

Ventura Social Services Task Force – Meeting Minutes from July 11, 2012

I. Introductions and Announcements

Present at Meeting: Neal Andrews, Jerry Breiner, Peter Brown, Cindy Cantle, Kevin Clerici, Rick Cole, David Deutsch, Susan Everett, Tim Hawkins, Matthew Jensen, John Jones, Fariborz Koozehkanani, Shelli Locklear, Amy Luoma, Arlene Martinez, Kate Mills, Al Myers, Amanda Pyper, Clyde Reynolds, Debora Schreiber, Jason Valderrama, Daniel Zapata

II. Subcommittee and Other Reports

A. Peter Brown – Updates

- 1) Over the past 3-4 months there has been an ongoing discussion regarding illegal camping in the Ventura River bottom. There are 10-12 permanent camps and the residents of those camps have been notified that they can't stay in those camps any longer.
- 2) The Safe & Clean program is continuing.
- 3) In September the CLU cleanup will take place. The students may be involved in removing homeless camps from the river bottom.
- 4) Rick Cole – The river bottom has been a homeless “solution” for some people. Moving them out creates possible new alternatives for persons who have lived in the river bottom.
- 5) There are 4 subcommittees that have been formed to try to find effective ways to deal with the issue of moving people out of the river bottom. The subcommittees and their chairs are as follows: “Humane Enforcement” – Mark Stadler, “Broadened Partnerships” – Josh Addison, “Logistics” – Carrie Glen, “Reasonable Alternatives” – Rob Orth. There have been two large group meetings so far and there will be ongoing subcommittee meetings. The main issues of concern are: 1) How to get the word out to “clients” who will be displaced; 2) Possible consequences of this “move out”; and 3) Who expects what to happen?
- 6) The 100,000 Homes program is still trying to move forward and the City of Ventura will have a role in this process through partnerships with private business.

B. Faith Community Subcommittee – Debora Schreiber (for Sue Brinkmeyer)

- 1) There is a need for a co-chair for the subcommittee.
- 2) The subcommittee will be doing outreach to faith based organizations to see who they help (i.e., their own members, other people in their neighborhoods, who else?).

- 3) The subcommittee is looking to find what food pantries are available for people. They are also looking to get contact information for people.
- 4) The next meeting is on 7/25/12 at 3:00 pm at the Unitarian church.

C. Homeless Prevention Subcommittee – Cindy Cante

- 1) The fund was with Salvation Army for June but they were able to use Rotary funds for assistance.
- 2) The fund will be with Catholic Charities for July. A family of 5 (2 adults, 3 children) received assistance so far.
- 3) The current balance in the account is \$4,000.
- 4) John Jones, Jill Forman, Debora Schreiber, Harold Cartlidge, and Dorothy Fast Horse manned the VSSTF booth for the July 4th street fair. They collected \$140.

D. Housing Options Subcommittee – Susan Everett

- 1) The next meeting will be on 8/8/12 at 4:30.

E. Gateway Group Subcommittee – Clyde Reynolds

- 1) The meetings have focused on putting together a system for the “Virtual Gateway” to assess people for entry into the system.
- 2) The entire county is behind the “systems” approach to coordinated care for clients (i.e., one assessment, one plan for any given client).
- 3) The next meeting will be on 7/20/12 at Salvation Army to evaluate goals, objectives, and services.
- 4) Once an assessment process is set up the HMIS will “house” data for people. The group is putting forms together for this process and they will meet on 7/19 at 3:00 pm at Salvation Army.

F. VSSTF Steering Committee – John Jones

- 1) For future 4th of July street fairs we would like to have buttons with information or a slogan on them.

III. Business

A. “One Stop” – Kate Mills

- 1) 50% of people coming in are new clients.
- 2) Many families are coming in as well.

IV. Networking

- A. Encanto Del Mar Apartments will be having their Grand Opening and Open House on Thursday July 19, 2012 from 2:00-4:00 pm at 375 E. Thompson Blvd.
- B. There will be a Ventura County Stand Down for Homeless Veterans at the CA Army National Guard Armory at 1270 Arundell Ventura, CA 93003 from Friday July 20th through Sunday July 22nd.
- C. DVO and affiliates are hosting a Hope-a-Thon fundraiser through August. The funds will be used to support the Homeless2Home program. Participants make a \$20 donation at Hollywood Fitness Downtown Ventura and will receive a complimentary membership to the gym. Participants raise money by seeking out sponsors to donate based on the amount of time participants spend working out at the gym.
- D. On October 6, 2012 there will be a Black and White Dinner/Dance Fundraiser sponsored by St. Vincent de Paul.

V. Next (1st Wednesday) Meeting

Our next regular (1st Wednesday) meeting is 3:00 pm to 5:00 pm on Wednesday August 1, 2012 at Family to Family, 303 N. Ventura Ave. #E, Ventura, CA 93001.