

## Ventura Social Service Task Force

### MINUTES January 8, 2014

Present: Neal Andrews, Daisy Arellano, Jerry Breiner, Sue Brinkmeyer, Peter Brown, Cathy Brudnicki, Robert Chianese, Connie Cramer, Susan M. Dees, David Deutsch, Susan Everett, Ken Finning, Jill Forman, Lynn Geller, John Jones, Sharon Lanning, Amy Luoma, Donna Luttrull, John Luttrull, Arlene Martinez, Kate Mills, Jennifer Mokos, Alicia Morales, Ron Mulvihill, Rob Orth, Kathy Powell, Clyde Reynolds, Laura Roberts, Debora Schreiber, Karol Schulkin

Meeting was called to order at 3:15 PM

#### **I. Introductions and Announcements**

Brief self introductions were done.

#### **II. Changes or Additions to the Agenda - none**

#### **III. Election of Officers - Neal Andrews**

Position of Secretary - Nominations: Sue Brinkmeyer nominated Susan Everett. No other person nominated. Nominee elected by acclamation.

Position of Vice Chairperson - Nominations: Kathy Powell was nominated by Debora Schreiber with praise for all her hard work and dedication. No other persons were nominated. Nominee elected by acclamation.

Position for Chairperson - Nominations: Sue Brinkmeyer was nominated by Debora Schreiber. No other persons were nominated. Nominee elected by acclamation.

#### **IV. Subcommittee and Other Reports**

##### **A. City Report - Peter Brown**

1. Sergeant Snowling is retiring from the Patrol Task Force so the position will be open. Hiring will be done internally. Mike Anselmo, a new corporal, is a very energetic officer has joined the team. By summer there should be a four member team in place.
2. Homelessness Subcommittee has been rescheduled to Wednesday January 15, 2014. The meeting will not be held in the usual room. It will be held in the Council Conference Room.
3. The annual Homeless Count is scheduled for January 28, 2014. Volunteers are still needed. To be a volunteer visit the website [volunteerventuracounty.org](http://volunteerventuracounty.org). You must attend a training in order to participate. The next training sessions in Ventura are scheduled for Thursday January 16, 2014 at 5:30 PM and Tuesday January 21, 2014 at 12 Noon. Both training sessions will be in the Catalina Room at City Hall. Call Annett Ewing to sign up 654-7724.
4. The management of the Hamilton Hotel phoned City Code enforcement and said that they were ready to be re-inspected. The City went out and absolutely none of the 14 to 15 violations have been addressed. The City is mystified as to why management called for a re-inspection. They have been given 30 days to address these violations. The City could fine the owner but they don't want the

- fine money – they want the violations to be addressed and fixed. A question was asked – What would then fine be if they were fined. \$135/day/room/violation.
5. The Winter Warming Shelter (reported by Laura Roberts) has been averaging 80 persons per night. The SSVDP was notified at the last minute by the National Guard that the armory would not be available on Friday and Saturday night (1/3 and 1/4). Unfortunately, because of the late notice no alternative was found. Also, the armory will not be available Friday and Saturday this week (1/10 and 1/11). The agreement says they have precedence if the military needs the facility. It is likely an alternative location will be found.
  6. The trip to Atwater was made. The community has homeless services provided by SS Agencies, the City and County and the dog pound all located in one area in an industrial park. They didn't have an opportunity to see the repurposed railroad cars.
  7. Kathy P. had a question if the VPD are specifically targeting the homeless persons that typically hang out around the Circle K. Peter said he was not aware of any specific enforcement occurring at this time.
- B. Faith Subcommittee – Sue Brinkmeyer
1. The group is discussing how the broad faith community can best partner with social service and government agencies to end homelessness and what changes in regulations might facilitate that.
  2. Election of a new chair for the group is on the agenda for January 22 meeting.
- C. Homeless Prevention Subcommittee – Deborah Schreiber
1. Dan Long donated his Santa Claus money again this year to the fund and a \$2,000 donation was received from Phillip K.
  2. Ten households and 22 persons were assisted for a total of \$7,100 in December.
  3. Salvation Army has the fund in January. Catholic Services will possibly have the fund in February if they have hired a replacement for Franz; if not Project Understanding will step in.
  4. City will help with the printing of additional rack cards.
  5. Next meeting is January 15, 2014 (third Wednesday) at 12:30PM at the Salvation Army 155 S. Oak Street.
- D. Housing Options Subcommittee – No meeting
- E. H2H Community Solutions – Amy Luoma
1. They had a very brief meeting discussing the vulnerability index. Further information will be presented at the next meeting.
  2. There has been enough funding identified to hire a part time employment specialist .
  3. Next meeting February 3, 2014 1:00 to 3:00PM at the River Community Church
- F. Coordinated Assessment/Intake Committee – Clyde Reynolds
1. Working on a list of front door organizations to train to use assessment form. The form will be ready tomorrow. There will be a 3 month testing process.

2. Clarifying resources – what partners provide and looking for other partners for referrals.
3. They will establish a single phone number with voice mail service. Would like to extend services to 6 days a week and an on-call service on Sunday.
4. Meetings with churches to train in the use of the form are scheduled for February.

G. VSSTF Steering Committee – Sue Brinkmeyer

1. Sue spoke with Mona Tschurwalk, who administers a Landlord Liaison Program in Seattle, Washington, begun in 2009. The county had passed and continues to have a human services and veterans services levy to provide for low-income housing. See [http://www.seattle.gov/housing/levy/docs/2009\\_Levy\\_Fact\\_Sheet.pdf](http://www.seattle.gov/housing/levy/docs/2009_Levy_Fact_Sheet.pdf) . United Way gave a one time grant of \$1 million, which is used for the Risk Prevention Fund (reimbursement to landlords for damages, evictions, etc.) LLP can provide short-term rental assistance, security deposit, screening fee, but is not a subsidy program.
2. Information about a Homeless Shelter in Boulder, brought in by Jill F. was distributed. Further information on the shelter, which serves as the focal point for all homeless services is at <http://www.bouldershelter.org/programs.overview.html>. Services include: street outreach, winter sheltering, transition program, and housing first for chronically homeless.

H. One Stop – Kate Mills

1. One Stop was slammed with individuals seeking assistance. It was the heaviest week in 6 years. There are two things going on – services are narrowing and the Affordable Care Act deadlines are approaching.
2. One Stop is setting up computers in an auditorium for those who are computer literate and can sign up for the ACA on-line. For those who aren't, they are printing the 3 page Covered California applications and the 20 something pages of instructions to give to clients. These clients will have access to a new range of services.
3. Many of the clients are extremely unsettled because they don't have their Medical cards yet, and they are fearful that they won't be able to get their medication.
4. Trained insurance agents in the area can assist clients through the project. There is an on-line directory for the area.
5. The Medical cards are taking the place of ACE and Healthy Families. Gold Coast is the manager.
6. Rules have changed – you can now have assets – such as owning property and still qualify.
7. Transitions Clinic is now taking the place of Healthcare for the Homeless.

I. Update on the Blue Ribbon Panel on Inclusionary Housing – Kate Mills

1. Check the website for the new updates at <http://www.cityofventura.net/page/inclusionary-housing-program-blue-ribbon-committee>

J. Family to Family – Donna Mason-Luttrull

1. This is the 31 or 32 year of service.

2. Meals were served on Christmas Day and New Years Day. They had a large turnout.
3. They were given 300 pairs of socks from her church to give to Kate Mills – who now has them in her car.

K. Homeshare – Ken Finning

1. In December there were two new matches made.

L. Continuum of Care – Rob Orth/Cathy Brudnicki

1. NOFA was due in December 2013.
2. There is a meeting next week on Monday.
3. Recent merge of the Oxnard and Ventura County groups.

M. Update form Homes for All Alliance

1. No Report

**IV. Business**

A. VSSTF would like the City Council to consider regulations which would allow churches to step in when the Winter Warming Shelter closes. If allowed, churches could provide an alternative and be prepared for a situation like last week's late-noticed closure. Peter Brown said he would put it on the next agenda for the Homelessness Subcommittee.

B. Strategic planning will be agendaized for April.

**V. Networking**

- A. Ventura County Together is tackling the issue of ending poverty for families with a new Collaborating for Clients task force, chaired by Bonnie Weigel. They are discussing strategies by asking questions such as "what would it take for you to no longer have to come to us?" Bonnie will be invited to speak to the task force.
- B. Stories of successes:
  - i. Karol S. : Thanks to continuous efforts by case manager Amber Todd, mid 60's veteran finally found a home at the Saticoy Veteran's Home – and he is incredibly happy. He is with like-minded folks who served the country.
  - ii. Emily : H2H collaborated with the CHP to do an intake for a woman and they were able to house her in permanent supportive housing in a matter of days.
- C. The Public Safety Team is having their quarterly meeting. This Assistance Based Enforcement team includes Ventura Police, Park Rangers, county Sheriff, Railroad personnel, Oxnard PD, Highway Patrol and other stakeholders.
- D. Neal thanked John J. for his service to the VSSTF and the new officers of the group.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Everett