

Ventura Social Services Task Force

Minutes of Meeting May 5, 2010

Attending - total of 24 (Neal Andrews, Paul Bramson, Peter Brown, Cathy Brudnicki, Cindy Cattle, Sherry Cash, Leslie Eschrich, Bill Finley, Ken Finning, Jill Forman, Todd L. Goehner, John Jones, Loretta McCarty, Darleen Mees, Mike Merewether, Kate Mills, Rob Orth, Ken Porter, Revis Robinson, Debora Schreiber, Karol Schulkin, Mark Stadler, Beth Sutherland, Daniel Zapata)

Meeting called to order by chair John Jones

Self-introductions performed.

I. Report on City Activity by Peter Brown

SB2 requires all cities to designate zones in which emergency shelter can be cited by right (without CUP). On June 15, the Planning staff will return with more specific citing criteria. Will not include R1, probably will include Industrial Zones. City Council Homeless sub committee will meet May 6 (open meeting)

II. Report on Retreat

Very productive meeting: a written report was emailed to all and handed out at meeting. http://issuu.com/vsstf/docs/ventura_social_services_task_force_strategic_plann

1. In the next 18 months there will be extensive focus on the Gateway Project and all committees will be enlisted to help. Clarification made that ongoing activities of committees are also important and will continue
2. A discussion emerged about forming a 501(3)C. This issue did not receive much attention at the retreat, but was a major focus of the Task Force discussion. Decision made to move forward with investigating pros and cons. Bill and Peter will contact an attorney to ask about pro bono work (two suggestions: Ron Harrington and someone Donna Mason has worked with). VCCF had previously said they were willing to meet with us and discuss pros and cons. Request made also for more education about 501(3)C's in general, responsibilities and obligations involved. Sherry Cash suggested that we immediately look to establish policies and procedures.

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

A. Faith Communities by Bill Finley

1. Homeless Awareness Month will be in November. Letter going out in May under letterheads of various orgs. And churches.
2. Planning for Thanksgiving meeting June 8. This year VSSTF will be more involved with publicity and trying to spread the word that sharing a meal together IS helping (don't need to be a food server).
3. Coordinator of Safe Sleep was hired.

4. 3 June meeting will be June 8 (second Tuesday, this month only)

B. Homeless Prevention by Cindy Cattle

1. Balance in May \$4900. In April Project Understanding helped one family. They were successful in using Federal funds to assist wherever possible. Cindy helped to clarify requirements and thereby make monies more accessible.
2. Clients are signing a new permission form allowing Cindy or designee to make follow up phone calls.
3. Working with Beth Sutherland to have Lift Up Your voice be a partner with VHPF, especially for outreach. Thank you to Jan Christian and UU.
4. New meeting date: second Wednesday at **one PM** (time change) at Catholic Charities.

C. Housing Options by Carolyn Briggs

1. Home Share Program up and running 477-7324 or homeshare@gmail.com. Muriel Steiger is working as a volunteer assisted by Patricia Hamilton, and Ken Finning is coming to One Stop to help get people into Home Share.
5. Housing project Encanto del Mar on Thompson and Oak went to DRC. Intend for November start on construction of 37 rental units. Also in the works, a building on the old Bandar site on Main St with Partners in Housing for disabled adults using HUD 811 funds. Some progress in various directions for emancipated youth housing. Many Mansions is working to acquire houses.
6. No May meeting.

D. Gateway Report by Bill Finley

1. Charette held to discuss physical requirements...size and shape of lot. Salvation Army taking the lead. Meetings at Salvation Army on Oak Street (third Friday) May 21 2:30 PM

E. Community Education by John Jones

1. Decision reached to not meet regularly.
2. Website will be coalesced into one...probably VSSTF.org domain

F. Steering Committee by John Jones

1. Monitoring the Planning Commission re SB2. Will invite them to select a liaison to VSSTF.
2. Steering Committee will pursue possibility of forming 501(3) C as discussed above, set up info meeting for all.
3. Steering Committee will meet at Starbucks every 3rd Wednesday of the month at 3:30 but not in June, John will be out of town. Call for date

V. Old Business

A. One Stop by Kate Mills

Now held on Tuesday and Thursday with Thurs for returning medical patients. At first after this change there was a decrease in numbers, but it is up again. Last Tuesday saw 41, mostly new clients. Seeing more people at very high risk of losing housing who can't pay their bills.

2. ACE (County medical program) is again enrolling clients.

B. Update on Homeless Count by Cathy Brudnicki

Overall a 17% decrease was found which reflects new housing at River Park, WAV, etc. Both Federal and local homeless prevention funds a factor too. Efforts are paying off!

C. Kingdom Center by Rev Robinson & Darlene and Leslie (LSS)

1. 7 units are filled, total of 25 individuals. 5 will be filled within 2-3 weeks. 6 rooms are under renovation with a 6 month time line. There were 100 people on the waiting list but once contacted, some have found other options or proved to not be appropriate. Call 643-7675 to inquire. Need children's games, books and clothing. Cite manager is Alex McCarthy. New COO is Lyle Randalls. No complaints from surrounding community at Kingdom Center.
2. On Preble, a neighbor is unhappy with existence of services there and is mobilizing neighbors to object.
3. The Food Coordinator funded with VSSTF grant has been hired.

VI. Announcements

1. LUYV website - www.uuventura.org/luyv.
2. Paul Bramson is doing a regular CAPS TV show about Homeless Vets and related issues. Call him with suggestions and input 647-FLAG

Respectfully submitted,
Debora Schreiber
secretary

Next VSSTF Meeting June 2, 3-5 PM

Upcoming events:

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,

June 8 (June change only)

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. June 2, 3-5 PM,

NEW DATE: The **Homeless Prevention** Subcommittee meets every 2nd Wednesday, **1PM (note change)**, Catholic Charities, 303 N Ventura Ave M

The **Housing Options** Subcommittee meets every 2nd Wednesday, 4:30 PM, Housing Authority, Snapdragon Lane, Saticoy. June 9
Gateway meets third Friday at Salvation Army on Oak Street, at 2 PM, June 18

Contact John Jones for Education committee information

<http://www.onecityventura.org>