

# Ventura Social Service Task Force

August 7, 2013

Present: Neal Andrews, Jerry Breiner, Kent Brinkmeyer, Sue Brinkmeyer, Peter Brown, Cathy Brudnicki, Cindy Cattle, Kevin Clerici, Patrick Davidson, Jim Duran, Susan Everett, Dorothy FastHorse, Ken Finning, Tim Hawkins, Tim Hockett, John Jones, Karl Keller, Sharon Lanning, Amy Luoma, Donna Luttrull, John Luttrull, Eileen McCarthy, Kate Mills, Kathy Powell, David Pyle, Amanda Pyper, Melissa Ramirez, Clyde Reynolds, Jim Rice, Laura Roberts, Debora Schreiber, Karol Schulkin, Kristen Tippelt, Daniel Zapata

## Introductions and Announcements

Meeting was called to order at 3:05PM. Introductions were done.

### I. Subcommittee and Other Reports

#### A. Updates from city – Peter Brown

The VSSTF grants distributed this year were:

Homeshare	\$8,000
VUSD – Lincoln School	\$8,000
People’s Self Help Housing	\$8,000
Project Understanding	\$14,000
Salvation Army	\$14,000
Turning Point Foundation	\$14,000
Ventura Homeless Prevention Fund	\$1,600
VSSTF operating funds	\$2,400

Discussions with Society of St. Vincent De Paul about the winter warming shelter continue. Plans are for it to be in Ventura this year and open on December 1<sup>st</sup>.

The Housing Element has been preliminarily approved by HCD and will go to the Planning Commission on August 14, 2013 where final comments will be received. Should go to Council Sept. 16.

Monday night August 5 City Council adopted the 10 Year Strategy to End Homelessness. The list of 6 priority items from the VSSTF will be recommended by the Homeless Subcommittee ( Neal Andrews, Cheryl Heitmann and Christy Weir) to the City Council for approval. Some of the language has been tweaked slightly, indicating for example that transitional housing would have appropriate management and good neighbor poicies in place. Three additional recommendations were also recommended for approval.

The Harbor Church CUP went to the Planning Comission (PC) on July 29<sup>th</sup>. This was extremely well attended. This is the first time

that there was overflow into three rooms. Public testimony was taken and staff was directed to come back with data to the PC on September 11, 2013. Staff recommended approval of the CPU with 41 conditions. For two PC members this was their first meeting.

Santa Clara River bottom camp removal operation is well underway. Tuesday August 13 – social service agencies will be in river and some select individuals may be given the opportunity to be housed early.

August 19<sup>th</sup> the campers must be out of the river.– August 18<sup>th</sup> is the last night that they can sleep in the camps.

There are three categories of camps;

1. the campers are gone and maintenance can get in and clean up.
2. the campers have their stuff ready to go and are prepared to leave.
3. the campers are completely oblivious and will be taken by surprise on August 19<sup>th</sup>.

On August 14<sup>th</sup> at 5:30PM there will be a 1 hour orientation for the folks who are volunteering on August 19<sup>th</sup>.

On August 19<sup>th</sup> the effort will begin at 9:00AM for volunteers who are assisting the campers with the storage of their possessions. There is a definition of life sustaining possessions that the volunteers need to be aware of. Volunteers will assist in the bagging and inventory of those life sustaining possessions. Each campers will have a rolling bin to store their items. The rolling bins then go into the POD, receipts will be issued. The POD will be stored at the police department. There will be scheduled hours when the stored items can be accessed.

Pets will also need to be stored and Peter has obtained the use of a mobile kennel for that purpose. Volunteers will be needed to walk, clean, feed and give attention to the dogs. The dogs will be kenneled for two weeks.

54 – 56 individuals have been identified in the River camps  
27 camps exist

12 persons have been determined to be ineligible for services paid for with City funds due to criminal warrants, etc.

7 campers want to leave before August 19<sup>th</sup> – so they might start putting up folks by August 15<sup>th</sup>.

The City has set aside \$25,000 for short term housing, transportation, food. This will likely run out by August 22<sup>nd</sup>.

There is \$80K in grants eligible for long term assistance.

Evaluations of the individuals have been made by Clyde and Karol and individuals have been “assigned” an organization to oversee them. Karol says “assigned” because some of the agencies have prior experience with some of the individuals.

Base camp for the Santa Clara River Levee Area operation is at Riverhaven.

A comment was made that storing the possessions at the police department may put some people off. Peter says it is his experience that rarely do people come back to get their possessions. The City is required by law to store the possessions for 90 days.

B. Faith Community Subcommittee – Sue Brinkmeyer

They are continuing their coordination and outreach efforts. Sue distributed an updated list of food pantries provided by FOOD Share.

C. Homeless Prevention Subcommittee – Cindy Cattle

Catholic Charities had the fund this month. This month they helped four households, 13 people, 7 kids for a total assistance of \$2,942 or \$735 per household.

That brings the total to 281 households and 727 people.

Donations in July were \$271.

The July 4<sup>th</sup> booth made \$286

The Unitarians gave \$1,058 to the committee and provide their October 27 offering as well.

The Church of the Foothills Alternative Giving event is December 8<sup>th</sup>. The Homeless Prevention Subcommittee has been invited to participate.

The August fund will be handled by the Salvation Army.

Donna Luttrull reported that other churches are reaching out with support; Community Presbyterian gave out \$11,000 in July. Others commented that it would be wonderful to capture this involvement and asked whether those in the faith community providing such assistance could use the new screening tool and HMIS to capture the full picture of what is happening in the community and of the help being received by individuals. Sue will invite Community Presbyterian to discuss possibilities through the Faith Subcommittee.

D. Housing Options Subcommittee – Susan Everett

No Report

E. Report from H2H Community Solutions – Clyde Reynolds

The group has gathered hired Amy Luoma for the housing specialist position. She will include the administration of the rapid rehousing fund.

Amy attended the National Conference on Ending Homelessness Conference in Washington DC. She met with Julia Brownley.

F. Coordinated Assessment/ Intake Committee – Clyde Reynolds

The last meeting was very well attended and at the next meeting they will finish the assessment form. In September and October they discuss the use of the form and in November they will start a trial run using the form for the next couple of months.

G. VSSTF Steering Committee – Sue Brinkmeyer

The booth at July 4<sup>th</sup> street fair went very well. The water balloon yo-yos were great and really attracted the kids which brings in their parents and some education can take place.

Lighthouse is no longer a drop-in for women. The services are now case managed. There are beds for those wanting to enter the 30 day shelter program. They still consider themselves an emergency shelter – but with expectations.

The progress on the 501(c)(3) has hit a wall and the Steering Committee has decided to go forward with the use of funds to hire Ron Harrington.

Clyde comments that he is not sure that we should form a 501(c)(3). He is not convinced that the organization needs a non-profit.

Neal Andrews thinks we should be a 501(c)(3). It will improve the perception of the organization as an organization that mobilizes and educates the community.

Sue states that the VSSTF has previously voted to authorize the formation of a 501(c)(3) and voted for the funds to hire an attorney.

We need a physical address though in order to move forward. The City can rent space in the 504 E. Poli address for 50 cents a square foot. HA cannot accommodate us. David Pyle suggested the Unitarian Church. Sue is going to speak to Rev. Christian there.

H. One Stop – Kate Mills

They continue to have very high numbers of clients coming to the One Stop. The UU Church has been steering volunteers to them. Recently Manny Edgar-Beltran, who is a notary, has agreed to be there on Tuesdays.

We need an advocacy group at the PC and City Council to show our support and let them know how their actions impinge on the homeless. They need to hear the voice of the other sides.

She asks that we all take back to the Faith community that the One Stop still needs volunteers.

- I. Family to Family – Donna Mason–Lutrull  
Numbers are up.
- J. Homeshare – Ken Finning  
Three matches in July.

### **III. Business**

A. Rev. David Pyle and Rev. Jan Christian of the UU Church have been meeting with members of the City Council to generate interest in forming an elite group or a Blue Ribbon Committee of business and influential community members to build investment to end homelessness. He is suggesting members be heavy hitters like the CEO of Community Memorial Hospital, Wood–Clayssens etc. The goal is for individuals with a different perspective on available resources and processes to generate innovative solutions like jobs programs to help bring an end to homelessness.

Discussion followed with the following comments:

- It would be a point of access for people who haven't been involved previously. Creating access to jobs is such a missing piece.
- Concept of engaging with businesses – they are interested in participating
- Building investment in the larger community to find a deeper understanding of homelessness
- It is reported that Council Member Christy Weir said any such special group should have a specific time period and have a specific outcome.
- There is a homelessness fatigue in the business community
- This has been done before with Project Understanding – 20 people served for a year with little or no outcome
- The idea will be brought back to the Task Force on Sept. 4 and, if approved, would move forward to the Council's Subcommittee on Homelessness.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Everett