

Ventura Social Service Task Force

MINUTES

November 6, 2012

Present: Jerry Bloom, Brian Brennan, Jerry Breiner, Sue Brinkmeyer, Peter Brown, Cindy Cantle, Miguel Cardenas, Susan Everett, Ken Finning, Mary Haffner, Tim Hawkins, Tim Hockett, Amy Luoma, Donna Mason- Luttrull, Eileen McCarthy, Jacquie Meissner, Kate Mills, Jennifer Mocos, Alicia Morales, Kathy Powell, Amanda Pyper, Laura Roberts, Debora Schreiber, Karol Schulkin, Linda Sickels, Daniel Zapata

Meeting was called to order at 3:19 PM

I. Introductions and Announcements

Introductions were done.

II. Changes or Additions to the Agenda - none

III. Subcommittee and Other Reports

A. City Report - Peter Brown

1. Winter Warming Shelter will open on December 1, 2013. The Society of St. Vincent De Paul will hire the shelter manager.
2. The 30 room Hamilton Hotel in downtown was yellow tagged several weeks ago. The H2H team had to handle the relocation of the residents and found 30 rooms at the Motel 6 on Johnson. The residents were moved back in 8 days later after the bed bug problem was addressed. The problem required several treatments. However, there are still lots of code violations.
3. Homeless Subcommittee was cancelled. Next meeting will be December 5.
4. Safe Sleep, which is operated by Salvation Army, must get the word out that people can't just show up to sleep in the parking lot.
5. The Patrol Task Force will be back to full strength soon after officers were pulled off to deal with the recent shooting on Ventura Ave.
6. In early November the operators of the Kingdom Center gave their 30 day notice that they will no longer operate the center. Project Understanding will take over the case management and the 52 residents will not be displaced.
7. On Wednesday, November 13, 2013, the Planning Commission will follow up on the resolution to not find in favor of the Harbor Church Conditional Use Permit.
8. Discussion:
 - a. Kevin Clerici asked that the Hamilton Hotel be made to provide habitable space to those who rent. He said it may be that the community will have to step up to get the owners to cooperate. He wanted to know what the code violations were. The owner knows the City needs the units and really has no motivation to make the corrections.
 - b. Peter Brown indicated the code violations were numerous and included no smoke detectors, blocked heaters, and similar violations. The owners were given a 30 day notice until November 30, 2013 to address these violations. Stronger and mandatory actions may be needed if the bedbug

problem returns including removal of carpeting. He said he made suggestions that the owners look at the best practices of other operators like El Patio where they hire professional cleaners. He said the manager at the Hamilton Hotel cares but has a lot to take care of. The owners have little incentive to comply and maintain minimum compliance. They rent the rooms for \$650/month. The owners keep saying “maybe we just won’t reopen”.

- c. Karol S. mentioned that the owners must be responsible for relocation.
 - d. Eileen M. indicated that situation is very unlikely. Legal assistance is operating with just a few attorneys and this type of situation would take the attention of a full time attorney to bring the suit.
 - e. Kate M. asked what the next steps are if there is another code violation? The City should come up with a plan.
 - f. Sue indicated that the Task Force would ask Peter to report on the Hamilton again in December.
- B. Faith Subcommittee – Sue Brinkmeyer
1. A Thanksgiving Breakfast is planned this year at the Harbor Church. The serving will be at 8:00AM. Volunteers are need and Kathy P. requests that people donate sack lunches containing non-perishables that can be distributed to folks as they leave so they have food for the rest of Thanksgiving Day.
- C. Homeless Prevention Subcommittee – Cindy Cattle
1. Project Understanding had the fund last month.
 2. Two households were assisted for a total of \$1,470 or \$745 per household. Family 1 was short on rent because they had to pay for a funeral for a one month old. Family 2 had their car stolen. The car was recovered undamaged but they had to pay storage fees of \$270 and therefore couldn’t pay their rent.
 3. Salvation Army has the fund in November.
 4. Brian Brennan will now chair the committee. Cindy is leaving the County. The MOU has been updated with United Way.
 5. The total numbers are 293 homes assisted for a total of 756 people.
 6. Catholic Charities is no longer participating.
 7. Next meeting is November 20, 2013 at 12:30PM at the Salvation Army 155 S. Oak Street.
- D. Housing Options Subcommittee – Sue Brinkmeyer
1. The committee continues to have dismal attendance so we want to suggest that we join forces with the H2H committee. Amy L. indicated that she will send an invitation Sue B., Susan E., Neal A. and Debra S. Amy also asked for a Behavioral Health representative; Amanda Pyper appeared willing to attend.
- E. H2H Community Solutions – Amy Luoma
1. The committee wants to have more property managers on the committee. They will welcome the representation of Cabrillo, the HA and Alicia Morales from Salvation Army.
 2. On November 7, 2013 case managers will meet to create a vulnerability index so energies can be focused on those most in need. They will discuss factors that will be used to determine a way to prioritize those most in need.

3. Next meeting December 2, 2013 1:00 to 3:00PM at the River Community Church
- F. Coordinated Assessment/Intake Committee – Tim Hawkins
1. Developing a flow chart of implementation of the coordinated assessment. They will start with the faith community – churches.
- G. VSSTF Steering Committee – Sue Brinkmeyer
1. Sue will write a letter to the new and returning City Council members inviting them to our VSSTF meetings.
 2. Elections will be held in January however, the first Wednesday in January is January 1st. The Task Force decided to hold the first meeting of the year on January 8, 2014.
- H. One Stop – Kate Mills
1. One Stop continues to operate and cooperate with the partners. They still need volunteers. The homeless population who have been assisted are stepping up and volunteering.
 2. In January the One Stop will have been operating for six years.
- I. Family to Family – Donna Mason–Luttrull
1. Thirty people from the Leadership Ventura joined them for a meal last month.
- J. Homeshare – Ken Finning
1. In October two new placements were made. In September one placement was made.
 2. Homeshare is in need of a car. Please spread the word and let them know if anyone knows of a car for them. A car is used for the Executive Director to visit the homes of home providers.
- K. Continuum of Care – Debora Schreiber
1. The role is changing. Grew out of the update to the 10–Year Strategy to End Homelessness.
 2. Creating a board and a set of by–laws.
 3. Tasked to obtain grants and administer funds and prioritize needs. County has been asked to administer the funds. There is potentially \$2M but it is a competitive process. Salvation Army, RAIN and Community Action received funds.
 4. Recent merger of the Oxnard and Ventura groups.
- J. Housing Alliance – Debora Schreiber
1. The recent discussions have been the Inclusionary Housing Program. Jeff Lambert is not in favor of Inclusionary Housing. A Blue Ribbon Panel, consisting of housing advocates, developers and others stakeholders interested in housing, has been formed. The question has been posed – is this panel subject to the Brown Act and are the meetings open to the public. Jeff has responded – no it is not open to the public and it is not subject to the Brown Act.

IV. Business

- A. Homelessness Awareness Month Letter Writing Campaign
See agenda for information and topics.
- B. Plans for a strategic planning session in April tabled until after 501(c)3 formed.

V. Networking

- A. November 9, 6PM to midnight – Black and White Dinner at Oxnard Performing Arts Center
- B. November 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)
- C. November 18, 10:00AM Philip Mangano Director of the American Roundtable to Abolish Homelessness County Govt Center 800 S. Victoria Avenue
- D. December 15, 3PM, Homeless Persons' Memorial Service, Plaza Park, Ventura
- E. United Way Gift Match flyer distributed. See VSSTF website for copy.
- F. It is Salvation Army bell ringing season. Call to volunteer.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Everett