an ad or announcement in a leaflet for an event.

IV. Subcommittee reports (meeting times / locations at end)

A. Faith Communities by Bill Finley

1. Safe Sleep Program in operation. Sites are not being publicized.
2. Homeless Awareness Month will be November. Letter going out soon to churches, etc under letterheads of various orgs.

Inviting participation and with a response form. There will be two versions, one Christian and one more ecumenical.

B. Homeless Prevention by Cindy Cattle

1. Catholic Charities assisted 5 households. Project Understanding and Catholic Charities will share the fund in March. \$1000 came in from Kiwanis.
2. A member of the UU Church, Russell Seveney, will be doing a fundraiser for VHPF through Way of the Orient Martial Arts. Last year this event raised approximately \$8000.
3. New meeting date: **second Wednesday at noon at Catholic Charities.**

C. Housing Options by Ken Finning

1. Home Share Program up and running 477-7324 or homeshare@gmail.com. Several presentations have been made to spread the word and flyers are available. Muriel is working as a volunteer and Ken Finning is coming to One Stop to help get people into Home Share. Home providers are needed. Several applications for needing a place have been submitted, interviews are going on. The office is open one day a week at VCC.
2. Jeff Lambert, Community Development Director, City of Ventura is meeting March 10 with committee members. Topics to include transitional and emergency shelter.
3. New meeting place and time, second Wednesdays at Housing Authority on 11122 Snapdragon Lane, 4:30-6PM.

D. Gateway Report by Clyde Reynolds

Social Service providers met. Next will be meeting with County Depts, (Karol Schulkin and Kate Mills). Properties are being looked at. Looking at facility based model, possibly on a co-op system. Head of Salvation Army social service division of LA is a strong supporter.

E. Community Education by John Jones

1. Decision reached with Beth Sutherland to collaborate but not formalize an alliance.
2. Need a new chair for committee. Please consider taking on this opportunity.

F. Steering Committee by John Jones

1. Making plans for a 3 hour retreat in spring with facilitator (likely to be Laurie Flack) to hash out direction and accountability for next 18-24 months, role of VSSTF, SWOT (strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, threats) analysis. Tentative date afternoon of April 22. Maximum of 15-18 persons to be involved.
2. Steering Committee will meet at Starbucks every 3rd Wednesday of the month at 3:30.

V. Old Business

A. One Stop report by Kate Mills

ID card to use at clinics being implemented which certifies to homelessness. Hopefully in future this card will work at other agencies also. In April are expanding to Thursday clinic also for returning clients. Need approximately 50 lunches to be provided each Thursday. Our Lady of the Assumption makes 100 lunches for each Tuesday. Need volunteers for Thursday and also persons to do data entry, time is flexible. Seeing more families and young people.

VI. Announcements

1. Lift UpYour Voice is doing a series of workshops: one May 1, for persons with direct experience of homelessness, one on morning of May 8, for others, and a third on the afternoon of May 8, to mix participants. Contact Beth at LUV.Beth@gmail.com or 861-8341 or 644-3898 x101. Reservations are required.
2. Free Income Tax Service available; call 211 to locate sites. It is vitally important that low income people file and apply for EITC (Earned Income Tax Credit) Last year there was 9 million dollars not claimed in Ventura County.
3. Kingdom Center Grand Opening Sunday March 21, 2-5 PM. All are invited
4. Project Understanding has a new food pantry on the corner of Vince and Ventura Ave.
5. NAMI walk May1. Please go on line to register and/or to sponsor \$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$ to support John and Debora and Jill Forman. The VSSTF team is The Vulnerable Persons Unit. Join us for a fun morning for a great cause. Sign up online or talk to John or Debora.

Meeting adjourned at 4:40.

Respectfully submitted,
Debora Schreiber
secretary

Next VSSTF Meeting April 7, 3-5 PM

Upcoming events:

Kingdom Center Grand Opening Sunday March 21 2-5 PM. All are invited

Retirement Party for Rick Pearson April 22, 4:30-7:30. Contact Project Understanding for details

Regular Meeting Schedules

The **Faith Community** Subcommittee meets every 1st Tuesday, 4:00-5:00

PM, at the Unitarian Universalist Church, 5654 Ralston, Ventura 93003,
April 6

The **Ventura Social Services Task Force** meets every 1st Wednesday,
3:00-5:00 PM, at Family to Family, 303 N Ventura Ave # E, Ventura
93001. April 7, 3-5 PM,

NEW DATE: The **Homeless Prevention** Subcommittee meets every 2nd
Wednesday, 12 noon, Catholic Charities, 303 N Ventura Ave April 14

The **Housing Options** Subcommittee meets every 2nd Wednesday, 4:30
PM, Housing Authority, Snapdragon Lane, Saticoy. April 14

Gateway meets third Friday at Salvation Army on Oak Street, at 2 PM,
March 19, April 16.

Contact John Jones for Education committee information

<http://www.onecityventura.org>