

Ventura Social Services Task Force – Meeting Minutes from April 4, 2012

I. Introductions and Announcements

Present at Meeting: Neal Andrews, Jerry Breiner, Jack Broms, Sue Brinkmeyer, Kent Brinkmeyer, Peter Brown, Cindy Cante, Harold Cartlidge, Blake Charles, David Deutsch, Pat Esseff, Susan Everett, Dorothy Fast Horse, Bill Finley, Ken Finning, Sal Gonzalez, Rose Ann Hill, Daniel Z. Huerta, Keri Jaeger, John Jones, Shelli Locklear, Lisa Lopez, Donna Mason Lutrull, John Lutrull, Kate Mills, Amanda Pyper, Clyde Reynolds, Debora Schreiber, Karol Schulkin, Mark Stadler, Mary Stewart

II. Subcommittee and Other Reports

Peter Brown – Updates

- 1) The Winter Warming Shelter closed on 3/31. The overall number of people who utilized the shelter was high and there are more people on the streets of Ventura since the closure. That is impacting downtown business and will continue to do so.
- 2) Saint Vincent de Paul is trying to help with setting up a year round shelter; there will be a meeting on May 17th to discuss possible plans for that.
- 3) The Gateway is currently a “virtual” location, not a physical one and the city of Ventura seems reluctant to have a year round shelter.
- 4) The Cal Lutheran clean up is set for September 4, 2012. Both river bottom areas will be cleaned up along with the area near the wastewater treatment plant. The planning for this project is ongoing.
- 5) The Homeless Committee meeting for 4/5/12 will not be held.
- 6) The annual Homeless Count: the VCHHC has expressed concerns about the validity of the Oxnard numbers. There are some questions about if the count effort in Oxnard was properly organized and if the numbers might be inaccurate.
- 7) With the retirement of Cathy Brudnicki the Homeless Count will be “absorbed” by City of Ventura staff.
- 8) On the 3rd Thursday of each month issues involving homeless camps in the “public access” areas of Ventura will be addressed and the camps will be moved. The H2H, Ventura Police Dept., and other community groups will be involved in this effort. Notices will be posted in advance of the efforts so that residents can prepare themselves and their belongings for the move.
- 9) The grant program that involves the \$70,000 in funds will be discussed with Bill Finley and John Jones.

Cindy Cattle – With the retirement of Cathy Brudnicki more people need to step up into advocacy roles.

Clyde Reynolds – There are some concerns about how the coalition will function in terms of the transition from Cathy Brudnicki to the City of Ventura.

Karol Schulkin – We are going back to the original concept which is interagency cooperation.

Peter Brown – The VSSTF is best set up to act in that role.

Debra Schreiber – The VSSTF has affiliated with the VCHHC.

A. Homeless Prevention Subcommittee – Cindy Cattle

- 1) There was a meeting on 3/21/12. Catholic Charities had the fund in March and helped 4 households with a total of \$2,950; this helped 13 adults and 1 child.
- 2) The Kiwanis Club of Ventura donated \$1,000 to the fund.
- 3) Faith based groups have been invited to come to the meetings.
- 4) The next meeting will be held on 4/18/12.
- 5) There are 2 grant applications in to try to raise more funds.
- 6) The committee is working with the DVO – they will put in a blurb for the fund.

Karol Schulkin – HPRP has helped 195 households in the City of Ventura; a total of 485 people have been served.

Keri Jaeger – They have helped 4 households with an average of \$850/household; this helped 5 adults and 1 child.

B. Housing Options Subcommittee – Susan Everett

- 1) Homeshare found 1 match in March (Ken Finning, 4 matches this year).

C. The Gateway – Clyde Reynolds & Rob Orth

- 1) There is a need for a “Universal Intake” form for the “Virtual Gateway” and we need to coordinate entry points into the system.
- 2) We need to have a coordinated case management system so that we provide services that “fit” together.
- 3) We need to have an overlapped model with a common intake and assessment process and then make targeted referrals to appropriate resources.
- 4) Providers must work together to create a comprehensive system of services.
- 5) There will be a meeting on 4/20/12 at the Public Health building on Loma Vista from 1:30 to 3:30 for discussions on how to best set up a model. The idea will be to try to implement it at the local level initially and take an integrated planning approach among providers so that services will get linked together. The H2H program is the pilot for this and providers must work together to make this all work. The City of Oxnard and the City of Ventura have worked together to provide the Winter Warming Shelter and they need to work together as municipalities.

Karol Schulkin – It would be valuable if providers could bring data to the meeting.

III. Business

A. “One Stop” – Kate Mills

- 1) There were 197 people in March; the majority at the end of the month. There were 101 people on 3/27/12.
- 2) The numbers of people going to the Oxnard One Stop are keeping pace as well.

B. Ventura County Behavioral Health – Amanda Pyper

- 1) There will be a Mental Health 1st Aid Training made available. To find out more contact Kerry Ann Schuette at KerryAnn.Schuette@ventura.org.
- 2) On May 8th there will be a Mental Health Spirituality 101 class for faith based leaders.
- 3) There are brochures for Housing Options available.

C. West Ventura County Winter Warming Shelter report – Sal Gonzalez

- 1) Saint Vincent de Paul offices are organized parish by parish and Sal represents the LA Council.
- 2) Saint Vincent de Paul operates the warming shelter (since 2001) and provides bus tokens, breakfast, dinner, showers, etc. They work with HSA, VCBH, Public Health. They were open 122 nights from 12/1/11 through 3/31/12. 15,000 shelter nights were used – Oxnard used 61% of the nights.
- 3) It cost \$212,000 to operate the shelter this past season.
- 4) When the shelter closed people had no place to go (for the most part). Saint Vincent de Paul is working on a plan for a year round shelter but it will take a few years. They need money to open the shelter and money to operate it. David Fields and Claire Odama will be holding local meetings next on 5/17/12 at the Law Offices in the Tower club building. The project is called “Gimme Shelter”.

Daniel Z. Huerta – There are concerns about getting help for people coming out of jail and prisons who need housing services.

Sal Gonzalez – Saint Vincent de Paul operates a reentry program but things are in the early stages of development for more comprehensive services for persons coming out of situations of incarceration.

Clyde Reynolds – Has there been any effort to convene a stakeholder meeting for provision of services?

Sal Gonzalez – The shelter must be developed in a community context.

- D. H2H Reports – Rob Orth (Project Understanding, Turning Point Foundation, Salvation Army)
 - 1) Turning Point Foundation is taking the lead on developing interagency coordination of H2H. Outreach has been working well with inter-agency cooperation.
 - 2) There are currently 62 people in the H2H program and 15 of them have been housed (1 of the 15 has passed away). More staffing is needed for the program.
 - 3) A plan is needed to coordinate resources before just passing out all kinds of items.
- E. Safe Sleep Report – Keri Jaeger
 - 1) There are currently 7 participants and 1 more pending out of the 10 available slots.
 - 2) 57% of people who have participated in the program in the past year have gone on to housing (most permanent and some transitional). Some of them have been families.

Peter Brown – There are opportunities to develop more Safe Sleep locations.

Discussion Items

- A. There will be a Community Outreach Team consisting of Debora Schreiber, Blake Charles, and John Jones.
- B. Rob Orth spoke to the Watershed District about homeless issues – people were interested in how to help with the homeless population. He also spoke to a Pierpont group about their concerns about homeless people in Ventura.
- C. Debora Schreiber – Continues to hear from non-clergy about the need for actual meetings of the Faith Based committee.
- D. Neal Andrews - Stressed that what Debora stated is important.
- E. Daniel Z. Huerta – Has there been any additional movement on a temporary shelter?

IV. Networking Events

Project Understanding is having a Breakfast Fundraiser called Hope Worth Giving that will be held on 5/10/12 from 7:30 am to 9:30 am at the Crowne Plaza Hotel. Community Action of Ventura is having a fundraiser at the California Pizza Kitchen on May 7, 8, 9 where they will receive 20% of the gross sales. You must bring in a flyer for them to receive the funds.

- V. Next Meeting – Wednesday May 2, 2012 from 3:00 to 5:00 at Family to Family 303 N. Ventura Ave. # E, Ventura, CA 93001.