

DRAFT Ventura Social Service Task Force Minutes  
June 4, 2014

Present: Judy Alexandre, Neal Andrews, Michael Anselmo, Daisy Arellano, Sam, Jerry Breiner, Sue Brinkmeyer, Peter Brown, Kevin Clerici, David Deutsch, Ken Duff, Tammy Duff, Jim Duran, Susan Everett, Ken Finning, Jill Forman, Rob Gibson, Mary Haffner, Carolee A. Hannon, Susan Haverland, Tim Hawkins, Tim Hockett, Sharon Knapp, Sharon Lanning, Amy Luoma, Quinn T. Martin, Pat, Michael McLean, Kate Mills, Jennifer Mokos, Alicia Morales, Ron Mulvihill, Rob Orth, Kathy Powell, Melissa Ramirez, Clyde Reynolds, Laura Roberts, Debora Schreiber, Karol Schulkin, Daniel Zapata

**I. Introduction and Welcome**

- A. Meeting Called to order at 3:16 PM
- B. Lowes store manager Ben Mark and Carolee Hannon, who directs the Lowes Hero's Project, were guests at the meeting. Changes to and Approval of Minutes
  - A. No changes noted. Minutes approved.

**II. Changes or Additions to Agenda**

- A. Kevin Celerici has arranged for the VSSTF 4<sup>th</sup> of July booth this year. Volunteers (Neal Andrews, Kent and Sue Brinkmeyer, Harold Cartlidge, Dorothy Fasthorse, Jill Forman, Timothy Hill, John Sanders Jones, Sharon Lanning, Kevin McCurdy, Jennifer Mokos, and Debora Schreiber) will help at booth and those who can will be getting together to make the water balloon yo-yos on July 3.

**III. Committee and Other Reports**

- A. Updates from the City – Peter Brown
  - (1) Peter introduced Sam Arroyo of the Ventura Police Department who is taking over for Al Davis as VPD Homeless Outreach Commander. (2) CALVET has until 2020 to begin a project and build out on the 10 acre site at the Ventura Veterans Home in East Ventura. (3) Council members are meeting with National League of Cities to discuss the Homeless Veterans Leadership Challenge. (4) The Homeless Committee is meeting to discuss the proposal to increase the number of participants in the Safe Sleep Program. They are also discussing proposed revisions to the homeless belongings storage policy. The City is required to store belongings essential to life for up to 90 days. The policy needs tightening up. The committee will discuss steps to implement 10-Year Strategy in July when Christy Weir returns. (5) The VSSTF grant panel met to discuss the grants and choose those that will be funded. There were \$114,500 in requests for the \$74,000 available ( \$70,000 from the City General Fund and \$4,000 in unused funds from last year's grants). Funds were awarded as follows:

Housing Authority Homeshare Program - \$10,000

Interface Youth Crisis Outreach Program - \$8,000  
VUSD Lincoln School Family Liaison - \$4,000  
People's Self Help - El Patio Case Management - \$8,000  
Project Understanding H2H - \$14,000  
Salvation Army H2H - \$14,000  
Turning Point H2H - \$14,000  
Ventura Homeless Prevention Program - \$2,000

(6) Community Services is meeting with Wal-Mart next week.

B. Special Report: Inclusion of Weather Triggered Emergency Shelter in Disaster Plan

Brian Brennan reported on the County policy to determine when the shelter is triggered, by heat/cold, the contingency plan etc. The policy is old and an update will be drafted by mid-July. The policy is contingent on the weather index as defined by the Public Health Officer and the Fire Department. Ventura doesn't meet all of the criteria because of the humidity of our area. We may have the heat but not the humidity. He will report back on the new plan as it moves forward. Several members made comments: Kathy P. - If a temperature of 100 plus degrees at 3:00PM in the afternoon is not a trigger – what is? Cathy B. - What about sustained heat over a three day period - is that a triggering factor. Maybe this VSSTF committee should make recommendations. Laura R. – 2014-2015 is the Winter Warming Shelter's last year. What will happen after that? Karol S. – What about this drought situation – employees and field workers are struggling this year due to the dry conditions and the other side of that is what to do in El Nino years. Sue B asked Brian to invite Steve Lewis, Head of EMS, who is in charge of the update to the plan to our July or August meeting - preferably prior to a draft being finalized.

C. Report from the Faith Subcommittee – Sue Brinkmeyer

They are partnering with Project Understanding's Faith in Action program to plan two workshops: The first is the intersection between mental illness and homelessness and the second is Where the Faith Community can/is called to assist. Food Share has redone the listing of food pantries by day of the week and then city; copies can be obtained on their website. Also, a new placard has been placed at all Food Share food pantries stating that all will be served -- no strings attached.

D. Report from the Outreach Committee – Kate Mills

After reviewing the materials they have decided to wait to print the final brochure until the 501(c) (3) has been formed so there will be an address and a tax deductible message to include in the brochure that says "send your tax deductible donations here." They anticipate it will be available by October for the Faith Community program.

E. Report from the Homeless Prevention Subcommittee – Brian Brennan

Ventura County Together has determined that 1 in 7 county resident's utilized services and that number is approaching 1 in 6 residents. Many farm workers are coming due to

the drought. VHPF used \$700 to keep an individual and a child housed and there is about \$720 remaining in the fund. They have printed rack cards and ask that people take them to their place of worship or work. Brian thanked the City Council for the funding provided to the VSSTF grant program that made the award of \$2,000 to the fund for administrative costs and the upgrade of the website that will allow donations to be received online; this means 100% of donations can continue to go to end homelessness, with the administrative costs being provided by the grant funding. Supervisors Bennett and Long are bringing forth a proposal on June 10<sup>th</sup> to expand Homeshare countywide. It will include \$50,000 worth of funding.

F. Report from H2H Community Solutions and Shelter Options – Amy Luoma

2013 numbers for H2H including Salvation Army, Project Understanding, Turning Point Foundation and Lutheran Services was 144 individuals served. In 2014 that number through May was 165 housed and that does not include the Society of SVdP who housed 40 in May. They continue to work on the Vulnerability Index and triage methods to prioritize clients and how to use that to leverage clients into housing. They are working on a housing engagement center – another name for the “Gateway”.

G. Report from the Pilot Coordinated Assessment – Alicia Morales

They are two months into the coordinated assessment single phone number to call. They are working with Fire and ambulance care, CMH and County Hospital. Alicia will send number to Sue, who will send it out to Task Force.

H. Report from Housing and Services Committee of the CoC – Rob Orth

The first meeting is next week.

I. Report from the VSSTF Steering Committee – Sue Brinkmeyer

The group has formed a corporation but it is not yet approved for tax exempt status. That will occur after the first meeting of the Board, which is scheduled for June 17<sup>th</sup>. Several individuals from VSSTF have joined the board including Sharon Lanning, John Jones, and Neal Andrews. Jennifer Mokos announced she will be doing a few workshops in the next few months to share the data/insights she has gathered while doing her doctoral research.

J. One Stop – Kate Mills

In May the One Stop served 173 individuals - 117 returning, and 56 new clients. Six clients were housed, 10 were in transitional housing and 2 were in shelters, 23 lived on the streets and 15 were doubled up. 21 individuals started engagement with mental health services and 40 individuals signed up with Turning Point. They have been using the assessment tool on new clients to determine what other services the client may

need. 37 individuals got signed up with Covered California. They helped 55 individuals get picture IDs. 35 out of 80 clients who were not affiliated were assigned case managers. In June, One Stop will be adding centers in Simi and TO, which will bring up the number of locations in the County to four.

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

The Inclusionary housing Blue Ribbon Committee recommendations were accepted and the Council approved staff recommendation to make no changes to current inclusionary housing ordinances pending decisions to be made by the courts about what is allowed.

L. Family to Family – Pat McLean

They have been serving more food they think because of the closure of Harbor Church. They appear to be seeing fewer homeless and more elderly men. They are seeing fewer teenagers and children. A comment was made that the Harbor Church opened again this week; a court order allows them to remain open until the court case is settled; a first hearing is scheduled for June 16<sup>th</sup>.

M. Report from Homeshare – Ken Finning

Homeshare has a new pamphlet. They made one match in May. The County BOS will be considering expanding Homeshare to the rest of the County at its June meeting. Homeshare continues to have a great need for home providers.

N. Update on City Centre and Project Understanding – Jim Duran

Project Understanding will be moving its intake and referral services to 819 E. Thompson Blvd., next to the City Center and TenderLife Maternity. Their grand opening will be Friday, June 27, from 4-6 p.m. Project will continue to handle the case management for City Centre. There are 14 families, including 16 adults and 17 kids. There are 10 more rooms that need to be developed. Brian B. asked what the 10 rooms need. They need carpet, flooring, paint tile, toilets, sinks, etc. It is estimated that it would only take \$6,000 or less (labor and materials) to complete each room. They also need to move the children's play area and move the exterior steps. Rotary is taking care of moving the steps. Tim suggested Habitat for Humanity might be able to help with the rehab.

O. Update from Continuum of Care – Rob Orth

There have been multiple meetings and they still don't know what funding they will receive. Word is the County put the grant requests forward. There has been a cutback of another 5%. HUD is making a shift to permanent supportive housing. If we want to keep temporary housing we are going to have to figure out how to replace the funding that is there. RAIN - \$380K, SA - \$208K, Our Place \$168K and Kemper House - \$55K. It

is time to sit down with all partners and figure out how we will pay for those services. HUD also ties our hands with the chronically homeless. Those that need permanent supportive housing but get temporary housing need to be on the street again before they can receive permanent housing – it adds a challenge.

## **V. Networking**

Jim Duran will be stepping away from his role as Executive Director of Project Understanding on June 30<sup>th</sup>. He will remain on Project's Board and on the Faith in Action Committee. He will devote more time to The River Church and to family. He is not leaving the area and will continue his fight to end homelessness.

Ron from SVdP and a few others went and looked at shipping container housing. Three containers can make a 1BR/studio home. The containers come ready to move into and run anywhere between \$75 - \$225K. They have R40 insulation. The City would need to change the code to allow this as housing.

Another tour is planned in July.

## **VI. Successes**

Karol S. reported County homeless services has housed 81 households in addition to the numbers reported by H2H.

Respectfully submitted

Susan Everett