

Minutes of the Ventura Social Services Task Force Meeting, June 5, 2013

Present: Neal Andrews, Bob Baker, Rolly Berg, Kent Brinkmeyer, Sue Brinkmeyer, Peter Brown, Cathy Brudnicki, Cindy Cante, Miguel Cardenas, Kevin Clerici, Jim Duran, Ken Finning, Jill Forman, Mary Haffner, Tim Hawkins, Tim Hockett, Jeff Hull, John Jones, Shelli Locklear, John Luttrull, Donna Mason-Luttrull, Kevin McCurdy, Eileen McCarthy, Kate Mills, Rob Orth, Kathy Powell, Amanda Pyper, Clyde Reynolds, Laura Roberts, Debora Schreiber, Karol Schulkin, John Snowling, Kristen Tippelt, Sid Ward, Daniel Zapata

Meeting called to order at 3:04 p.m.

I. **Introductions and Announcements**

Brief self-introductions (name and affiliation) were made.

II. **Changes or Additions to the Agenda**

There were no changes or additions to the agenda.

III. **Subcommittees and Other Reports (40 min)**

A. Updates from City (Peter Brown)

- There are approximately 20 camps on city-owned land behind RiverHaven, with lots of debris. Estimated costs to remove these camps is currently being estimated. There are very few camps in the Ventura River. There are very few camps in the Ventura River.
- There were \$114,000 of grant requests for the \$70,000 that the City makes available through the VSSTF. The committee met and awarded grants as follows.

A. Report from the VSSTF Faith Comm. Subcommittee(FSC) (Sue Brinkmeyer)

- FSC has been asked by 211 and Action to share our data on activities of faith organizations in Ventura. We will contact the orgs. for permission first and then share.
- FSC drafted a letter to legislators in support of the principles behind AB 5 Homeless Rights and support of additional housing.
- FSC sent out inserts to 28 contacts for faith community bulletins.
- FSC continues to work on a draft pamphlet of services provided by all faith communities and to plan an event that will attract more participation in the subcommittee.
- The FSC meets the 4th Wednesday of every month at the Unitarian Universalist Church, 5654 Ralston, from 3-5 PM. – Next meeting is June 26.

B. Report from the Homeless Prevention Subcommittee (Cindy Cante)

- Catholic Charities funded 7 households with a total of 25 people; most were grandmothers raising children. Total expenditures were \$4780 for an average

of \$683 per household. The Fund has so far kept 714 people from homelessness. Donations in May totaled \$1,359.31 with \$1000 of that coming from Kiwanis.

- The Homeless Prevention Subcommittee meets the 3rd Wednesday of every month at Catholic Charities, 303 N. Ventura Ave. - Next meeting is June 19 at 12:30 p.m.

C. Report from the Housing Options Subcommittee (Susan Everett)

- No report.

D. Report from H2H Community Solutions (Rob Orth)

- The group continues to work on funding for housing specialist

E. Report from the Coordinated Assessment/Intake Committee (3 min) (Clyde Reynolds)

- The group is working on a draft of 1st entry-point tool of 4-5 questions that can be used to properly refer anyone in need of services. There should be a draft ready at the next meeting, June 20, United Way at 8:30 a.m.

F. Report from the VSSTF Steering Committee (Sue Brinkmeyer)

- We collected and mailed in more than 100 cards for SB 391, which has passed. Watch for next steps.

G. Report from "One Stop" (Kate Mills)

- There were 50 people needing services last Tuesday, which was a non-ACE program day, meaning it was one of less busy days. We are gearing up for enrollment for Affordable Care Act.

H. Report from Family to Family (Donna Mason-Lutrull)

- Things are calm and running smoothly

I. Report from Home Share (Ken Finning)

- May was a rough month. We are seeing a big increase in seekers, but not in providers. We are looking for more low-income housing.

III. Business

A. Clyde Reynolds and Karol Schulkin led the task force in a discussion of each of the 23 recommendations made in the 10-Year Strategy to End Homelessness focusing on what the City of Ventura could do to impact that recommendation.

1. Implement housing first

- This is the biggest change in strategy in the revised plan. HUD is saying move people from streets quickly; the old model with shelters is not working. For people homeless more than a year housing 1st has had the greatest impact, though they may need a temporary shelter first. In the new model, housing is provided without waiting until individuals are recovered from addiction or situated with mental health. Transition in place is more effective.
- In the 2013 Point in Time Homeless Count, there were 519 homeless, not counting those in cars and motels; it would be four times that number, or 2000 individuals homeless at some point during the year. In Ventura, 10.5% are below the poverty level. 10,000 people are receiving food

stamps, \$1.8 million in food aid. Of the 519, 60% are chronically homeless. The City could have an impact through dollars and policies, rules and procedures that make housing and supportive housing available. The City will not as an entity provide housing. The City can help with land sites, support and document development. THE SOLUTION TO HOMELESSNESS IS HOUSING. 738 separate individuals used the Armory; 40 percent of the people came from Ventura. Many of these have disabilities and cannot get housing. For those who can work, employment is the ticket to housing.

2. Community outreach and treatment are usually funded through other entities. The homeless need wrap-around services, so this is part of implementing much like #1 housing first model for all families and chronically homeless. Site programs that offer these programs are needed.
3. Shelter plus care; WE NEED SRO RENTALS. That is why we are trying to create housing specialist.
4. Develop Supportive Housing -- covered in earlier discussion
5. Housing Authority to obtain Vouchers for Veterans - This is happening; We are good golden on that
6. Rapid rehousing-we had success with that homeless prevention this is the group where we had most success. HOUSING FIRST. BUILD MORE HOUSING .
7. Create small local year-round shelter with only minimum time. We have been using motels for this. Try for about 30 in one location maybe 50 beds total, 10% of homeless point-in-time count, not all housed together. When you operate this kind of shelter, in a perfect world, you get 30 days, then transition. Also need linkage to case management. Would need city's support for this for siting especially.
8. Transitional housing units are out of favor w HUD. Use only for very special needs, short period of time, mostly for people with disabilities homeless. Transition in place is also part of this; keep the individual in the initial location, and move the funding to another location.
9. Develop permanent low and very low-income housing. Home share says this should be the #1 priority. City should promote home share get more SROs in Ventura More housing is the solution of homelessness.
10. Support the Housing Trust Fund. This fund exists but needs more city money.
11. Preference for homeless in Section 8 housing. This is in place
12. Increase resources for homeless prevention: stem the tide. This is an effective strategy. More resources are needed.
13. Community outreach and education. It is important for the community to understand; this will also help people use resources that are available.
14. Discharge planning with case management. Jails prisons and hospitals are addressing this somewhat. The City has zero tolerance for discharging to the streets.
15. Insure all receive mainstream services. Important in this would be case management and a gateway resources center like One Stop.

16. Social model detox. The police get people to right place at right time.
17. Use HMIS management system. We are now using this in a better manner. We need to determine what is working and continue to revise.
18. Increase business involvement. Some city councils announce the names of businesses that have been supportive and hold an annual dinner to celebrate key businesses and their leaders who have been helpful. Recognize businesses that provide jobs and paid internships, etc.
19. Enlist faith based to help. This is well underway.
20. Coordinated screening. We are aggressively working on this.
21. 22. 23. All are Actively being implemented.

Moved (John Jones), Seconded (Kate Mills): The Ventura Social Services Task Force endorses the Revised 10-Year Strategy to End Homelessness and recommends to the Ventura City Council and its Committee on Homelessness that they give priority to strategies #9, 7, 1, 12, 18, and 4 as reflected in the concentration of votes at today's meeting:

Recommendation #9 (48 votes): Permanent Very Low Income Housing: Develop 300 additional units of permanent affordable housing for extremely low and very low-income families and individuals during the next five (5) years of implementation of plan.

Recommendation #7 (31 votes): Shelters: Create small local short-term year-round shelters which are intended to be short-term harbors while permanent housing solutions are sought.

Recommendation #1 (25 votes): Housing First Model: Adopt and implement a Housing First Model when access to permanent supportive housing (i.e., Supportive Housing Program, Shelter+Care, HUD BASH Voucher, Section 8 Voucher) or permanent affordable housing is readily available and the appropriate level of services and supervision can be provided for episodic homeless households who are housing-ready as well as for chronic homeless households that may not be traditionally viewed as "housing-ready."

Recommendation #12 (18 votes): Homeless Prevention Resources and Services.

- Increase homeless prevention resources and services that will help more households

remain in their housing by alleviating the problems that place them at risk of becoming homeless and that such assistance is more effective and efficiently delivered to households within the stability of their own housing;

- Increase financial resources for rental and utility assistance to households that are most likely to become homeless if not for this assistance.

Recommendation #18 (14 votes): Business Community Involvement:

- Increase the number of business organizations and individual business leaders that actively become involved in the implementation of the recommendations of the 10-Year Plan.

- Identify employment opportunities for homeless and formerly homeless persons who have successfully obtained housing;

- Provide on-the-job-training (OJT) and entry level job opportunities;

- Create partnerships between homeless prevention service providers and business community to ensure that the community's workforce is aware of homelessness prevention resources and services; and
 - Support local homeless service providers and the homeless persons that they serve through the donation of funds or the provision of in-kind services.
- Recommendation #4** (13 votes): Permanent Supportive Housing Beds: Develop at least 100 more permanent supportive housing beds during the next five (5) years of the implementation of the plan to serve the chronically homeless population. These beds will serve homeless individuals and families with mental disabilities, chronic substance abuse, and/or infected with HIV/AIDS with long-term affordable rental housing and a broad range of on-site and/or off-site supportive services.

Tabled to a future time: What position, if any, should the VSSTF take on the "Homeless Bill of Rights" (Amiano) now in the California State Assembly? (see recommendation from the Faith Subcommittee)

IV. Networking

- A. Saturday, June 8, 7 p.m. - Project Understanding will receive half the proceeds from Fusion Soccer Spirit Day at Ventura College, 4667 Telegraph Road. VSSTF will have a booth. Tickets must be purchased online at <http://www.shop.wspagency.us/> for proceeds to go to Project. Doors open at 6 pm
- B. Wednesday, June 12, from 12-2 p.m. Ventura County Community Foundation 25th Anniversary Community Celebration
- C. Monday, June 17, 6 p.m. - Inclusionary zoning is going to be discussed at the Ventura City Council meeting
- D. Wednesday, June 26, 9 am to 9 pm House Farms Workers is the beneficiary of Whole Foods Market's 5% Day
- E. Thursday, July 4th street fair - 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- F. July 19, Field to Fork, \$95 before July 1, to provide housing for farm workers
- G. July 20/21 Bowl Hop - purchase a hand-crafted bowl made by local artist and sample local cuisine; proceeds go to Project's food pantry.
- H. November 9, 6 p.m. to midnight - Black and White Dinner at Oxnard Performing Arts Center
- I. June 17, 6 p.m. Inclusionary Zoning is going to be discussed at the City Council meeting

IV. Next (1st Wednesday) Meeting

Our next regular (1st Wednesday) meeting is 3:00 PM to 5:00 PM Wednesday – July 3, 2013 at Family to Family, 303 N Ventura Ave # E, Ventura CA 93001.

Meeting adjourned at 4:58 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Kathy Powell and Sue Brinkmeyer

