

Ventura Social Service Task Force Minutes
May 7, 2014

Present: Neal Andrews, Michael Anselmo, Daisy Arellano, Brian Brennan, Sue Brinkmeyer, Peter Brown, Cathy Brudnicki, Julie Castro, Kevin Clerici, JoAnne Contreras, Chris de los Santos, David Deutsch, Ken Duff, Tammy Duff, Jim Duran, Elizabeth Egelko, Susan Everett, Adele Fergusson, Ken Finning, Tim Hockett, John Jones, Sharon Lanning, Amy Luoma, Pat McLean, Kate Mills, Jennifer Mokos, Alicia Morales, Ron Mulvihill, Kathy Powell, Rick Raine, Melissa Ramirez, Clyde Reynolds, Laura Roberts, Debora Schreiber, Amber Todd, Daniel Zapata

I. Introduction and Welcome

- A. Meeting Called to order at 3:19PM

II. Changes to and Approval of Minutes

- A. Several changes were noted. Minutes approved as amended

III. Changes or Additions to Agenda

- A. Tim Hockett - Oxnard City Council Report. At the Annual Action Plan presentation by Bill Wilkins at the May 6, 2014 City Council meeting, CDBG Staff recommendations were presented and received public comment for any changes. There was consternation when everyone saw the numbers for the first time. Tim felt that the intention was to adopt the recommendations on the spot. The Homeless Committee wanted to weigh in. Parks was upset too. Several sources of funds including CDB, HOME, HESG with various recommendations (which had been presented previously). There were \$800K in requests. At the end of the night there were appeals to postpone the decision and the City Council voted to postpone the decision and the Homeless Committee and Parks were asked to prepare statements.

Cathy B. commented that the City was in violation of Federal law by not allowing for a 30-day comment period. Clyde R. commented that the CDBG funding recommendations should be open to public discussion.

IV. Committee and Other Reports

- A. Updates from the City - Peter Brown
 - 1. He indicated he is no longer the interim economic development director - just the community services manager again.

2. On June 5th the Homeless Subcommittee will meet to discuss the adjustment of the Safe Sleep Program and the progression of code changes for industrial/commercial zones, which would be needed if we were ever to be able to open something like a “gateway”.
 3. The VPD Homeless task force has changed; San Arroyo is taking over for Al Davis
 4. The Harbor Church CUP will go to the City Council Monday evening May 12th.
 5. A visit was paid to the Santa Clara River camps again Thursday by police and 11 others. This camp has a serious criminal element and 2 individuals with felony warrants were arrested.
 6. There will be a meeting between Community Memorial Hospital and the Ventura County Medical Center to try to get a handle on the ambulance transfer pattern in which an individual is released from one hospital and then calls an ambulance to be transported to the other hospital.
 7. The Leewood Hotel is for sale. The Cummings family will carry \$2.1M. It is 30 units and located at 732 E. Santa Clara.
 8. There are some big new businesses in town with interests in funding the H2H program.
 9. Six cities around S. California are contacting Ventura about the Community Intervention Court. The model is being noticed.
- B. Final Report from the Winter Warming Shelter – Laura Roberts
10. The shelter served 467 individuals, including 18 children, 32 veterans, 35 seniors, 100 chronically homeless. 245 were from Oxnard; 118 from Ventura; 104 from other cities. 70% male, 94% unemployed, 8% victims of DV; (see attached report). In 2012–13, a total of 738 individuals were served.
 11. The Society St. VDP is transitioning out of the winter warming shelter model and exploring new models for best practices. They are leaning toward having year–round services rather than just a winter warming shelter. Day services in an industrial area would require a CUP.
- C. Faith Subcommittee – Sue Brinkmeyer
1. Will dovetail with work Faith In Action group from Project Understanding is doing to bring the faith committees together.

2. Planning a gathering of faith communities for July at which the complex connections between mental illness and mental health will be explored.
3. They are also planning a second gathering of faith groups for October to explore how faith communities can do more when they work together.
4. A new program case managed bill pay program has been created to help seniors stay in their homes. VCAA will be the lead agency
5. The Senior Concerns group chaired by Judy Alexandre will now begin discussion of possible solutions to senior and disabled adult food insecurity..
6. A new group is forming to plan steps to aid homeless children: May 22 at 6:30PM at the home of July Alexandre. .

D. Outreach Committee – John Jones

1. They are updating the brochure and will meet again on May 30th.
2. When doing the homeless count we are using the old definition prior to the McKinney–Vento Homeless Act.

E. Homeless Prevention Subcommittee – Brian Brennan

1. Meet the 3rd Wednesday of the month. Started in 2008. All donations have been used to keep City residents from becoming homeless. Since it started they have kept 300 families out of homelessness.
2. Funders needed. Only \$342 in funds left in the till. It takes about \$750 to keep a family housed.

F. H2H Community Solutions and Shelter Options – Amy Luoma

1. Discussions are taking place regarding weather triggered shelters, interagency shelters, the lack of emergency shelters, “immediately available interim housing”. A master type permit would be necessary
2. Vulnerability Index – those most at risk for dying on the street – continues to be developed and used .
3. ESG funding may be ending at the end of June. There will be an increased need of funds.
4. The housing numbers January – April: Transitional and permanent housing. 110 housed; Family reconnections – 14 individuals; Human services – 36 individuals; Rapid Rehousing 26 individuals and 4 kids. April’s numbers Salvation Army – 10, SVDP – 4, Human Services – 11.

5. A discussion followed regarding the very hot temperatures last week. Kathy P. brought water to the homeless in the parks. She identified a woman in a down parka who was in distress. Cathy B. states that under Homeland Security every jurisdiction should have an action plan for inclement weather – including very hot weather – we should have a weather triggered shelter. H2H was offering water to people who were coming in for case management. Peter B to report on emergency services next month.

G. Pilot Coordinated Assessment – Clyde Reynolds

1. The pilot of the one phone number to call Monday through Saturday 8AM to 4PM is underway. Numbers have been low, which is to be expected, as the phone number has been shared only with a few agencies that attended training.

H. VSSTF Steering Committee – Sue Brinkmeyer

1. VSSTF grant applications are due on May 15 at 3PM at the UU church on Ralston.
2. The first meeting of the 501(C)(3) board will be June 17th at 6PM.
3. There will be a booth at the July 4th Street Fair again to raise awareness. Kevin C. arranged for the booth. The balloon yo-yos will be offered again
4. NAMI walk was very successful. Raised over \$800 for NAMI.

I. One Stop – Kate Mills

1. Housed and disadvantaged use One Stop as a connection to services (see attached report for first two weeks of April 2014).

J. Special Report from the annual UDS – Kate Mills

1. HRSA funds homeless healthcare program. There are three definitions of homelessness. Each entity must report to the Feds using the appropriate definition. HRSA and school district define a person as homeless if he or she lacks housing and includes those doubled up; instability of housing is also critical to the definition (see attached report).

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

1. The Inclusionary housing recommendations are being compiled. There is a greater need for very low and low income housing. The city needs to look at zoning, and having more housing in industrial zones.

2. We need to encourage businesses, especially service industries, to advocate for an increased need for housing

L. Family to Family – Donna Mason–Lutrull

1. Donna was not present because John had taken ill. Pat McLean, President of Family to Family, gave an update. The organization feeds the homeless and very poor. Currently have 28 organizations participating. Large businesses are wanting their employees to pitch in. UPS going to join them soon.

M. Report from Homeshare – Ken Finning

1. Made one match in April.
2. They did some research on the matches made over the years and found that 29% of the matches have prevented homelessness for the home provider, and in 2013 50% of the matches prevented homelessness for the home sharer.

N. Update on City Center – Jim Duran

1. There are 15 families. If they had funding they could house ten more families. They estimate it would cost \$60K to renovate the ten rooms.
2. The model has changed. A church used to sponsor a room. Now everyone sponsors the Center as a whole. They still have a spiritual mentor, but that is not tied to a room or a specific church.

O. Update from Continuum of Care – Cathy Brudnicki

1. There was some difficulty with the accuracy of the 2014 homeless count, particularly for Oxnard, where the numbers are much lower than expected. A request has gone out to Oxnard agencies to verify the numbers.
2. Others commented that it is extremely important that the numbers be accurate as funding is based, in part, on success in reducing homelessness. A group has already begun meeting to plan the count for next year.