

Ventura Social Service Task Force

MINUTES December 4, 2013

Present: Neal Andrews, Jerry Breiner, Brian Brennan, Sue Brinkmeyer, Peter Brown, Harold Cartlidge, Kevin Clerici, David Deutsch, Jim Duran, Susan Everett, Ken Finning, Jill Forman, Sal Gonzalez, Tim Hawkins, John Jones, Jeff Lambert, Sharon Lanning, Amy Luoma, Donna Mason- Luttrull, John Luttrull, Arlene Martinez, Eileen McCarthy, Kate Mills, Jennifer Mocos, Alicia Morales, Rob Orth, Kathy Powell, Amanda Pyper, Laura Roberts, Debora Schreiber, Karol Schulkin

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. Council subcommittee on homelessness will meet Dec. 5 at 4 p.m. in the Anacapa Room of City Hall to discuss ways staff should implement priorities on ending homelessness
2. Jan 27 hearing appealing denial of CUP for Harbor Church will be before the city council at 6 p.m.
3. The quarterly public safety meeting among Ventura PD, Sheriff, Park Rangers, Fire Dept., Oxnard PD is next week.
4. Peter and several others are making a field trip to Riverside program Growth Point to see railroad cars repurposed for housing at Atwater to see other ways to provide shelter on a year-round basis
5. Winter warming shelter will operate this year and next year; then an alternative must be found
6. There has been an upsurge of charitable giving in parks with groups distributing bedding and goods that often end up in rivers; the city discourages such programs and seeks to move those in parks back into system of care
7. The Point in Time Homeless Council will be 9-12 and 1-4 on January 28. Volunteer at volunteerventuracounty.org
8. The Hamilton Hotel is operating again with all rooms occupied. Peter and others shared with management the good property management practices they might adopt and programs they might emulate; have not heard back from them on violations; city attorney says contacting them is on his list. Peter and others will be visiting the Hamilton tomorrow re: current conditions city has ongoing concerns about: electrical, plumbing, window, maintenance. A letter about how important rooms are but also how important it is that those rooms be habitable is being discussed at H2H subcommittee

B. Faith Subcommittee - Sue Brinkmeyer

1. The subcommittee did not meet due to Thanksgiving. One meeting for November and December scheduled for December 11 at 3 p.m. at UU Church
- C. Homeless Prevention Subcommittee – Brian Brennan
1. The fund has a balance of \$3,437. Salvation Army solved one request for individual who needed \$38 per month; fund deals with one-time needs. Still working through a request from an elderly couple. Substantial amounts are coming in from churches. VIMA Interfaith Thanksgiving offering was \$1227.64. New rack cards available. Peter will print more via city budget. Catholic Charities will return to fund management after Franz’s position has been filled.
 2. Next meeting is January 15 at 12:30PM at the Salvation Army 155 S. Oak Street.
- D. Housing Options Subcommittee – No report. The committee has joined H2H subcommittee for time being.
- E. H2H Community Solutions – Kevin Clerici
1. Discussions regarding the establishment of an endowment fund to fill the gap between monthly income and cost of living for many who are homeless. Meeting with VC Community Foundation on Wednesday
 2. Vulnerability Index criteria are nearly finished; working on confidentiality and process
 3. Pam Fisher of County Behavioral Health is seeking a grant to hire additional crises intervention and engagers
 4. Next meeting is Monday, February 3 at 1 p.m. at River Community Church
- F. Coordinated Assessment/Intake Committee – Rob Orth
1. Last rounds of review for forms for pilot project is nearly complete. Working on a screening form and where proper place to refer based on it. Will need centralized phone number for officer of each day. Plan to roll out in January. Having it in place to some degree is a requirement of HUD grants.
- G. VSSTF Steering Committee – Sue Brinkmeyer
1. The steering committee members for the new year will be elected at our next meeting, which will be January 8 because of the holiday.
 2. Sal Gonzalez reported that Black and White dinner profits were about \$8,000. There were 400 people in attendance; will want a bigger venue for next year. Sal is now on the L.A. Council Board
 3. Jim Duran reported on the old Kingdom Center – now the City Center. Project Understanding will be managing it for the next 3–6 months until a new board and 501(c)(3) can be established. 11 families are still on the property. New families will be added in January. Goal is to have 30 rooms open by mid-summer. There are 23 proposed Board members from churches, social service agencies and city
- H. One Stop – Kate Mills
1. Served 70 on one day, including 3 families with small children. Elderly are coming through in greater numbers. Volunteers provided a wonderful Thanksgiving dinner for all who came through that Tuesday. The Centers will be closed Dec. 24, 25, 31 and January 1.

- I. Blue Ribbon Panel on Inclusionary Housing – Kate Mills and Jeff Lambert
 - 1. Panel has 15–16 members representing real estate, building trades, housing advocates, etc. all looking for a better way to get inclusionary housing. They are inviting others to join. If you are interested, let Jeff Lambert know.
 - 2. Next meeting is January 21 at 3:30 at City Hall.

- J. Family to Family – Donna Mason–Luttrull
 - 1. Numbers remain manageable.

- K. Homeshare – Ken Finning
 - 1. No matches. There are not enough providers.
 - 2. Continuing the 2nd unit program would help perhaps. (Brian Brennan responded that over 60 people have approved units. Most people spent about \$12,000. Neal reported that the majority of the units are occupied. He has a motion before city council to extend the program.
 - 3. MSC/Ken Finning/Kate Mills that the VSSTF send a letter to City Council recommending that the 2nd unit amnesty period be extended. (4 abstentions)
 - 4. Homeshare continues to be 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 – Rob Orth
 - 1. The by-laws and structure were adopted, as required to score well on grant processes.
 - 2. Applications for grants were due December 3.
 - 3. The last meeting worked on meeting grant criteria; HUD is driving all agencies to apply for permanent housing or permanent supportive housing. Transitional Housing is at the bottom of priorities.
 - 4. Continuum of Care is having dialogues about what our county needs and where the holes are. If the Continuum of Care can't fund it though federal funds and we need it, then we must find another way to fund. The process is pushing us to do service-gap analysis and to look at what the community is willing to support.
 - 5. The goal is to end chronic homelessness by 2015, but the reality is we don't have the housing we need.
 - 6. Cathy Brudnicki is chairing a committee pulling together all county task forces.
 - 7. Philip Mangano referred to a funding process of social investment being used in Massachusetts; the government seeks investments from private funders and pays interest on investment based on savings to government from services not used by homeless who have been housed (e.g., hospital, mental health, police). Much of the saving is at the county level; county argues the services still have to be there if not used so there is no saving.
 - 8. Many are using the Affordable Care Act to help homeless get medical and mental health care
 - 9. Peter Brown asked all to read two New Yorker articles "Million Dollar Murray" by Malcolm Gladwell and "Hidden City" by Ian Frazier

- J. Homes for All Alliance – John Jones, Eileen McCarthy, Debora Schreiber
 - 1. The Alliance consists of representatives from CAUSE, House Farm Workers, Cabrillo, and Lift Up Your Voice.

2. Next meeting is January 16 at 3:30 at Cabrillo

IV. Business

A. John Jones would be willing to reconvene the old education subcommittee as a new outreach committee with a goal of providing speakers and planning an annual event to raise awareness of developments in the efforts to end homelessness. Sharon Lanning, Kate Mills, Amanda Pyper, Debora Schreiber, and David Deutsch volunteered to help. (David can only meet after 5:30 p.m.). John was asked to touch base with Cathy Brudnicki as well

V. Networking

- A. Laura Roberts reported that the Winter Warming Shelter is serving about 60. They will accept those with no TB test in a special section of the shelter during upcoming cold weather snap, Tuesday – Saturday only.
- B. Neal is taping the next of his public access TV shows on December 13. Contact Neal if you have a topic or issue to bring forward.

Respectfully submitted,

Sue Brinkmeyer