

Ventura Social Service Task Force

MINUTES (Draft)

March 5, 2014

Present: Neal Andrews, Steve Bennett, Jerry Breiner, Sue Brinkmeyer, Peter Brown, Cathy Brudnicki, Miguel Cardenas, Rick Carney, Briana Crikelair, Al Davis, Joe Dawson, Jim Duran, Elizabeth Eelko, Susan Everett, Dorothy FastHorse, Ken Finning, Jerry Forema, Jill Forman, Rob Gibson, Mary Haffner, Tim Hawkins, Sharon Lanning, Amy Luoma, Donna Luttrull, Arlene Martinez, Rebecca McCloud, Ana Melgoza, Kate Mills, Jennifer Mokos, Ron Mulvihill, Rob Orth, Kathy Powell, Melissa Ramirez, Clyde Reynolds, Laura Roberts, Debora Schreiber, Karol Schulkin, Jeff Wojnarowski, Daniel Zapata

- I. Introductions and Announcements
- II. Changes and Additions to the Agenda
- III. Committee and Other Reports
 - A. Updates from City

Peter introduced Commander Al Davis and Jerry Forman. Commander Davis is taking over for Commander Snowling who recently retired. Last year he supervised the Command Center.

Peter met with Derek Poltney and the TMDL or Total Maximum Daily Load Team which include the City of Ventura, the Ventura Hillside Conservancy, the State of CA, and private landowners including the Woodclassens. The Ventura Hillside Conservancy is now being contracted to report to the state the TMDL. They monitor the amount of trash and other pollutants the river can receive and still meet safety quality standards. There are currently 3 to 4 camps in the river bottom ¼ mile north of Main Street to the railroad tracks on City of Ventura property.

One month ago on a trip back to the Santa Clara River bottom near the 14th tee in the area of the cul-du-sac, they ran into the some of the same folks that were assisted with motel vouchers last summer.

The Ventura mushroom Farm is going to begin operations again, so the City and the police were asked to take a look at the Santa Clara River again.

There were recently some fires in the Ventura River. It appears that people camping between the bottom of the road deck and the corrugated metal sheathing under the bridge deck began the fire. Twelve agencies came out to address the fire.

The fate of the Harbor Church CUP was discussed Monday night at the City Council Meeting. The public hearing was continued, so there will be additional staff reports and public comment before the decision over the CUP.

The Homeless Committee Meeting of the City Council was cancelled. The next meeting will be April 3, 2014.

Santa Barbara held a Homeless Summit on February 24th and featured the efforts of Fresno and other California communities. The efforts of Ventura were not mentioned. Peter has asked Kristen Tippelt, who is with People's Self Help Housing and the El Patio Hotel and acts as a liaison between the two communities, to set up a meeting with Santa Barbara County.

Four glass doors and 13 windows were broken at the Winter Warming Shelter at a time that it was not in operation. It appears the State of California wants to hold Ventura responsible for the damage.

B. Winter Warming Shelter – Laura Roberts

The last day of the winter shelter is March 31, 2014.

Services provided: 7,000 shelter nights, 14,000 meals, 400 unduplicated clients. That works out to an average of 83 clients/night. Amanda has found permanent housing for 5 clients since January and they have placed three clients in transitional housing.

The shelter on March 1st was held at Mission Church. They served lunch and had overnight shelter.

The numbers of clients are down compared with the last couple of years.

C. Faith Based Community Subcommittee – Sue Brinkmeyer

A letter was sent to all the faith community members in conjunction with a Lift Up Your Voice mailing. The letter offered a variety of ways they could get involved in working to reduce homelessness. They enclosed a rack card from the Homelessness Prevention Fund and a flyer for the Great Ventura Sleep In, a fundraiser for the Safe Sleep program.

Food Share came this month to discuss the mobile food pantry. They are hoping it will become a mobile One Stop that can serve the areas where there are no food pantries, beginning in Port Hueneme.

Southern California Gas offered a presentation – Ted Humphries

D. Outreach Committee – Kate Mills

Met to discuss a brochure which is a concept to inform the community on who the homeless are. It is an update of a previous brochure. Specifically, it will address issues related to homeless children and the elderly who are homeless in our community.

Cathy B. pitched a similar project to CATV and they welcomed the idea.

Mary H. noted that there are 593 homeless children and up to 800 in the VUSD if you include children in transitional living. These students struggle because they are often absent. These children are typically not included in the homeless count which is done during the day when the kids are in school.

E. Homelessness Prevention Subcommittee – Brian Brennan

There is \$743 left in the fund. Since December they helped seven families. In January they helped six families and in February they helped one family.

He thanked Mary H. who donates her salary as VUSD board member to the fund.

F. Housing Options Subcommittee – No meeting

G. H2H Community Solutions – Amy Luoma

Alicia Morales at the Salvation Army is working with CSUCI nursing students with funding from Kaiser Grant to create a Mobile Medical Unit.

Rapid re-housing – they helped 11 adults and 3 children with rental assistance.

She attended the NAEH conference in New Orleans. It was nice to realize that we are following best practices here in Ventura. Shared Housing was a big topic at the conference. She will touch base with Ken Finning and or Muriel of HomeShare to convey what she learned.

H. Coordinated Assessment/Intake Process – Clyde Reynolds

Still in the implementation stage. The assessment form will be sent to one person at each church who will implement the form. The answers to four questions will lead to one phone number. Hoping to get all agencies to utilize the form.

I. VSSTF Steering Committee – Sue Brinkmeyer

Suggest that the minutes be approved by the VSSTF before we post them on the website. Her concern stems from the recent use of our minutes in

a letter presented to the council in the Harbor Church process. The group agreed the minutes should be vetted before they are posted.

J. One Stop – Kate Mills

In January there were 72 unduplicated individuals served. There were 143 returning clients, 249 lunches served and 489 contacts. In February there were 63 unduplicated individuals served and 120 returning clients, and 234 lunches served and 530 contacts.

Steve B. asked if the numbers are going up or down. Kate answered that the numbers are definitely going up. Debora S. stated that they also get at One Stop folks who are housed but are very poor.

K. Blue Ribbon Panel on Inclusionary Housing – Kate Mills

The next meeting is scheduled for March 6th. Will provide an update next meeting.

L. Family to Family – Donna Mason–Lutrull

They get quite a few clients who are elderly but not homeless. They live in Ventura and are very poor. The numbers stay very consistent – 190–250 a week. The elderly also come to socialize.

M. Homeshare – Ken Finning

March 2014 will be Homeshare's 4th Anniversary! There have been 53 matches over the 4 years. In January and February this year there were 3 matches made.

They really need a car so that they can visit potential homes for matches. Muriel is reaching out to several places trying to get a car.

N. Update on City Centre – Jim Duran

There has been a new board formed. They meet every 2 weeks. There are 12 families, 6 vacancies and 11 rooms in need of construction.

Project Understanding has moved its food pantry services to the First Christian Church near the college.

Last month Project housed 4 from H2H, 3 from the Shore, 2 from Transitional Housing and 2 from Tenderlife.

O. Continuum of Care – Kathy Powell

There are lots of new rules and new guidelines to be followed in order to be in compliance and to get funded.

HUD rules will be assigned to a subcommittee.

P. Homes for All Alliance -

There will be a meeting at Cabrillo on March 13th. They support the Blue Ribbon Panel and they will talk about what they can do, other steps and the direction to take. All committees are open to new faces - Get involved.

IV. Networking

Council Homeless Committee - March 6th, 4PM

Project Understanding - fundraiser for Tenderlife - March 22

The Great Ventura Sleep In at the UU Church - March 29th 6PM. Fundraiser for Safe Sleep Program. Kathy Powell needs help for the event.

NAMI Walk May 3rd. There is a VSSTF Team. Kick Off luncheon TBD. Contact Kathy Powell. Sponsor those that are walking.

Action VC Serve Day - they are always looking for projects. The projects should be 3 to 4 hours.

Karol S. announced that the Area Housing Authority is accepting Section 8, Senior over 62 applications March 17 - 28th. There will be a lottery to rank the first 300 people. The Area Housing Authority serves Ojai, unincorporated Eastern Ventura County cities, Camarillo.

V. Moving Our Mission Forward

Success stories - Karol S. related a story about a woman who had been living in her vehicle for several years. She became very ill and her dog was barking and whining and drew attention on her behalf. She was taken to VCMC where she was diagnosed with a serious condition and she is now with Hospice. She is being well cared for and is no longer alone.

Rob O. tells a story of two senior ladies, one who is 83. Both would qualify for Hospice - both are off the street and eating.

Brian B. received a long email from a Social Services retiree who came across an old client who was out on the street on a recent rainy day. The individual was willing to go somewhere but the retiree didn't know where to take the individual. We need a system to call to find out services. We need a site that the community is aware of and that can be called for information. Jerry Breiner

indicated that referral numbers are on the VSSTF website and soon H2H will have one referral number available.

Miguel C. recently worked with two veterans who have been issued VASH vouchers and were housed at the Veterans Center in Saticoy.

Meeting adjourned at 4:53 PM

Respectfully submitted, Susan Everett