

## Ventura Social Services Task Force

February 2, 2011 (note: items are not necessarily in the order they were discussed at meeting)

Self introductions were performed (33 present -Neal Andrews, Ken Belden, Jerry Breiner, Peter Brown, Cathy Brudnicki, Brenda Byers, Cindy Cantle, Harold Cartlidge, Kevin Clerici, Michael Darden, David Deutsch, Janine Dykstra, Susan Everett, Adele Fergusson, Bill Finley, Ken Finning, Jill Forman, Todd L. Goehner, Keri Jaeger, John Jones, Shelli Locklear, John Luttrull, Donna Mason, Mike Merewether, Ken Porter, Clyde Reynolds, Revis Robinson, Debora Schreiber, Karol Schulkin, Mary Stewart, Beth Sutherland, Kristen Tippelt, Anita Ware)

### I. Committee and City Reports

#### A. Steering Committee John Jones

1. Work is ongoing to create the form to apply for VSSTF grants. The process followed was to adapt the City Community Partnership grants form to the goals of 10 year strategy. The primary goal for use of funds is to END homelessness. Final version coming soon, some legal questions being dealt with to comply with city needs. Targeting core areas of need and VSSTF admin. It will be a simple form, not elaborate, using the same time line as community partnership granting. Cannot receive grant from both funds. \$70,000 total for homelessness will be available. Make up of grant committee: No staff or chairs from agency applying for funds can be on committee. **The following were nominated and voted in by acclamation: Peter Brown, John Jones , Beth Sutherland, Debora Schreiber, and Todd Goehner .**
2. Possible idea of holding a second community breakfast (fundraiser).

#### B. City Report Peter Brown

1. No river bottom sweep being held. On March 1, sweep of folks behind River Haven, on both sides of Harbor Blvd. Having problems there with violent behaviors. It is a service resistant population for most part. Heavy drug use and bothering neighbors, River Haven gets blame. Peter is meeting soon with Keys, will clarify different populations and why River Haven folks have too much to lose to engage in petty crimes. Next question from Community Council will then be What are you doing about the Other Group? This is part of the reason for the clean up. Hauler volunteered to help and Peter is trying to get Seabees involved too. Might impact service providers on the day of the clean out.
2. People living near water treatment plant in river bottom impacted by Wood-Claeyssen re-acquiring land. They are vigilant about not having encampments on their property. Estimate 70% of river bottom dwellers are on their property. It costs \$2200 acre to remove the arundo , the non-native plant which is used to build camps and hide in. Meeting Wed Santa Cruz conference to plan March 1 event.

3. City Council Homeless Committee Meetings Feb 9, and Feb. 17, March 3 and 17 at 4 PM. Agenda includes prioritizing among objectives of 10 year strategy and beginning to create a comprehensive homeless strategy modeled on Santa Barbara: prevention intervention and enforcement
4. Shopping cart ordinance tightening, Peter is meeting with Mission Plaza, Vons. Vons is putting in mechanical blockages.
5. Panhandling near parking meters and downtown under discussion.
6. Service providers: problem with specific client who needs assistance and is seen as a symbol of problems. Can a coordinated effort be made to assist him.
7. Plaza Park a problem. Action will follow.

**C. Ventura Homeless and Housing Coalition Cathy Brudnicki**

1. Thank you to all who volunteered to help count and survey. Survey results will be out in late April/ May. Capstone students from CSUCI also doing a survey for VHHC at the end of this month and will need volunteers. Service providers were asked to provide questions.
2. A select committee limited to 25-30 will begin to update the 10-year strategy starting this month. Public meetings will be open to all. Supervisors Bennett and Long co-chairing
3. State NOFA \$90,000 posted. VHHC applied to be the designated Board for Emergency Shelter

**D. Faith Based Bill Finley**

1. Last meeting was focused on planning for Thanksgiving One City One Meal. Decision made to find a facility that can handle one seating. Same structure as this year with table hosts. Fairgrounds or possibly temporary structure being looked at. Hopefully will have system for transportation in place via mini buses; looking for coordinator of volunteers for transport.
2. Looking into additional ways churches can get involved. Will be posted on web site.

**E. VHPF Cindy Cantle**

1. Salvation Army had the fund in Jan. 6 households were helped, \$ 457 average per household. Catholic Charities assisted one household . 167 households total. Project Understanding has the fund in Feb, Catholic Charities helped one family. United Way total online donations \$4570 (one large donation brought in by Cindy for \$3000). Year end donor letter brought in over \$5000.

2. May 9-15 Homeless Prevention Awareness Week. Info online as it is developed at [www.VHPF.net](http://www.VHPF.net)

**F. Housing Options Susan Everett**

HomeShare now has 10 active matches. Committee working to form web page of housing options; get info to Jerry Breiner at [jerry.breiner@earthlink.net](mailto:jerry.breiner@earthlink.net) including eligibility info to qualify for housing units and how to apply

**G. Gateway Bill Finley**

1. Negotiations have begun with a property holder. City Council members aware of site location. Committee does not foresee strong resistance. Tour of site next week.

**H. Education John Jones**

Meeting was held via email. Trying to determine where volunteers are needed to post this info on web page. VSSTF gets inquiries.

**I. Other Reports**

**A. OneStop Ken Belden**

20-25 average a week and 20 in Oxnard. Steady stream. Bus tokens are like gold. Dentists desired to start a program to volunteer one Saturday a year. Suggestion made that Stand Down had dentists, contact them?

**B. Winter Shelter**

High: 142 people in attendance. Heavy use this year. Thru Jan 24, 367 unduplicated. 110 from Ventura. Meals good, high protein hearty. Clients must be out at 6:30 AM

**C. Safe Sleep Keri Jaeger**

10 spots available total. 8 spots filled. Turned away a few for issues related to non-working cars or lack of registration. Some do not have drivers' license. #1 reason persons refused : residency not in Ventura #2 drugs. Several people have been assisted into transitional or permanent housing.

- D.** Ventura County Rescue Mission new director hired John Saltee . Donna Mason knows him and reports he was a fire captain who was seriously disabled in LA, he was senior pastor and a chaplain. Suggestion made to invite him to a meeting.

- E.** El Patio has vacancies: 15 available for Disabled whether MI or otherwise. For these beds, application must be done through a case manager. Other beds also available.

- F.** Mary Stewart reported that at the library a professional headhunter volunteered to help tune up resumes. 2 people found full time jobs thru him.

- G. Jodi Pfarr Bridges Out of Poverty event highest energy Bridges ever. Over 100 attendees. Very enthusiastic feedback received. Attendees stated it was an amazing opportunity well worth giving up a day off. Rave reports. Possibility of advance training coming soon

**II. Speaker : Michael McCurtis**

Michael 's father Luther started the Total Life Christian Center Employee Assistance Program around 30 years ago and now Michael is running it at 660 N Ventura Ave (648-5868). On Monday nights 6-7 PM he holds a group called Destiny Design to help unemployed and homeless persons map out the next steps they choose to take.

Committee times and places for meetings:

[VSSTF.org](http://VSSTF.org)