

Ventura Social Services Task Force

April 6, 2011

Self introductions were performed (36 present - Neal Andrews, Sue Brinkmeyer, Kent Brinkmeyer, Peter Brown, Cathy Brudnicki, Cindy Cantle, Harold Cartlidge, Sherry Cash, David Christen, Kevin Clerici, Michael Darden, David Deutsch, Susan Everett, Ken Finning, Todd L. Goehner, Trina Hollander, Keri Jaeger, John Jones, Shelli Locklear, John Luttrull, Jill Martinez, Donna Mason, Loretta McCarty, Eileen McCarthy, Mike Merewether, Kate Mills, Rob Orth, Michael Perry, Ken Porter, Clyde Reynolds, Peggy Rivera, Debora Schreiber, Karol Schulkin, Beth Sutherland, Kristen Tippelt, Carol Dean Williams)

Commissioner Peggy Rivera, Chair of Oxnard Commission on Homelessness spoke. Their second annual Black and White Dinner Dance will be held October 15, 6 PM-12 at the Oxnard Performing Arts Building. Peggy suggests the two cities work more closely together for this event. She requests we become a 3rd sponsor for the event, along with the City of Oxnard and St Vincent de Paul. \$25,000 was raised last year. All money is for the Winter Warming Shelter expenses. Decision made to bring the idea to the education subcommittee and bring back to full Task Force in May. Because Federal money was cut, the money already spent is not being reimbursed.

I. Committee and City Report

A. City Report by Peter Brown

1. It has been 10 years with St Vincent De Paul running Winter Warming Shelter. Tom McLaughlin, who has been running the shelter, is not expected to survive due to cancer. He has done an amazing job of using funds effectively. Without him, money will be needed even more acutely than usual. Shelter is shared between Oxnard and Ventura residents.
2. Grant request process just closed, one meeting to evaluate has been held. Hope to produce recommendation for May meeting. Police also applying for Social Service grants for street level outreach. In certain parts of city, large number of calls are vagrancy related, relating to non serious crime. Hope to work together with merchants etc. in creative approach.
3. Event April 26 Tuesday eve at J's Tapas, MIMBY: Movies In My Back Yard. Starts at 6 movies at 7PM. Movies this month by local filmmaker Cole Smothers focusing on homelessness.
4. Council Committee on Homelessness usually meets first Thursday of the month in Santa Cruz Room, 4 PM, City Hall. In April, meeting to be Thursday April 21. Working on setting priorities among objectives to End Homelessness

5. Santa Barbara Channel Keepers report on Ventura River has pictures and important info.: www.sbck.org

6. Meeting with Woods-Claeyssen with Peter to discuss issues on Monday .

B. Homeless Count

Ventura: 5% decrease from last year. Ventura is the highest % per capita city. 1% considered “normal”, Ventura at 2%. Increase in families, probably due to (Genesis House) Kingdom Center. 30% decrease in Latino pop. The report with breakdown of specific populations due soon. 570 total count of homeless. Note that in previous four count years was done, the Shelter was in Ventura.

C. Steering Committee John Jones

1. In his State of the City Address, Mayor Fulton announced the 150th anniversary of the City is in 2016. He is putting together a to-do list of high priority actions. VSSTF plans to list some but will wait until more details come out for our suggestions.
2. 501(3)C plans going forward . Preliminary meeting set up with Attorney Ron Harrington and steering committee for April.
3. VC Together is requesting \$10 contribution from each board member of participating agencies. Since we don't have a board, will request contributions from a few committee chairs and members to donate a total of \$50.VPF did receive a donation from them last year.

D. Faith Based Rob Orth

1. Discussion at committee meeting was about last week's rain storm and efforts to support homeless persons who were assisted to leave River Bottom. The City assisted them to vacate the flood plain for safety, but had no further means or plans to assist. Folks were wet, cold and separated from their belongings. Project Understanding worked with the rescued people. Now discussion concerns a more permanent plan for weather emergency. Committee will undertake this planning. HUD had webinar on involving homeless in emergency prep. Are homeless considered a special needs population? Discussion about pros or cons of having separate population standard.
2. Last Sunday a Hidden Ventura tour was done with CPR people and some churches totaling around 30 people. River Haven, Project Understanding (food pantry) etc, were on the tour, with time to debrief afterwards.

E. VHPF Cindy Cantle

1. There is \$847.98 in the fund and \$1000 from Kiwanis not yet deposited. Catholic Charities had the fund in March. \$2025 was used in March. 3 households were helped, \$675 average per household, total of 6 adults, 3 children. 178 households helped total to date. Salvation Army has the fund in April.
2. Cindy met with Kiwanis and got a good reception.
3. Homeless Prevention Week will be in Nov. in conjunction with Homeless Awareness Month Oct 31-Nov 6
4. Working to consolidate intake process so eligibility criteria are the same between the 3 provider organizations.
5. Remember 654-7701 message line for VHPF and www.VHPF.net
6. **Meeting 1 PM April 20 this month (April) only, at Government Center, 4th floor Spv Bennett's office.** Usually held at Catholic Charities.

F. Housing Options Susan Everett

Carolyn Briggs gave the Housing Element update at the meeting. As clarified by Jeff Lambert, it will be released in May and go to Planning Commission in June, and Council in July.

HomeShare now has 11 active matches. 22 seekers 16 providers. Committee is working to form web page of housing options; get info to Jerry Breiner at jerry.breiner@earthlink.net including eligibility info to qualify for housing units and how to apply.

G. Gateway

A site is under consideration. A Plan for a Virtual Gateway was submitted to grant committee with 4 agencies working together.

II. Other Reports

A. OneStop

Invite participation from non profits to be at OneStop to meet with potential clients and/or on going clients

III. Announcements

April 19, Tuesday 1-3 PM, Alphabet Soup: Learn about housing and homeless programs, United Way Camarillo, info Cathy@vchhc.org

April 26 Tuesday eve at J's Tapas, MIMBY: Movies In My Back Yard. Starts at 6 movies at 7PM. Movies this month by local filmmaker Cole Smothers focusing on homelessness.

April 28, 11 AM, El Patio Grand Opening, RSVP 962-5152 x220 or info@pshhc.org

April 30, Saturday, NAMI Walk on the Beach Promenade, register 9AM; walk 10:30AM

Committee times and places for meetings:

VSSTF.org