

Ventura Social Service Task Force

March 6, 2013

Present: Neal Andrews, Fred Brady, Sue Brinkmeyer, Peter Brown, Lynn Bullock, Cathy Brudnicki, Cindy Cantle, David Deutsch, Jim Duran, Susan Everett, Dorothy Fast Horse, Jill Forman, Sam Gallucci, Sal Gonzalez, Tim Hawkins, John Jones, John Luttrull, Arlene Mason, Donna Mason-Lutrell, Rob Orth, Kathy Powell, Amanda Pyper, Clyde Reynolds, Debora Schreiber, Karol Schulkin, Michele Surber, Kristen Tippelt, Sid Ward, Michelle Surber, Daniel Zapata

I. Introductions and Announcements

Introductions were done.

II. Subcommittee and Other Reports

A. City Report – Peter Brown

1. The 100K Homes meeting was Thursday. The nationwide initiative is ending this summer after a 5 year period and housing over 21 thousand persons. Locally, the group is planning to extend the initiative and will engage stakeholders to merge with the Homeless 2 Home group. A steering committee has been organized.
2. The Point in time homeless count was undertaken on January 29, 2013. The official count will be published in April. Last year the count was 701 in Ventura, 522 in Oxnard, 301 in Simi and 1,936 in the County. The shelter location skews the numbers between Oxnard and Ventura
3. The Harbor Church Conditional Use Permit
 - a. Peter Brown and Dave Ward met with attorney and group to discuss the Conditional Use Permit. The process is in a 30 day review period, expiring in March, for staff to assess the permit. Elizabeth Richardson – City Planner is staff working on the CPU. After March 24 the City will undertake civic engagement activities and public meetings. The Harbor Church is continuing their activities while this process is underway.
 - b. The decision is appealable to the City Council. This is an emotional issue for all involved.
 - c. The process involves noticing residents within 500 feet of the church. Then a 10 day notice of the Public Hearing.
 - d. Sam Gallucci from Harbor Church says that for the last five years they have done outreach to the poor. They have worked hard to carry out their mission to forgotten neighbors with nourishment, faith and hope. The church has a good relationship with the City and they work to be a good neighbor. Participants are vested in the program and give any money that they can.

- e. The Harbor Church visited the Samaritan Center in Simi Valley and were very impressed with how well the Center and its neighbors get along.
- f. John - the principal of the Blanch Reynolds Elementary School spoke to the Kiwanis. The principal spoke of the church being good neighbors and many of the homeless send their kids to the school.
- g. The Winter Warming Shelter closes in a few weeks. A committee is meeting to discuss future plans.
- h. In a recent meeting with the Society of St. Vincent de Paul the discussion was a long term housing shelter solution and how the Society might structure their involvement at that level.
- i. The whole issue of housing the homeless needs to come to the attention of elected officials. Some officials think that there is too much being done, some think that not enough is being done.
- j. There are no longer permanent encampments in the Ventura River. Many of those folks have moved near Riverhaven. There have been thefts on local farms and shots fired.
- k. The Homelessness Subcommittee of the City Council Meeting scheduled for Thursday has been cancelled because two members are out of town. The next meeting will be in April.
- l. The banner program at the Vons shopping center seems to be working.
- m. The City is continuing the grant funding of \$70,000 this year. Several persons volunteered to serve on the grant committee. The funds will be available by the May meeting.
- n. The police, parks commission and the public works are stating that the direct costs associated with the Safe and Clean Public Places initiative are around \$50,000. The City will have to show these costs as a line item in future budgets.
- o. This year the \$70,000 for the VSSTF is not at risk.

B. Faith Subcommittee – Sue Brinkmeyer

- 1. The various Food Pantries are talking and are considering ways of working together.
- 2. Debora Schreiber and Sue Brinkmeyer are gathering contacts for church bulletins. If you have information on your church contact for the bulletin – please contact Debora or Sue.

C. Homeless Prevention Subcommittee – Cindy Cantle

1. The subcommittee met on February 20th. Project Understanding had the fund in the month of January. A total of 265 households have been assisted, for a total of 675 people. The next meeting is the 3rd Wednesday, March 20, 2013 at 1:00PM at the Catholic Charities. Salvation Army has the fund in March.
2. On March 19, 2013 Board of Supervisors is recognizing HomeShare for their contribution to ending homelessness. They are launching the effort to get more providers. (Note: this event has been postponed and a new date is TBD)

D. Housing Options Subcommittee – Susan Everett

1. The goal is to continue planning for the insurance funds for landlords so it is important to continue to achieve 501(c)(3) status for donations for this fund.

Neal Andrews wants to emphasize that the people on this committee are fully occupied with their employment and the committee could use some people that have time to work on organization of the landlord guarantee program which is geared to insuring landlords against loss.

Please note the meeting location and time have changed. The next meeting is the 2nd Wednesday, March 13, 2013 at **4:00PM – 6:00 PM** at the Housing Authority office located at 995 Riverside Street.

E. Report from 100K Homes Working Group – (H2H)

1. The group is looking to get a housing specialist position funded. They want to hire a housing specialist to make an inventory of housing stock. They will ask local businesses to help fund the position.

F. Gateway Group Subcommittee – Clyde Reynolds

1. On March 21 there will be a meeting at 855 Partridge at 3:30 PM to get an introduction to the HMIS referral system.
2. There needs to be a realignment of funds. \$36,000 is in emergency funds in the H2H rental assistance. Other funding is in Emergency solutions Grant, Turning Point Foundation - \$100,000 - and County emergency solutions money funds.
 - a. H2H has existed in Ventura for three years, and merging the 100K homes concepts or processes with it is a viable way to move forward.
3. Meg Kimball-Drewery is the individual appointed from the County to oversee all issues related to homelessness.

G. VSSTF Steering Committee

1. Met with an attorney Ron Herrington who at one time was going to prepare the paperwork for the 501(c)(3) pro bono; he can no longer offer it for free. He would do the work for \$1,000. Several members indicated that they thought we should attempt to do the work ourselves. A motion was made that the steering committee is authorized to spend \$1,200 on forming a 501 (c)(3) contingent on the exploration of other options or after other resources are exhausted. Vote passed by majority, 1 abstention.
2. We will need a CPA. Debora S. will ask Jan Smitty if she will offer her services.
3. Discussion of the Mission Statement, which we will need along with the by-laws. Debora S. moved to reaffirm the mission statement, “Dedicated to Ending Homelessness in the City of Ventura” It was seconded by John J. The vote was approved by a voice vote.

III. Business

- A. One Stop -
The last One Stop was a little slow. The services were being reviewed in a peer to peer technical assistance review. Volunteers are needed to keep the place going. Tell your clients to get there early. They are having to cut off services at 12:30
- B. Family to Family – Donna Mason-Lutrill
Down in the count of participants she believes because of the Harbor Church where people can go to get showers, clothes. Haven't had problems with the criminal elements. Likely because of security. Security is expensive but worthwhile.
- C. HomeShare – Ken Finning – no report
- D. Report on RAEH convention – Cathy Brudnicki
Student scholarship to Berkeley
Community encouraged to use RRH – the right intervention for the client.
Collecting data to inform local decision makers
Much interest in expanding the continuum of care

Rob Orth – Salvation Army applied for a ESG Grant to transform how we house homeless. The government is wanting to move away from transitional housing and using transitional housing for a shorter period of time.
- E. Black & White Dinner Dance – Saturday November 9th.

Debora S. - the task force does not have money to sponsor a table, but she is sure that there would be enough people to sponsor a table by collecting a fund from the membership. She made a motion that we sponsor a table at the \$500 level. Seconded by Neal A. The vote was passed by vote assent.

Email Sue B. if you are interested in pledging \$25 or more to help sponsor a VSSTF table at the Black & White Dinner Dance

The St Vincent de Paul Thrift Store at 1258 Saviers Road will close by the end of the month. The center has traditionally provided items to the homeless and needy. St Vincent de Paul is looking to open a storefront where they can store items like beds that can be given to the needy.

III. Networking

- A. May 4, 2013 is the NAMI Walk

NAMI Support Group meets at 1065 E. Main Street on Thursday 3:00 – 6:00 PM and Saturday mornings 10:00AM – 5:00PM

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Everett