

Ventura Social Service Task Force

February 6, 2013

Present: Fred Brady, Jerry Breiner, Sue Brinkmeyer, Kent Brinkmeyer, Cathy Brudnicki, Cindy Cattle, Harold Cartlidge, David Deutsch, Susan Everett, Ken Finning, Laura Flores, Jill Forman, Mary Haffner, Tim Hockett, Keri Jaeger, Matthew Jensen, John Jones, Jeff Lambert, Amy Luoma, John Luttrull, Donna Mason-Luttrell, Kate Mills, Kathy Powell, Clyde Reynolds, Debora Schreiber, Karol Schulkin, Michele Surber, Kristen Tippelt, Sid Ward, Daniel Zapata

I. Introductions and Announcements

Introductions were done.

II. Subcommittee and Other Reports

A. City Report – Jeff Lambert

1. The City has made the determination that the current activities at the Harbor Church are not consistent with the Harbor Church conditional use permit (CUP). The church must apply for a new CUP. The original deadline was 2/7/2013 – an extension was requested and the new deadline is 2/21/2013. The process will include neighborhood meetings and outreach. The City does not want to rush to hearings. A Planning Commission hearing will be needed. Appeals will go to City Council.
2. The Homeless Subcommittee of the Ventura City Council – The next scheduled meeting is 2/7/2013. However, the subcommittee will likely not meet again until March 2013. The City does not have an investment in all the 21 strategies in the 10-Year Strategy to End Homelessness. They plan to prioritize where the City has a role. The 10-Year Plan will likely go to the City Council in early April 2013. There is no pending application for a permanent shelter.
3. Affordable Housing - The role of the community and individuals in the VSSTF organization were instrumental in the approval of the Cabrillo project in Saticoy. Advocates came out to support the project. Resident stories are the most compelling.

The Density Bonus regulation will be going before City Council on February 11, 2013. The proposed amendment to the City's Density Bonus Regulation is necessary to implement recent changes to state law and implement last housing element. The intention is to incentivize an increase in density.

The Downtown Inclusionary Program – there is a 5 year hold on the program and meanwhile the City has engaged a consultant to explore a developer fee to fund a rapid re-housing fee on any new development within the downtown.

4. A Notice of Funding Available for existing HOME funds of \$750,000 will be released sometime in March. They intend to have a contract in place by the end of the fiscal year. The priority is investment in existing housing. (HOME provides formula grants to States and localities that communities use-often in partnership with local nonprofit

groups-to fund a wide range of activities that build, buy, and/or rehabilitate affordable housing for rent or homeownership or provide direct rental assistance to low-income people.)

5. Applications for Community Development Block Grants will be due in May 2013. The City Council will approve CDBG funding in June 2013. Priority will be items that rehab existing housing.

A question was asked about the Homeless Count. The response was that the 2012 count was essentially flat: Ventura's count increased but Oxnard's count decreased. The 2013 count results should be available in April. A follow up question involved funding: Is the reason for the homeless count because the County receives \$10,000 per homeless person? The response was – no, neither the County nor the City receives \$10,000 per homeless person. This is a misconception. The County does apply for \$2M in federal housing funding but it is not a per capita funding.

B. Faith Subcommittee – Sue Brinkmeyer

1. After a discussion with the various Westside food pantries, the conclusion was that the operations were not close enough to meld successfully. The Mid-town pantries are now discussing the possibility of cooperation.
2. There is a desire for someone with broad connections within the faith based community to take on the role of networking with churches that are not currently active.

C. Homeless Prevention Subcommittee – Cindy Cattle

The subcommittee met on January 16th. Project Understanding had the fund in the month of January. One household of 2 adults and three children were assisted for \$1,000. A total of 265 households have been assisted, which is 675 people. The next meeting is the 3rd Wednesday, February 20, 2013 at 1:00PM at the Catholic Charities. The committee plans to do its periodic review of the eligibility guidelines.

D. Housing Options Subcommittee – Susan Everett

Limited attendance at the January meeting. 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 to an endowment fund.

Tim Hockett mentioned that he has experience with a guarantee deposit program and could offer guidance.

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

E. Gateway Group Subcommittee – Clyde Reynolds

1. The Gateway subcommittee's focus has shifted to a virtual gateway. They intend to get back together in March. There is continued interest in coordination of intake and assessment for the entire County that should take on an expanded role so there can be a coordinated system of referrals so that there is no wrong door for those in need. The

goal is that all groups that are providing case management will use the system. A form was built and is being revised to scale back to just essential information.

- F. VSSTF Steering Committee – Sue Brinkmeyer
 - 1. A Certificate of Appreciation was mailed to the Project Embrace Staff and volunteers this week.
 - 2. A number of VSSTF members will fill a table at the Turning Point breakfast fundraiser February 27th. The breakfast is at the Oxnard Courtyard Marriott.
 - 3. Volunteers are needed for the July 4th Street fair. Please volunteer by emailing Sue Brinkmeyer. We will check into printing balloons. We will consider bringing the wrist bands and tote bags to the fair as well.
 - 4. The Steering committee will be meeting with the attorney to continue discussions of the formation of the 501(c)(3). Think about recommendations for nine board members. Determine what mission statement should be used. VSSTF mission statement?

III. Business

- A. One Stop – Kate Mills and Michelle Surber
 - Need for services continues to grow. There is a great need for a volunteer to administrate the job club. The administrator's tasks will include assisting in resume preparation, job interview techniques and coordination with the business community to bring in jobs.

IV. Networking

- A. Turing Point Foundation Breakfast - Wednesday February 27, 2013 7:00 – 9:30 AM at the Courtyard Marriott Oxnard, 600 E. Esplanade Drive, Oxnard.
- B. Density Bonus on the City Council agenda
- C. Laura Flores invites all to tour Turning Point's New Visions Center where mental health services are offered. A new space in the Center Point Mall has been opened as well.

The next VSSTF meeting is Wednesday March 6, 2013 at 3:00PM-5:00PM at Family to Family 303 N. Ventura Ave. # E, Ventura, CA 93001.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Everett