

Ventura Social Service Task Force  
MINUTES  
April 2, 2014

Present: Neal Andrews, Daisy Arellano, Steve Bennett, Jerry Breiner, Brian Brennan, Sue Brinkmeyer, Peter Brown, Cathy Brudnicki, Harold Cartlidge, Rick Carney, Susan M Dees, David Deutsch, Ken Duff, Tammy Duff, Jim Duran, Elizabeth Egelko, Susan Everett, Ken Finning, Will Finster, Kristy Forrest, Jerry Foreman, Jill Forman, Ted Humphrey, Sharon Lanning, Donna Luttrull, John Luttrull, Arlene Martinez, Kate Mills, Jennifer Mokos, Ron Mulvihill, Rob Orth, Kathy Powell, Rick Raine, Clyde Reynolds, Laura Roberts, Debora Schreiber, Karol Schulkin, Chuck Terra, Daniel Zapata

I. Introductions and Welcome

II. Revisions to and Approval of Minutes

A. Last two meetings. No changes – consider minutes approved

III. Changes or Additions of the Agenda

IV. Special Report

A. Ted Humphrey, Southern California Gas Company, Sr. Market Advisor - CARE Program, Customer Programs & Assistance. Outreach advisor for low income programs from San Diego to San Luis Obispo. His counterpart is Michelle Pettis – Public Affairs Manager. The CARE program – California Alternate Rates for Energy a program that can offer a 20% reduction in rates for electricity to low income customers. ESAP Energy Savings Assistance Program will help conserve energy and save money. For income-qualified customers, they provide free weatherization that will help save energy. Income levels 1 person up to \$22,980, 2 persons up to \$31,020, 3 persons up to \$39,060 and 4 persons up to \$47,100. New guidelines will be published in June. The program is very successful and a large percentage of customers are on the program. Customers work with local contractors to do the weatherization. The final 10% are the very hard to reach customers. SCE wants to work with faith and other local community organizations to get the word out and reach those hard to reach customers. Neal A. asks if SCE is looking for us to make referrals to him? Ted answered he is looking for organizations to work with and events to sponsor. Capitation agencies – Ted is the point person for capitation contractors - sign ups/underwriting.

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V. Committee and Other Reports

A. Updates from City

Peter asks Officer Jerry Forman to speak first. He tells us that there will be a push to clean up camps in both river bottoms in the next couple of weeks.

The Homelessness Committee of the Council meeting has been postponed.

There is a good article in the VC Star regarding the future of sheltering. Rob Orth and Steven Karnazes are taking a look at location and properties and will report back.

The Harbor Church CUP was postponed until May 12, 2014.

A river cleanup will take place with the Homeless2Home group.

The possession storage policy was just finished by the City attorney. Life sustaining possessions are legally required to be stored for 90 days. The internal policy will be taught at training sessions with the police and parks departments.

Hamilton Hotel – no code violations have been recently identified although it is an ever changing situation. We hope that the owners continue to maintain the property at a reasonable residential level.

Tomorrow there will be a discussion of the fate of Cal Vets access to the 12 acre parcel in the east of the city. There is a 60 bed veterans facility already there. They will begin discussions of what will happen regarding the property. The rights to the use of the property end in 1-1-2020.

Cathy B. asks if any input has been solicited from the homeless community of the policy?

The homeless count will be ready in about a week – on April 16<sup>th</sup>.

B. Winter Warming Shelter – Laura Roberts

The winter shelter closed April 1, 2014.

Services provided: 467 unduplicated clients including 18 children. Five of those children are from one family. 245 clients were from Oxnard, 118 from Ventura. 32 were veterans. 35 were seniors. 70% are male, 94% of clients were unemployed. Since January through March 31 they placed 7 individuals in permanent housing and 7 clients in transitional housing including one lease signed today for an individual.

Kathy P asked if some arrangements are being made for the late season rain days?

Cathy B. stated that the City does not have any contingency plans for cold, wet weather days and that the City should make plans.

The final numbers for the 2013 shelter season will be ready next meeting.

C. Faith Based Community Subcommittee – Sue Brinkmeyer

Working on a method of getting information to faith communities for their newsletters. They have 19 faith groups involved. They will send blurbs directly to Jim Duran. News to get to faith communities and Faith & Action, Project Understanding. Talking about Faith communities collaborations. They feel if they collaborated they could get more work done.

Action VC Serve Day will occur on June 7<sup>th</sup>. Volunteer or submit a project (805) 987-0300 or email at [action@actionvc.org](mailto:action@actionvc.org).

The UU Church's Sleep In was successful. A portion of the funds will be used to qualify people for the Safe Sleep Program by paying of licenses, registration, and insurance. They raised \$2,000. 120 people stayed for the panel. Many spent the night in their cars including Supervisor Steve Bennett. Kathy P. prepared the food.

D. Outreach Committee – Kate Mills

Hope to have a draft version of the informational brochure about homelessness. The brochure will be available at the May meeting. The City will help with the printing costs. The school district is trying to develop the number of homeless children in schools. They are looking for clarification of how to count homeless kids in school. They will apply to the VSSTF for \$1 to 2K for operating costs.

E. Homelessness Prevention Subcommittee – Brian Brennan

There is \$394 left in the fund. Since January they helped 11 households which included 18 adults and 16 kids. March 19<sup>th</sup> – Sherry Ray from the Salvation Army. They have been contacted by the City of Oxnard with wants to put together a fund of their own for Oxnard residents. They want to make sure that agencies are not all going for the same piece of the pie. Meeting is April 16<sup>th</sup> at 12:30.

Karol S. mentions that County Homeless Services assisted 10 households or 22 persons keep or get housing.

Kristen T. with Peoples Self Help Housing talks about housing retention. She is concerned with making the system flexible enough to help those that don't fit into the system. She wants the program to be reflective – to ask what can we do better? Santa Barbara recently approved a position to work on the HMIS. Housing First creates a vulnerable population too. 90% can maintain their housing but the 10 to 13% who need management to maintain their housing.

F. Housing Options Subcommittee – No meeting

G. H2H Community Solutions – Rob Orth

Sheltering Options Subcommittee – They are working on two separate tracks. Don't want to recreate what we had. Need a weather related trigger. What and where. County-wide approach. – pilot copies the St. Vincent de Paul model.

Second track. Under one roof approach. A Gateway type system with transitional living with 20 to 30 beds. City Council has said propose something. HUD is pushing to not fund transitional housing. Neighbors are thinking differently now after the Harbor Church. We need an emergency shelter in emergencies.

Rob and Ron are looking at other properties – micro housing – what would it look like.

The meeting schedule is getting so intense to the are talking about merging coordinated assessment into housing services. The meetings are spread out County wide.

Kathy P. comments that we really need day programs with showers. Case managers under one roof. Short term transitional housing. In/Out shelters do not serve the community well. Need staffing costs.

H. Coordinated Assessment/Intake Process – Clyde Reynolds

Launching the coordinated assessment soon. The finalized form will go out to all agencies. Someone will answer the calls six days a week Monday through Saturday.

I. VSSTF Steering Committee – Sue Brinkmeyer - No Report

J. One Stop – Kate Mills

In March there were 67 unduplicated individuals served. There were 109 returning clients, and 810 contacts. They have had a request for a hospital bed. Contact Kate if you have a bed. A huge issue that is causing problems for Permanent residents who have lost their permanent resident cards. They are having difficulty obtaining services that they are eligible for. The cost to replace a card can range from \$100 to \$550 plus.

K. Blue Ribbon Panel on Inclusionary Housing – Kate Mills – No report

L. Family to Family – Donna Mason-Lutrull

Coming up on thirty years of feeding people. 28 churches are involved. She is low on books. Please donate any books, especially kids books.

M. Homeshare – Ken Finning

March 2014 was Homeshare's 4<sup>th</sup> Anniversary! They made 2 matches.

N. Update on City Centre – Jim Duran

There are 13 families, 6 vacancies and 10 rooms in need of construction. On May 7<sup>th</sup> Venutra College will distribute Mom baskets.

There are 4 open rooms at the Tenderlife, Shore has 3 openings. They are looking at a property at Market and Sperry for an intact and referral location.

O. Continuum of Care – Cathy Brudiniki

Each committee is coming with the guidelines that need to be followed in order to fulfill the Federal requirements and be in compliance for the money.

The board runs the whole works. Rob O., Russ W. and Cathy B are co-chairs. There are 4 committees and hundreds of requirements They need to score well enough to get the money. Each committee has an assignment

P. Homes for All Alliance – No Report

VI. Networking

A couple of Lowes employees were at the meeting. They are currently selecting the projects for Lowes Heros.

Council Homeless subcommittee has been rescheduled.

Project Understanding – fundraiser for Tenderlife – March 22

NAMI Walk May 3<sup>rd</sup>. 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.

V. Moving Our Mission Forward – no stories

VI. Business –

Faith Subcommittee wants to the VSSTF to make a request to the Homeless Subcommittee a request that more than five cars can spend the night at a church in the Safe Sleep Program if the Faith Committee wanted that to happen. Peter B. mentions that the Safe Sleep program was already an adjustment to the ordinance of 4 hours - no longer. This would trigger a change in the ordinance which can be handled by 1. Staff to request for the item to be put on the agenda and 2. A request for a policy consideration. Peter suggests that someone speak to the council on the first Monday of the month. Bring the information about the Safe Sleep to the council.

Debora S. comments that there has never been a call for complaints about the sleepers in the cars.

A motion is made by Debora S. and seconded by Cathy B.

April 2 (Schreiber/Brudnicki) The Ventura Social Services Task Force passed a motion asking that the City revise the language of its ordinances or staff reports to expand to 12 the maximum number of cars that might be allowed in any one lot, at the discretion of the participating faith community, and expand the number of cars in the program to a total acceptable to the Salvation Army, which provides the case management.

Jim Duran shares that a resident at the City Centre is bringing an 8 week Health course to the residents of City Centre.

Meeting adjourned at 5:00 PM

Respectfully submitted, Susan Everett

Those who can vote at next meeting:

Neal Andrews, Daisy Arellano, Jerry Breiner, Sue Brinkmeyer, Peter Brown, Cathy Brudnicki, David Deutsch, Jim Duran, Elizabeth Egelko, Susan Everett, Ken Finning, Jill Forman, Tim Hawkins, John Jones, Sharon Lanning, Amy Luoma, John Luttrull, Arlene Martinez, Donna Mason-Luttrul, Kate Mills, Jennifer Mokos, Ron Mulvihill, Ron Orth, Kathy Powell, Clyde Reynolds, Laura Roberts, Debora Schreiber, Karol Schulkin