

## Ventura Social Service Task Force

### MINUTES October 2, 2012

Present: Debra Adams, Neal Andrews, Jerry Breiner, Sue Brinkmeyer, Peter Brown, Cathy Brudnicki, Cindy Cantele, Elizabeth Crews, Joe Dawson, Jim Duran, Jill Forman, Sal Gonzalez, Tim Hawkins, Tim Hockett, Meg Kimbell-Drewery, Amy Luoma, John Luttrull, Donna Mason- Luttrull, Eileen McCarthy, Jackie Meissner, Kate Mills, Jennifer Mocos, Rob Orth, Kathy Powell, Melissa Ramirez, Clyde Reynolds, Laura Roberts, Meloney Roy, Debora Schreiber, Karol Schulkin, Kristen Tippelt, Daniel Zapata

#### I. Introductions and Announcements

Introductions were done.

#### II. Changes or Additions to the Agenda

#### III. Subcommittee and Other Reports

##### A. City Report – Peter Brown

1. Homeless Subcommittee did not meet in October – too many members were away. Next meeting will be November 7 at 4PM. The agenda will cover what policies, procedures and philosophies the Council will adopt to implement the 10 Year Strategy to End Homelessness. Eight strategies are being examined for action items to guide the work at the City and Community.
2. Rob Orth, Peter Brown and Jim Dawson from Turning Point to meet with the East neighborhood (Northbank and Petit) where people are now camping after being removed from the Santa Clara River bottom.
3. Final data from the CLU cleanup: 61.5 tons of trash were removed. 70 people were interfaced with. Six or 7 of those folks are receiving case management. 19 were housed short term.
4. There will be a meeting tomorrow (October 3<sup>rd</sup>) Society of St. Vincent De Paul regarding the Winter Warming Shelter. The shelter will probably be at the Ventura Armory this year.

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

1. Project Understanding is doing a great job bringing the churches together through a new program they are calling Faith In Action, which has 12 faith communities signed on so far. Individuals who come to Faith Based places are referred to Project Understanding via a two-sided business card (church on one side and Project on the other). Project provides assistance the church might have provided but also enters the individuals into HMIS system and provides them with more comprehensive assistance. The goal is to more efficiently and effectively use resources and to more fully help those in need.
2. Thanksgiving One City One Meal is not happening this year. The plan is to regroup and come up with a better way to implement the concept of having everyone sit down to a meal together as one city and to create community.

- C. Homeless Prevention Subcommittee – Cindy Cattle
  1. The Catholic Charities has fund in October. There is only \$2,000 in the fund.
  2. Project Understanding had the fund the last two months and 4 households and 11 people ,were helped bringing the total to 291 households, 752 people.
  3. The UUCV will give the offering of October 27 to the VHPF. It is very much needed.
  4. The Church of the Foothills is having an alternative giving market December 8 at 11AM. The VHPF is participating.
  4. The VHPF is changing the logo.
  5. Next meeting Oct. 16<sup>th</sup> at 12:30PM
  
- D. Housing Options Subcommittee – Amy Luoma
  1. Discussed draft of the renters guarantee program that VSSTF hops to put in place after the 501(c)(3) is formed.
  2. Also need a contract between the fund and the landlord developed. Discussion on-going – It needs to be clarified will be providing the case management component referred to in the working document. . Brian Brennan contacts offered to help with the large landlords to explain the program and get them on board. Karol Schulkin suggests case management group be involved in setting up the criteria. Clyde R. cautions that the criteria not be so tight that the program only serves those who are a “sure thing” and not those who desperately need help.
  
- E. H2H Community Solutions – Amy Luoma
  1. H2H saw a draft of the Housing Options landlord rental program. A discussion followed on a) endowment for the H2H and b) feedback from landlords, c) vulnerability index which is being done next month – not as part of the 100K Homes.
  
- F. Coordinated Assessment/Intake Committee – Clyde Reynolds
  1. At the meeting reviewed the final draft of the screening assessment form. Defining the process now – a flow chart. Churches, Food pantries, 211 to use form. Use Faith In Action as first testers.
  
- G. VSSTF Steering Committee – Sue Brinkmeyer
  1. Candidate Forum last night. 70 to 80 people attended. Will be on the Star website.
  2. Black & White Dinner – Sal Gonzalez is selling the tickets. Now they are \$50. After Oct 31 the tickets will be \$60.00. The event is Saturday November 9<sup>th</sup>.
  3. November is Homeless Awareness month. Information was distributed to begin all present thinking about the letter-to-the editor campaign and the topics they might wish to address.
  
- H. One Stop – Kate Mills
  1. People coming to the One Stop have been told the wrong starting time. The actual time is 10:00 to 1:00 but they wind down the intake after 12:30. Those making referrals are asked to make it clear to individuals that there is a multistep assessment to get STAR – not automatic.

2. Donations of warm winter socks are requested -- preferably heavy duty unisex socks. They give out 30 - 50 pairs a day.
3. Last Tuesday of the month 60 to 100 attendees. Most are homeless.

I. Family to Family - Donna Mason-Luttrull

1. Over 200 being served. There has been an increase in the number of children.

J. Homeshare - Ken Finning

1. Two new placements made.

K. Special Report - Meloney Roy, Director of Ventura County Behavioral Health.

1. Powerpoint of the guidelines and legal requirements the department must follow in order to provide services to persons was distributed (see attached).
2. Homeless often have substance abuse or mental health issues.
3. In the past, the state hospital at Camarillo housed 6,000 people who were committed indefinitely and subjected to treatments against their will.
4. 1967 ended involuntary commitments
5. There has never been adequate funding to implement the community-based alternatives to the state hospitals that were envisioned
6. 2004 - California passed a 1% tax for County mental health, which has been most helpful, but is still woefully inadequate to the needs
7. Section 5150 detain for evaluation as a result of a mental disorder, a person is in imminent danger to themselves or other or gravely disabled and no less restrictive environment is appropriate. Pendulum has swung so far it's nearly impossible to get 5150 invoked.

#### IV. Networking

- H. Covered California - Karol Schulkin distributed Information of medical coverage under the Affordable Care Act (see attached).
- I. Winter Warming Shelter - enough air mattresses have donated. Meals are \$5/person or \$600/night and funding for them is still very much needed.
- J. November 2, 5:30pm Crowne Plaza Starlight Supper Club fundraising event for Project Understanding, dinner, dancing, live music with Bernie Meisinger Band; \$65 per person, RSVP by 10/25 at 805-451-3579 or [melindaj64@gmail.com](mailto:melindaj64@gmail.com)
- K. November 7, 4 -p.m. Next Homelessness Committee Meeting, City Hall Agenda:
- L. November 9, 6 p.m. to midnight - Black and White Dinner at Oxnard Performing Arts Center
- M. Nov. 17, 12:15 UU Church of Ventura, 5654 Ralston, NAMI - In Our Own Voice (the intersection of mental illness and homelessness viewed through personal experience)
- N. Oct 31, last day to confirm participation/donations for Project Understanding's Thanksgiving meal baskets for families in need in Ventura USD
- O. December 15, 3 p.m., Homeless Persons' Memorial Service, Plaza Park, Ventura

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Everett