**Ventura Social Services Task Force – Meeting Minutes from May 2, 2012**

1. Introductions and Announcements

Present at Meeting: Neal Andrews, Marilyn Barraza, Jerry Breiner, Sue Brinkmeyer, Kent Brinkmeyer, Peter Brown, Cindy Cantle, Harold Cartlidge, Kevin Clerici, David Deutsch, Bill Finley, Jill Forman, Mary Haffner, Keri Jaeger, Shelli Locklear, Amy Luoma, Donna Mason Luttrull, John Luttrull, Arlene Martinez, Lisa Lopez, Sal Gonzalez, Kate Mills, Amanda Pyper, Dani Randazzo, Clyde Reynolds, Debora Schreiber, Karol Schulkin, John Snowling, Mark Stadler, Mary Stewart, Kristen Tippelt, Jack Broms

1. Subcommittee and Other Reports

Presentation – Mark Stadler, Erick Webb (Probation), Dave Webster (Ventura PD)

AB 109 Realignment

Dave Webster

1. Works with PROS (Post Release Offender Supervision); many of them are serious criminals.
2. The history behind AB 109 is that California was under a Federal Order to reduce the prison population size by 40,000 over the next two years.
3. There have been 400 PROS released so far to Ventura County; 70 to 90 of those are in the City of Ventura. The services provided to them have been helpful.

Erick Webb

1. There are three regions for Probation: Oxnard, Ventura, and Simi Valley. The idea behind AB 109 is to place people in their “home county” regardless of where their offense took place. All regions work with the PROS population.
2. There are funds allocated for services for PROS clients (i.e., mental health services and substance abuse treatment services).
3. Many PROS are homeless, unemployed, and use drugs/alcohol.
4. Probation is trying to connect people to health care, employment, mental health treatment, substance abuse treatment, etc.
5. PROS are seen by Probation four times a month; twice in the office and twice in the field at their homes.
6. Flash incarcerations of 10 days are used for detox purposes and for stabilizing people.
7. Probation is trying to connect people to VCBH, HSA, and other agencies that can help this population.
8. The Community Corrections Partnership (CCP) meets every month and brings together all parties involved in working with the PROS population.
9. PROS are meant to be released to their county of previous residence but it is relatively easy to transfer to another county if the person has family members living there.

Marco Flores (Probation)

Many PROS who transfer to another county do so for stability of residence.

Donna Luttrull

Is there an increase in crime due to this population being released?

Dave Webster

The potential for that exists but some PROS are staying clean and are doing well.

Peter Brown - Update

1. The meeting scheduled for 5/3/12 has been cancelled – it will be rescheduled.
2. There will be a meeting with the Community Action Board regarding the Goldberg property to see if it can be utilized. Various agencies will participate in this process.
3. A tour was given of the Ventura River to see about creating a recreation area there. People wanted to see the conditions and the environment – they expressed concerns about the people who live in the river bottom area.

Kevin Clerici

The Hillside Conservancy has taken ownership of 10 acres of property – more encampments have sprung up elsewhere as the arundo has been cleared from the area.

1. Peter took people to see the area to be cleared by CLU students in September. There do not appear to be any homeless camps on the East side of the river from Stanley to the Main St. Bridge. Camps are rare on State of California property; most camps are on Cal Trans property.
2. The Safe and Clean program continues to operate with the H2H program to do “cleanouts” of camps in the City of Ventura, mostly camps that can be observed from public rights of way. There is a hotline that can be called to “report” a camp; the number is 677-3999.
3. The City of Ventura and Community Solutions met with 125 Patagonia employees about the “100,000 homes” program.
4. A hand out was passed out related to the VSSTF granting program. There is a two page application due on 5/31/12.

Kevin Clerici

One of the concerns is to provide oversight for the Safe and Clean program.

Mark Stadler

There are currently four officers designated to assist with this program.

1. Homeless Prevention – Cindy Cantle
2. The committee met on 4/18/12. Project Understanding had the fund for April and they assisted 6 households for a total of 7 adults and 8 children. The funds dispersed totaled $4,264 for the month of April. To date, 235 households and 565 people have been served with the fund.
3. Catholic Charities will have the fund for May.
4. The DVO is partnering with the committee to raise funds for housing.
5. The next meeting will have a “social hour” included.
6. Brochures were passed out which seek to find persons who will be ongoing donors to the fund.

Karol Schulkin

The HPRP fund has funded 202 households serving a total of 499 people. There are still some funds left.

1. Housing Options – Encanta Del Mar will open in July; residents rent for a two bedroom apartment will be roughly $900/month. It is low income housing.
2. Gateway – Clyde Reynolds
3. The recent meeting focused on developing a coordinated intake process; there should be a single point of entry into the system.
4. All providers were invited to attend the meeting if they serve persons who are homeless.
5. The next meeting will focus on developing a system to utilize for coordinating the intake process.
6. Information will be inputted into HMIS to help coordinate a system of care.
7. The next Gateway meeting will be held on 5/18/12 at 2:00 at the Salvation Army.
8. The reporting system for the Gateway will be HMIS; an explanation of how the system works was given.
9. Business

Bill Finley

1. He and his wife are being transferred to Anchorage, Alaska in June.
2. There will be interim officers coming in from Santa Maria to replace the Finleys.
3. A social service director will be hired. This is a new position.
4. One Stop – Kate Mills
5. 173 people were seen in April; 26 of those are on ACE.
6. The last Tuesday of the month is “ACE” day.
7. The demographics are that it is mostly single women and men – the community is better represented now in that it is not all homeless people but people who are in need of services.
8. There is always a need for socks and there is a big need for housing. What can we do to find possible ways of providing transitional housing situations?
9. VCBH – Amanda Pyper
10. On Tuesday 5/8/12 there will be a proclamation given by the Board of Supervisors at 10:00 am recognizing May as Mental Health Awareness Month.
11. The annual NAMI walk will be held on Saturday 5/5/12.
12. There will be a conference on 5/24 – go to the VCBH website for details.
13. Robin Boscarelli, Karol Schulkin, and Amanda Pyper went to RAIN for a meeting.
14. H2H – Clyde Reynolds
15. So far 4 people have been placed in housing with 6 more pending.
16. There are currently 21 active clients.
17. The biggest concern is finding housing money for H2H clients.

Karol Schulkin

Her team is scheduled to meet with H2H workers to discuss HPRP assistance.

Kevin Clerici

He has discussed needs with the owners of Hollywood Fitness who want to help homeless people. They will host a “Hopeathon” which will be a fundraiser to bring in money for the H2H program. Various resources will be used to raise money. The DVO will be the fiscal sponsor for funds raised.

1. Continuum of Care Update – Clyde Reynolds
2. The focus will shift to an advocacy role rather than the focus being on financial concerns.
3. It is hard to manage and advocate at the same time.
4. There will be a meeting on June 19th from 1:00 to 3:00 at United Way and a “goodbye” will be said to Cathy Brudnicki. She will be presented with a certificate of appreciation.
5. Faith Community Subcommittee – Bill Finley
6. There is difficulty getting churches involved in an advocacy role; many of them absolutely will not get involved.

Debora Schreiber

The Education Subcommittee might be able to take on an advocacy role.

Harold Cartlidge

The UU Church does advocacy but is unusual in that respect.

Clyde Reynolds

Can we get leaders and members of churches involved in social action work?

Peter Brown

Pastors have been involved in advocacy but they are not Pastors with congregations (i.e., Bill, Rob, Clyde, etc.).

Jack Broms

Originally it was Karl Keller who suggested having the Faith Subcommittee and the Thanksgiving event and Safe Sleep program came out of that subcommittee. But the subcommittee only draws 4 or 5 churches. The Education Subcommittee would be a better way to engage people.

Neal Andrews

There is still a role for people of faith to be involved in a committee for helping people. The best thing to do is to create projects for these people to be involved in. Also, putting forth information about issues of the VSSTF will generate some interest and energy to be involved in advocacy work. Pastors don’t necessarily need to be involved.

Sal Gonzales

St. Vincent de Paul is committed to being involved in advocacy work. That is why he comes to the VSSTF meetings. St. Vincent de Paul wants to partner with other organizations to advocate for certain concerns/issues.

Bill Finley

Do we want to convene a group?

1. Networking
2. The NAMI Walk is Saturday 5/5/12.
3. The St. Vincent de Paul “Give Me Shelter” meeting is 5/17/12.
4. The Project Understanding breakfast fundraiser is 5/10/12.
5. The Turning Point Gala is on 6/10/12 – tickets are $75; tables of 8 can be purchased for $500.

Our next regular meeting is Wednesday June 6,2012 from 3:00 PM to 5:00 PM at Family to Family, 303 N. Ventura Ave. # E, Ventura, CA 93001.

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