

Draft Minutes of the VSSTF Meeting of on July 2, 2014

Note: These minutes are being posted as draft minutes; they were adopted on August 6, 2014, with two changes. Unfortunately, the two changes were not recorded, so official minutes are not available for the July 2, 2014 meeting.

The meeting was called to order at 3:20 pm

Present: Judy Alexandre, Neal Andrews, Daisy Arellano, Brian Brennan, Kent Brinkmeyer, Sue Brinkmeyer, Peter Brown, Miguel Cardenas, Dee Cox, Terry Cox, Joe Dawson, David Deutsch, Susan Everett, Dorothy FastHorse, Tim Hockett, Sharon Lanning, Amy Luoma, Frank Maggio, Ana Melgoza, Kate Mills, Jennifer Mokos, Ron Mulvihill, Paul Paulin, Kathy Powell, Clyde Reynolds, Laura Roberts, Debora Schreiber, Karol Schulkin, Daniel Zapata Huerta,

The June minutes were approved with the following changes:

1. page 4, Item O, last line: the project is "Khepera" House, not "Kemper"
2. page 2, Item B, the last sentence: the staff person who will be updating the plan is Steve Johnston; the head of EMS is Steve Carroll

Peter Brown reported on City developments

1. The Homelessness Committee of the Council will next meet Thursday, August 7 at 4pm
2. Camp clean ups will take place last week in July between Railroad trestle and the water
3. The Hamilton Hotel has one unit with bedbugs. The resident was forced to trash their food and bed linens. Should the task force write a letter to the owner w complaints, we are all still here walking a fine line. Debora said many fine hotels in major cities have bedbugs, decided to wait and see how this is resolved rather than acting now.
3. No police officers here today

Faith Subcommittee

1. Jim Duran chaired last meeting, discussed two Faith in Action events, the first June 24.
2. Next meeting will discuss "Hand up not hand out" and possibility of Mission Church hosting future winter shelter.

Special report from Dan Hardy, City Housing Authority

1. The H.A. is re-doing Westview Village (Between Vince and Barnett near Olive) to bring it up to code and eliminate problems such as mold.
2. Current 180 units will be torn down in phases; residents will be relocated during building process. H.A. will submit plans to the city in 3-4 weeks, looking for approval by mid-next year

3. Stereotypes about public housing are not accurate. Crime in Westview Village is half that of typical block in west Ventura; the Housing Authority keeps a careful eye on things. Contrary to stereotypes of public housing, most residents are employed. Of current residents, 56% work, 26% pension 10% disability 5% CalWorks. Most jobs are in the service industry. Household size is also often assumed to be larger than it is. Westview households average is 3 vs. Westside average of 3.5; thus, public housing is not as overcrowded as in stereotypes.
4. The new design will be environmentally friendly, and density will still be low, despite the additional units at 16 units per acre. H.A. is looking at removing 180 units and replacing them with 230, including 50 senior units and 40 for 1st time home buyers. There will be 700 parking spaces.
5. Westview will include a community center; H.A. is looking at best practices nationwide for schools, health and safety
6. H.A. is forming Task force for job incubator and healthy food
7. Phase 1 (181 units) will be financed by selling some single family residences the Housing Authority owns. The plan is to begin construction in 2016, with an 18-month turnaround. HA is responsible for obtaining housing for displaced renters during re-build. They will put into H.A. units elsewhere that have been kept open through attrition or in market-rate apartments.
8. The square footage of units will be increased but rent will remain the same, and there will possibly be increased staffing.
9. Housing is designed for a mix of incomes with market rate, senior, and low and very low income units in the mix. HUD rents will be \$500 per month for 1 bedroom.

Outreach Subcommittee

The next meeting will be July 25. The brochure will not be printed in quantity until the 501c3 for VSSTF, Inc. is finalized; paperwork for that will be filed in a week, with up to 6 months turnaround.

Homeless Prevention Subcommittee

1. Project Understanding will again manage fund on a rotating basis. HPF had low funds at the holidays, but has more now. Thank you to the UU church which will take up offerings for the fund 3 times between July and October. The website has been redesigned so that donations can be made directly online.
2. Debora and Anna met with Mikel Brown, who is working with a group to create a walking tour of Ventura as a fundraiser, with proceeds going to Turning Pt and Homeless Prevention Fund.

H2H and Shelter Options

1. Junes #'s: H2H housed 46 adults, 8 Children. Karol Schulkin housed 6 adults, 2 children. From January - June HSA housed 108 families (190 individuals and 60 children). Six month stability is 61%
2. Downtown Ventura Assn. re-connected 4 people with relatives. (40 people have been reconnected with family through this program; Keven Clerici is contact person kevin@downtownventura.org) Funding is from businesses in 25-block downtown area, so not all needed reconnection may qualify.

3. The group continues looking at a Housing Engagement Center (Gateway-type center) and weather triggered emergency, working with Oxnard

Single number system/coordinated assessment

There is a meeting next week to review new system

Steering Committee

The Task Force previously approved up to \$2,000 in expenses to create the new 501(c) 3; Sue will request a check for \$850 for the filing fees in line with that approval.

One Stop

1. One Stop Ventura served 169 people; 64 unduplicated new; living situations of these were 20 street, 7 temp shelter, 8 temp housing, 17 doubled up, 12 housed. 34 were case managed.
2. Services/referrals provided were 5 child support; 33 MediCal; 19 medical care; 31 food stamps; 16 General Relief; 16 HIV; 19 Homeless Services; 59 picture IDs; 18 re-entry services; 9 STAR, 6 Transitional Aged Youth; 6 Turning Points; 215 lunches.
3. Individuals who are picked up by law enforcement or medical staff continue to report difficulty getting their ID and medicines back upon release

Home Share

The Board of Supervisors voted to fund Home Share through the Ventura County Area Agency on Aging. Muriel has had health problems, so Deputy Director, M. Sean Zellers, is serving as Acting Director. Report on changes with Home Share next month.

City Center (Report from Paul Paul and Dee Cox)

1. The 501c3 paperwork has been filed.
2. Work is beginning on renovation of last ten rooms. Lowes will refurbish one room in September, providing both materials and labor. 14 rooms are occupied, with 16 adults, 18 children. There are 20 applicants for 3 open rooms.
3. The ribbon cutting for the City Center will be Tuesday, July 22 from 4-6 p.m. All are invited.
4. A new fundraising campaign asks individuals to pledge \$19 per month and to get 10 friends to pledge as well. This is called the "Andrew Project"

Project Understanding

1. They are taking resumes for executive director until July 18 and then will interview several individuals.
2. The new intake and referral center is at 819 E. Thompson, next to City Center. That location houses Hank's H2H office, finance, executive assistant, tutoring coordinator, and intake interview rooms.
3. The pantry is at First Christian Church at 38 Teloma (near Telegraph)
4. H2H clients use showers at Turning Point facilities

New Business

1. Would it be helpful for the Task Force to send a letter to the management of the Hamilton Hotel requesting safe and clean living conditions and equal treatment of all residents. Pro: the VSSTF could express the message without fear of retaliation against any one agency or their clients. Con: One room with bed bugs is not a major concern. Many code violations have been dealt with. A management plan for how to deal with the situation is due. Conclusion: Wait until next month and see if management plan is adequate.
2. Is there anything the Task Force can do to remind authorities of the importance of returning IDs and medicines to individuals upon release from their systems? Sue will contact sheriff's office discharge liaison and Sam Arroyo at PD to see if a reminder would be helpful.

Networking:

1. Karol distributed updated resource brochures - available online by Googling "Resources for Homeless People in Western Ventura County" (also for Eastern County)
2. New One Stops have opened in Simi and Thousand Oaks
3. Jennifer Mokos will conduct an Art project workshop July 22nd 6-8 pm at St Vincent de Paul, 200 Cabot Place, Unit C, Oxnard. All are invited. RSVP to jennifer.mokos@vanderbilt.edu The hope is to humanize a group of people who are homeless on the way to ending homelessness.
4. There will be a public forum discussing the Continuum of Care and its role and procedures, Thursday, July 17, 10 am - noon, VCCF, 4001 Mission Oaks Blvd., Camarillo. RSVP to Cathy Brudnicki cathybrudnicki@vcnet.com
5. The Going Away party for Jennifer will be at Plaza (Cannon) Park, August 2, 11am. It's a pot luck; please bring a dish to share with all.