

Ventura Social Services Task Force January 5, 2011

Chair John Jones convened the meeting at 3:04

Self Introductions performed (36 people present -Neal Andrews, Jerry Breiner, Sue Brinkmeyer, Kent Brinkmeyer, Cathy Brudnicki, Brenda Byers, Cindy Cante, Harold Cartlidge, Sherry Cash, Kevin Clerici, David Deutsch, Bill Finley, Ken Finning, Jill Forman, Socorro Lopez Hanson, Trina Hollander, Keri Jaeger, John Jones, Jill Martinez, Donna Mason, Loretta McCarty, Eileen McCarthy, Mike Merewether, Kate Mills, Ken Porter, Clyde Reynolds, Jose Robles, Debora Schreiber, Karol Schulkin, Mary Stewart, Beth Sutherland, Kristen Tippelt, Eileen Tracy, David Wilson, Lynn Geller, Jan Koch)

welcome to Commander Dave Wilson taking Mark Stadler's liaison position for Ventura PD

- I. **Steering Committee elections:** Neal Andrews took the floor to conduct elections. No nominations from the floor: all candidates were elected by acclamation. Secretary position: Debora Schreiber; Assistant Chair: Bill Finley; Chair: John Jones.
- II. Jose Robles from VC Behavioral Health and STAR explained the programs offered. Call 1-866-998-2243 for help and info. Or

<http://www.vchca.org>

III. Committee Reports

A. Faith Based by Bill Finley

No meeting in Dec. An end of month evaluation and planning meeting regarding Thanksgiving will be scheduled

B. Homeless Prevention Fund by Cindy Cante

Salvation Army has the fund for Jan. In Dec. Catholic Charities administered the fund and helped 3 household using an average of \$766 per household. Grand total of 180 households, 350 people have been assisted. A year end donor appeal netted \$2000, more expected. Dec 8 meeting spent to formulate goals for next year. Homeless Prevention education and increased fund raising are priorities. The need for help is continually increasing. The committee is trying to solidify data, partly to aid in grant aps. Beth and Cindy are

working on annual fundraiser origination plan. The Web site (vhpf.net) and message phone (654-7701) are in operation. The original goal was to help 50-60 households a year, helped 58 last year but need has increased because of economic situation.

Karol Schulkin added that also 102 households were funded last year with HPRP funds.

C. Housing Options by Loretta McCarty

The committee is focusing on resource management and spreading the word about available vacancies. The goal is to provide lists on the website of availability. HomeShare currently has 22 seekers 11 providers. Some are being researched now. 7 matches ongoing. Two articles in Star and one in Breeze. Groundbreaking held at Encanto on Thompson and Oak; they got tax credit and NSP funding. 13 month construction timeline.

D. Gateway by Bill Finley

Research is being done on a couple of pieces of property, at least one has Brownfield issues. Still looking for sites. NIMBY and appropriate location are the problems. Gateway needs CUP, is not under SB2. Requires $\frac{3}{4}$ acre minimum.

E. Education by John Jones

Work on Website ongoing. Added Twitter feature and have Facebook page. Next are focusing on volunteer opportunity listings. Need volunteers for 4th of July street fair table and for Homeless Count Jan 25th, and Winter Warming Shelter evenings thru March.

F. Steering Committee by John Jones

Structuring the format of application for groups requesting funding. Starting with existing City form, still working on...will bring to full committee in February. Will be using an adaptation of the standardized form for those requesting grants through VSSTF. Applicants must have 501(3)C status or a fiscal agent, also need liability coverage.

IV. Old Business

A. One Stop by Kate Mills

24 -26 clients a week on Tuesday. Brand new people still coming, also recently homeless or those who haven't come to One Stop in a long time. Ken Belden is a gigantic help by being able to meet people on Tuesday and also interface in community, also Behavioral Health and Homeless Services, General Relief and Food Stamps are present every week.

Volunteer possibilities... need a very very large size warm coat, need back packs, socks: mens calf length, (all non profits need socks), sweat shirts, pull on pants; Food gift cards for Subway, McDonalds, etc; need greeters, room guiders, to have conversation with people; need sack lunches, prepare p b and j sandwiches. Need fruit if anyone has trees. Need transportation volunteers, data entry work (schedule flexible). Also need Ambassadors especially to faith based communities to spread the word that One Stop is available to help connect people to services and to invite people to volunteer and visit.

New mobile clinic on Thursday at Armory 5-7 PM. Medical treatment provided from Las Islas. Bikes were donated from Assumption; will be given first to those who need transportation to jobs. Need a realtor to facilitate low cost rental unit connections. OneStop in Oxnard 8:30-11:30 Wednesday on Richmond at CAP via mobile clinic.

- B. Winter Warming Shelter in Oxnard this year. Ventura attendance numbers are way down from last 2 years when shelter was in Ventura . High attendance of 113; Christmas Eve 105. Each community needs a shelter physically located in their area. People do not choose to travel to other city outside their comfort zone. Gold Coast 6 is the bus: catch at mall stop. Clients given bus tokens at the Armory. Volunteers also needed evenings at shelter; contact Nick Brault NBrault@verizon.net
- C. Jan 25 Homeless Count:
A count is required for federal money and the info also is needed to receive various state monies. Also, homeless survey data is vital to get funding various grants. In Ventura, Peter Brown, Cary Glenn, and

Rosie Ornelas are coordinating. The regular count is on Jan 25. The following week, within a 3 day window, a 20 question survey will be done. There was an article in the Star Dec 26 about the count: **It is important to register at www.volunteerventuracounty.org**. At the orange banner click on “learn more” under homeless count, scroll down. Register at City of Ventura. . Update of 10 year strategy being done this year.

V. Announcements

- A. Jan 29 Bridges Out of Poverty. Highly recommended training on Sat 29 Jody Pfarr excellent presenter structure of interfacing with people in generational poverty, geared to volunteers culture of poverty, Introductory session, \$10 includes lunch. Flyer on VSSTF.org
- B. Sherry Cash reported on a street person who now went thru detox and is housed, after 7 years of her devoted efforts and the support of various services and helpers.
- C. Thank you from Beth to those who attended Homeless Memorial Service (in the rain). Silent walk downtown new element added. Pictures will be on LUYV. Clothing given out, youth group providing hot drinks and delicious cookies.
- D. El Patio has furnished rooms, private bathroom. 167 S Palm, come visit. \$450 or \$600 rooms available. Still have BH referral rooms available. Supportive housing. Process takes 3-4 weeks.
- E. Mary Stewart mentioned the LUYV photo display which was again at Foster library for 2 months. People approached Mary to want to offer jobs to those featured. Starting this Sunday the library is open 1-5 on Sunday.
- F. Safe Sleep 13 of 15 slots full. In operation now one year. One person/household just moved into housing. 2 sites for parking. Some people not there every night. 50% success rate of keeping connected to the people, especially difficult in winter, dark early. Detailed report coming next month .

G. Turning Point Breakfast Thursday 7AM 2/3/11. Contact John or Debora. Free breakfast and exciting speaker at Crown Plaza. Must RSVP

Adjourn 4:29

<http://www.VSSTF.org>

See web site for committee meetings