

Ventura Social Services Task Force Minutes 1/4/2012

Self introductions were performed (36 present - Neal Andrews, Jerry Breiner, Sue Brinkmeyer, Kent Brinkmeyer, Peter Brown, Cathy Brudnicki, Cindy Cantle, Harold Cartlidge, Kevin Clerici, Pat Esseff, Jill Forman, Todd L. Goehner, Mary Haffner, Tim Hawkins, Cheryl Heitmann, John Jones, Fariborz Koozehkanani, Jeff Lambert, Shelli Locklear, Donna Mason Luttrull, John Luttrull, Kathie Marder, Loretta McCarty, Eileen McCarthy, Mike Merewether, Kate Mills, Rob Orth, Andrea Palmer, Dolores Powell, Clyde Reynolds, Revis Robinson, Debora Schreiber, Karol Schulkin, Mark Stadler, Mary Stewart, Eileen Tracy)

I. Neal Andrews took over the chair to conduct elections. Bill Finley was nominated and seconded for chair. Kate Mills nominated Beth Sutherland, however Beth had informed the nominating committee she was unable to accept. John Jones was nominated for vice chair and David Deutsch for secretary. All were elected unanimously.

II City Report by Peter Brown

- A. The Winter Warming Shelter opened Dec 1 at the Ventura Armory. Attendance has been very high, between 110-130 each night. Donations of bulk food items needed, Tom McLaughlin retired on Dec 15 and started treatment for his cancer. He is responding very well. Marc Mulinkovich, assisted by Brenda Cobos, is running the shelter. There are some limited (specific) ways to volunteer. Contact Peter if interested in donating or volunteering. Must have a TB test. Karol Schulkin says the Shelter has a peaceful calm supportive atmosphere. Kevin Clerici added that the food is excellent. Peter notes that \$475 a night is spent to have a guard because it is an armory. Only 7 armories in CA are used as shelters. Teens for Jeans collecting jeans again this year. Jeans being collected at City Hall and will be distributed at the shelter. Contact Peter.
- B. Homeless Count on January 24. This year volunteers will be assisting the various providers to count. Sign up at VolunteerVenturaCounty.org to count. Specify you are volunteering to help in Ventura.
- C. City Council Homeless subcommittee cancelled for January. On 1/23 the shopping cart ordinance will come before Council. Also on the agenda that evening is the Safe and Clean Initiative. This is a program in which a variety of community partners are working together to keep downtown areas and the promenade safe and attractive. And on 1/23, six key people who worked on OneCityOneMeal will be thanked and honored.
- D. Cathy Brudnicki and Peter met with Oxnard Councilwoman Carmen Ramirez at her request to talk about the Oxnard Commission on Homelessness, to share information and talk about improving its effectiveness. Members of the Oxnard Commission are appointed. We in Ventura are fortunate at the level of commitment of staff to the issue. Cathy emphasized the need for coordination between cities and for using the same criteria parameters.
- E. On 11/22/11, two individuals from Port Hueneme spoke at Ventura Council about their activities "feeding the less fortunate" in Plaza Park. Peter is meeting with them to explain the concept of hand up not hand out and to emphasize that a hot meal is available at Family to Family at exactly the time they are offering food in the park. The anti panhandling campaign is

on-going. Police can talk with persons who need to be talked with i.e. handing out large amounts of food, or suspicious pan handling (scams). Call 650-8010 and explain your concern. If they are not too busy an officer will come by and address situation and use field interview cards.

III. Deputy Mayor Cheryl Heitmann spoke briefly to introduce herself. Her background includes being a MSW and working in a locked psych ward and in private practice.

IV. Committee Reports

A. Faith Committee

Committee did not meet in December, and doesn't plan to meet in person unless special need arises.

Debora Schreiber, Donna Mason, and Jim Duran will be meeting to discuss improvement for coordinating next year Thanksgiving OneCityOneMeal volunteers. Contact one of them with your feedback. Debora's email is KaloramaCo@hotmail.com.

B. Homeless Prevention by Cindy Cattle

1. There was no meeting in December. Catholic Charities had the fund and assisted 5 households, 15 persons, of which 5 were children. A total of \$3,805 was used, on average \$704. In 2011, fifty households were helped to remain housed. The grand total is 210 households. Salvation Army has the fund in January. In December, there were several generous contributions, both from individuals and organizations. We are happy that Church of the Foothills is volunteering to give a monthly contribution. Current balance for the fund is \$16,000.

in regard to HPRP funds, Karol Schulkin reported - as of Dec 31, 2011 a total of 621 households representing 1,701 persons have been assisted throughout VC. Of that total, 184 City of Ventura households (465 persons) were assisted. While the funds designated for eviction prevention have now been fully expended, we still do have deposit and rental funds for persons who are currently homeless. This is one time bridge money only, so the household needs to have a reliable source of income to carry on the rent once they are helped to move in.

2. That was the gist of it.
3. Please "like us" on Facebook!

C. Housing Options by Loretta McCarthy

There was no December meeting. Home Share received two \$2500 grants from Montecito Bank and Trust. Home Share has made 21 placements. They are looking for a source for permanent funding.

D. Gateway by Clyde Reynolds

Committee will meet Friday 12/20 at 1PM at Main Street Architects

E. Steering Committee

1. Lincoln School received a McCune grant for the homeless program that Amy Luoma coordinates.
2. John wrote a letter to the editor stressing need for permanent shelter (in Star 1/5/12)

IV. Other Reports

A. One Stop by Kate Mills

Seeing 30-45 clients in Ventura every Tuesday. Over half are new attendees. A mix of families and single persons attending. Currently Food Stamps and ACE (County medical care program) are major needs being met. Also are seeing non-homeless but in poverty persons needing help.

B. Realignment

The estimate had been that 30 new releases from prison would come each month but it is now 60 a month.

C. Barnett House program that CEDC and Turning Point were trying to make happen did not work out. A similar program in Simi to be run by Many Mansions for mentally ill (12 beds) received Behavioral Health funds.

D. Rotaract (young business persons with Rotary) will take part as volunteers for the Count and are distributing info and explaining the anti-panhandling ordinance to businesses)

V. Events

- January 24, Homeless Count. Please sign up on VolunteerVenturaCounty.org and specify you are volunteering in Ventura
- March 10, magic show to benefit Kingdom Center in Moorpark. Call 388-7669

More info at VSSTF.org