

## Ventura Social Services Task Force – Meeting Minutes from August 1, 2012

### I. Introductions and Announcements

Present at Meeting: Neal Andrews, Jerry Breiner, Sue Brinkmeyer, Kent Brinkmeyer, Peter Brown, Cathy Brudnicki, David Deutsch, Pat Esseff, Susan Everett, Jill Forman, Matthew Jensen, John Jones, Meg Kimball-Drewry, Shelli Locklear, Amy Luoma, Arlene Martinez, Donna Mason Luttrull, John Luttrull, Rob Orth, Amanda Pyper, Clyde Reynolds, Debora Schreiber, Karol Schulkin, John Snowling, Mark Stadler, Muriel Steiger

### II. Subcommittee and Other Reports

#### A. Updates – Peter Brown

- 1) There is a homeless woman with two children who needs money to go back to New Orleans. Donations would be welcomed.
- 2) The 100,000 home project along with the H2H, DVO, and the Westside groups will work together to bring the program into Ventura. Patagonia, the Vons Foundation (possibly), Montecito Bank & Trust (possibly), and Aera Oil will hopefully sponsor the program.
- 3) The Thursday cleanups will be on the 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of each month. These are done where camps are in the “public right of way.” It will not be done in August because the CLU cleanup will happen on September 4<sup>th</sup> (Annual Environmental Cleanup) to clear out trash in the river bottom.
- 4) Permanent camps in the river bottom will be removed after 9/17/12 and before 3/13/13. The removals will be progressive and will go all the way up to Stanley Ave.
- 5) There have been suspected cases of arson in the Ventura River area; three fires to date. Officials only say the fires were “caused by humans.”
- 6) There are four subcommittees involved in overseeing this project and in planning for what will happen to the people who are displaced by the camp removals (see VSSTF notes from July 2012).
- 7) On August 16<sup>th</sup> camps will receive postings about the removal. On August 23<sup>rd</sup> the process of storing people’s belongings will begin. They must be legally stored for 90 days. Possible housing options are being discussed for how to assist displaced persons.

#### B. VSSTF Faith Subcommittee – Sue Brinkmeyer

- 1) The meetings are held on the 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of the month at 3:00 pm at the Unitarian Universalist Church on Ralston St. in Ventura.

- 2) A list of Faith Based organizations is being compiled. So far 98 organizations have been identified.
  - 3) There have been 19 food pantries identified so far.
  - 4) The next meeting will discuss “Best Practices for Food Pantries.”
- C. Homeless Prevention Subcommittee – Debora Schreiber
- 1) Catholic Charities had the fund in July and 24 people were helped at the rate of approximately \$700 per family.
  - 2) The Unitarian Universalist Church collected \$777 for the homeless fund.
  - 3) Project Understanding has the fund for August.
- D. Housing Options Subcommittee – Susan Everett
- 1) The next meeting will be on 8/8/12 at Chapel Lane.
- E. The Gateway Group Subcommittee – Clyde Reynolds
- 1) The 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting of the intake assessment planning group took place and the form is almost finalized.
  - 2) The next meeting is on 8/9/12 at 3:00 pm at Salvation Army.
- F. VSSTF Steering Committee – John Jones
- 1) The committee meets as needed for planning purposes.

### III. Business

- A. One Stop – Karol Schulkin for Kate Mills
- 1) There is a need for volunteers, especially for applying people for SSI benefits.
  - 2) Funds are needed for people to get their California ID and Birth Certificates.
- B. Family to Family – Donna Mason Lutrull
- 1) Hot lunch is served on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday. People arrive at 10:45 am and lunch is served at 11:30 am.
  - 2) The homeless people line up outside and the line is monitored.
  - 3) Food is not allowed outside the doors. If this rule is violated the person is put on probation.
  - 4) Under more extreme circumstances people can be banned from services.
  - 5) Volunteers come one day per month, Most meals are prepared by faith based groups.
  - 6) Food is served on Saturdays and Sundays and there is no line. People just come in and sit down.

- 7) Surveys were done to try to gather important information. Among the questions are: Source of income? Do you have a job, what kind of job? Do you have kids? Are you a veteran? Are you disabled? Where do you live? How long have you lived in Ventura?
- 8) The majority age is 50+ and most people are from Ventura.

#### IV. Networking Events

##### A. VCBH – Amanda Pyper

- 1) VCBH now has a website which is : [Wellnesseveryday.org](http://Wellnesseveryday.org)

#### V. Next (1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday) Meeting

Our next regular 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday meeting is from 3:00 pm to 5:00 pm on Wednesday September 5, 2012 at Family to Family, 303 N. Ventura Ave. #E, Ventura, CA 93001.