

Ventura Social Service Task Force

April 3, 2013

Present: Neal Andrews, Fred Brady, Jerry Breiner, Sue Brinkmeyer, Kent Brinkmeyer, Peter Brown, Miguel Cardenas, Kevin Clerici, Jim Duran, Susan Everett, Miranda Fierro, Ken Finning, Jill Forman, Sal Gonzalez, Tim Hawkins, John Jones, Amy Luoma, John Luttrull, Donna Mason-Luttrell, Kate Mills, Rob Orth, Kathy Powell, Clyde Reynolds, Debora Schreiber, Karol Schulkin, Becky Spring, Kristen Tippelt, Sid Ward, Michele Surber, Mark Watkins

I. Introductions and Announcements

Introductions were done.

II. Subcommittee and Other Reports

A. City Report – Peter Brown

1. The Harbor Church CUP is on file. The application will be reviewed and interface with representatives. There is a meeting scheduled for April 8, 2013 and a tentative community meeting is scheduled for April 30, 2013 at 5:00PM.
2. Commander Davis could not be present today. The Ventura Police report that service calls for vagrancy went down. Generally, there are 130–140 calls per week – with a high of 180 calls. The police report several consecutive weeks in the 80's.
3. Press release regarding the Ventura Social Service Task Force Grant. Grant guidelines are posted on the website. The grant review committee will include: Karol Schulkin, Kevin Clerici, Sid Ward, Debora Schreiber, David Deutch, and Peter Brown. Applications are due May 16, 2013 at 5:00pm Ventura City Hall, 501 Poli Street, Room 218.
4. The neighbors of the Motel 6 in the Pierpont area have filed a class action lawsuit against the motel. There were over 300 calls at that hotel last year, which is significantly higher than other hotels in the area. That may be a reflection of poor management.
5. The Pierpont Community Council is discussing other issues as well: Neighbors complain that the recycling center at Vons (Seward/Harbor) is a magnet for homeless activity. Peter will be meeting with the management group of the shopping center to see if they are interested in banner program or other solutions that have worked elsewhere.

6. Ventura Hillside Conservancy had a river clean-up last week. They came across 2 campers under the bridge but no built up camps. They removed 5 tons of trash. The other side to this success is that so much activity has moved to behind Riverhaven.
7. Prior to the annual clean up by Cal Lutheran freshman, this year, November 3, 2013 in the Santa Clara River bottom, there will be an effort to canvass the area and remove camps.
8. The Homelessness Subcommittee has been cancelled again tomorrow (April 4, 2013) for the third month in a row. The 10-Year Strategy discussion has been pushed to the next meeting.
9. With the active expansion of the H2H program, additional funding from the Turning Point Foundation and private funding from the Salvation Army and 3 - 4 businesses, there could be funding to hire a new staff member: a Housing Specialist.
10. Peter Brown is scheduled to meet with the new manager of the Conservancy who wants zero occupancy on their land across from Motel 6.
11. Homeless Count will be available on April 18, 2013.
12. A question is asked about the Ventura River Project. Through empirical evidence from the participants including Friends of the River, Public Safety officers including police and sheriff, State Park Rangers, Railroad Police, and the CHP - the river cleanup has been successful. However, the other side of this story is the build-up of camps and activity behind Riverhaven. The geographic area is the size of a nine-hole golf course. Ventura has shared ordinances and Homeless Court information with Oxnard, but there has been no coordinated activity with the Oxnard PD yet.
13. In response to a request from Jerry Breiner, Peter agreed to send an updated report on the clean-up program for the VSSTF website.
14. In response to a question asked about the storage of the homeless belongings, Peter responded that municipalities are required to keep the stored belongings for 90 days and that storage period ended on December 19, 2012. The City kept the belongings for another month. At that time there were 4 bags left.
15. Karol Schulkin handed out "Recalibrating for Results: A Five-Year Evaluation and Update for the 2007-2017 County of Ventura 10-Year Plan to End Homelessness" --There are 23 recommendations. The working group spent 18 months studying best practices and

responding to a shift in Washington, DC regarding to the types of programs that will be funded. The Board of Supervisors has adopted the plan and local jurisdictions are reviewing the list to see what seems vital to each area and address that with City Council. Other communities looking at the list of 23 items include Simi Valley Task Force and Oxnard Commission on Homelessness.

B. Faith Subcommittee – Sue Brinkmeyer

1. Handouts: FoodShare statistics for 2011–2012 and List of food pantries including hours of operation and contact information. Some success in working together to merge to provide better service and more food.
2. Project Understanding is taking over food pantry services for Kids and Families, which has moved to Camarillo. A church has offered their parking lot for a joint food share opportunity.
3. The subcommittee is working on identifying newsletter contacts at each church so we can get information and volunteer opportunities out.

C. Homeless Prevention Subcommittee – Debora Schreiber

1. Salvation Army had the fund in the month of February. Two households and three people were assisted (2 grandparents with a grandchild). A total of 268 households have been assisted, for a total of 681 people. The next meeting is the 3rd Wednesday, April 17, 2013 at 12 PM at Catholic Charities. Catholic Charities has the fund in April and May.
2. Looking for a way to get the word out and spread the word to get additional donations. An opportunity will be at Ecofest – April 30, 2013 at Promenade Park. VSSTF will share a booth with the DVO.

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.
2. Plea is made for more help.

Please note the meeting location and time have changed. The next meeting is the 2nd Wednesday, April 10, 2013 at **4:00PM – 6:00 PM** at the Housing Authority office located at 995 Riverside Street.

E. Report from H2H Community Solutions (new name for 100 K Homes/H2H committee) - Clyde Reynolds

1. The group is continuing efforts to obtain funding for a housing specialist position, which would be housed at Salvation Army. They are continuing to use the H2H outreach model consisting of finding homeless people who want housing. That model is successful but they are running out of options because of the lack of inventory of housing within the community.
 2. Looking for resources i.e. looking for agencies, businesses to secure enough money to hire a housing specialist.
 3. It was reported that Casa Esperanza in Santa Barbara currently has openings for women; it is a \$3 ride on Vista.
- F. Coordinated Assessment/ Intake Committee (previously known as the Gateway Subcommittee)
1. At the March 21 meeting, there was a demonstration of the HMIS referral system by the County. The goal is to have an intake process that works for everyone, coordinate client referrals and determine if a client is eligible. The system has a large capacity. Members should review the available tools to determine the critical items for their group.
 - a. First level – non–case management services – brief screening form
 - b. Agencies that provide case management services will have access to coordinated assessment tools including universal data and program data.
 - c. Challenges still being discussed include consent and release of information and the role of 211 in referrals.
 2. County is providing a resource person – Meg Dowery. County is looking at Alameda County, which already has implemented their HMIS. Next meeting is April 18, 2013 from 12–2 p.m. at the Non–Profit Center, 4001 Mission Oaks Blvd. .
- G. VSSTF Steering Committee – Sue Brinkmeyer
1. The VSSTF has agreed to sponsor a table at the Black & White Dinner – we need to raise \$500 to keep this pledge. She received 4 emails pledging support. A pledge sheet was distributed and over \$1,025 was pledged.
 2. The NAMI walk is May 4, 2013. A pledge sheet was passed around and \$350 was pledged.
 3. The 501 (c)(3) is moving forward. Dave Smutte has agreed to serve on the board and serve as CPA and treasurer.

4. Discussion on ways to get the word out to the public about the update to the 10-year strategy and opportunities to be part of the solution. One possibility is utilizing DVO table at community functions like Ecofest . Neal Andrews mentioned that VSSTF worked with the League of Women Voters several years ago to put on a successful breakfast. Others have made presentations to the Rotary and Kiwanis clubs. A suggestion was made to create a “road show” with speakers geared to the group being addressed. Neal Andrews, Kevin Clerici and Karol Schulkin were mentioned as presenters – depending on the group. Sue suggested we present at the DVO quarterly meeting in July.

III. Business

- A. One Stop – No report
- B. Family to Family – Donna Mason–Lutrull – No report
- C. HomeShare – Ken Finning –
The director Muriel Steiger is back at work. He mentioned that we need more providers. He asked that the Faith Subcommittee get the word out to churches, temples and fellowships.
- D. Report on changes at Our Place Shelter – Becky Spring
Our Place will no longer provide drop-in services for meals, showers, laundry etc. Everyone is being directed to the One Stop , where Becky Spring and Miguel Cardenas will be serving .
- E. Report on Project Embrace Survey – Kathy Powell

Eighty one people participated in this snapshot survey. 35% of the participants were born in Ventura. Greater than 50% of the people (57) live in Ventura. Only 5% were transients.

IV. Networking

- A. Black & White Dinner is November 9, 2013 from 6PM to 12PM.
- B. Free cell phone flyer was distributed.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Everett