

Ventura Social Service Task Force

DRAFT MINUTES

August 6, 2014

Present: Judy Alexandre, Neal Andrews, Michael Anselmo, Daisy Arellano, Jerry Breiner, Sue Brinkmeyer, Peter Brown, Cathy Brudnicki, Rick Carney, Kevin Clerici, Joe Dawson, David Deutsch, Susan Everett, Kirk Hamilton, Tim Hawkins, Tim Hockett, John Jones, Sharon Lanning, Amy Luoma, Christy Madden, Kate Mills, Jennifer Mokos, Kathy Powell, Clyde Reynolds, Laura Roberts, Debora Schreiber, Karol Schulkin, Daniel Zapata Huerta
Meeting was called to order at 3:20PM

I. Introductions and Welcome

II. Revisions to and Approval of Minutes

Review of minutes identified two changes needing to be made. Minutes approved as amended.

III. Changes or Additions of the Agenda

IV. Committees and Other Reports

A. Updates from City – Peter Brown

- Hamilton Hotel (27 or 28 units) is now managed by a partner agency. The longtime manager has moved on and has been replaced. One partner agency stated they encountered a client who said he had bed bugs. There is a management plan in place which includes cleanliness. The City attorney has asked for voluntary compliance. Comments: the Cummings have a product that the City needs; we need them more than they need us. The Hamilton serves an important need but clients should have a safe habitable place to live.
- The Leewood Hotel sold in March or April. The new owners plan to make market rate rentals. The Leewood is 28 to 32 units. If the plans of the new owner come to fruition these units will be lost as low-income housing. Sam Piper Investments is the new owner. Comments: inclusionary ordinance does not apply to a remodel
- The Homelessness Committee of the Council will meet August 7, as planned; members Heitman and Andrews are available. Weir is not available. On the agenda is (1) the usage of the property at 10900 Telephone Road – the Veterans Property and the Mayors' Challenge to End Veteran's Homelessness. They will discuss a paper prepared by Colletti on expanding affordable housing for veterans. (2) Expansion of the Safe Sleep Program – staff's recommendation will be to utilize all 15 spaces at 3 to 5 locations and up to 15 families. This will allow full implementation of the 15 available spaces because it allows a single facility to increase the usage. The City partners with the Salvation Army to manage the program. The city's financial commitment is \$1,400/family. (3) Laura's Law: Orange County and LA County have

adopted the law. (Background “Laura’s Law” is a state law that provides community-based, assisted outpatient treatment (AOT) to a small population of individuals who meet strict legal criteria and who – as a result of their mental illness – are unable to access community mental health services voluntarily. It was passed by the California legislature in 2002 and signed by Gov. Gray Davis. California’s law allows court-ordered treatment in the community, often called “assisted outpatient treatment” or “outpatient commitment,” but only in counties that have passed a resolution to implement Laura’s Law. Laura’s Law must be authorized by each California County individually.) (4) Sharing City of Ventura Community Services Manager with the City of Oxnard. If viewed favorably then the proposal will go to the full council on October 6, 2014.

B. Faith Based Community Subcommittee – Sue Brinkmeyer

Four groups are attempting to bring all houses of faith together. VC-CLUE’s COOC, Ventura County Community Action, the Faith Subcommittee, and Project Understanding’s Faith In Action. Representatives of all 4 organizations have been invited to the August meeting of the Faith Subcommittee to discuss collaboration and delineation of function.

C. Outreach Committee – John Jones

The City is currently preparing to print the brochure. The next meeting will be August 29, 2014.

D. Homelessness Prevention Subcommittee – Brian Brennan

Anna is now handling the fund. Project Understanding has the fund this month. The 4th of July booth was successful. \$323 was collected. The Unitarian Universalist Church is donating one collection per month for the months July – September. A huge thanks to them. Sacred Heart Church and the Church of the Foothills is making a donation \$300-\$400 per church. The fund tries to keep a buffer of \$300. The fund is in a transition phase with individuals and organizations. We expect to see a huge influx of farm workers in October and November because of the drought. Debra S added that VC Together is seeing the drought’s effects on landscapers too.

E. H2H Community Solutions – Amy Luoma

H2H is a combined effort of Salvation Army, Turning Point, Project Understanding, Lutheran Social Services, and St. Vincent DePaul. They helped 24 adults and 8 children this month. Twelve were housed in Ventura and 20 were placed outside Ventura. From January through July, 251 adults and children were assisted. Karol S. commented that the end of the year assistance number for the County was 280 households housed. One hundred and eight households, 190 people, were in Ventura. Notably, 48% of the people served were children.

F. Coordinated Assessment/Intake – Amy Luoma

There were 41 calls to the number last month. A suggestion has been made to expand the program to the County. They will expand the number's use to Oxnard next.

G. Special Report H2H Employment Specialist – Kirk Hamilton

Since beginning in June they have worked with 30 people and placed 10 persons in entry level jobs. There is a group of people with missing work history – they need training. They have commitments from a number of employers who will offer entry level jobs.. They have 300 applicants. Those who wish to offer employment leads or placement assistance may contact Kirk at 805-766-2377; to refer a client 805-648-4977

H. Housing and Services Committee of the CoC -

A meeting is scheduled on August 7, 2014 at 10:00AM to discuss upcoming HUD funding.

I. VSSTF Steering Committee – Sue Brinkmeyer

- The Board of VSSTF, Inc. had its second meeting yesterday. They discussed the Landlord Guarantee Program. The 501(c)(3) application has been submitted. The board has 11 members. Sue B. acts as chair and liaison with the Task Force.
- Sue spoke to the sheriff's department regarding IDs. If IDs are not retrieved when an individual is released, they may be in the property room. The sheriff's department also keeps IDs that have been turned in for 2 weeks in the lost and found; then the IDs are sent to the DMV. If a license is suspended it is confiscated.
- The going away party for Jennifer Mokos was a lovely event. Everyone brought food to share and stepped out of their professional roles.

J. One Stop – Kate Mills

Kate distributed a handout. In July there were 79 new, unduplicated clients and 146 returning clients. There had 380 contacts and served 240 meals. The service contacts included 46 case management, 3 child support, 30 Covered California, 24 food stamps, 19 General Relief, 2 HIV testing, 34 homeless services, 79 matrix assessment, 61 picture IDs, 17 re-entry, 11 STAR Mental health, 6 transitional youth, 40 contacts with Turning Point.

L. Family to Family – Sue Brinkmeyer

There are now 30 different groups sponsoring meals – lunch on Mon., Wed., Friday, and breakfast on Sat. and Sun. They served approximately 48,000 meals in 2013, down from approximately 52,000 meals in 2012.

M. Homeshare – Sue Brinkmeyer

Homeshare has been adopted by the County. The County is going to hire 2 PT employees, one in South Ventura County and one here in this part of the County.

V. Networking

- Southern California Association of Governments will host a meeting August 20 at USC, the War on Poverty – 50 Years Later. Sue B. will send out the information.
- Amy L. recently went to the installation of a container classroom in Ojai at Oak Park HS. The containers cost approximately \$50K per unit. It takes 8 days from manufacture to installation. There will be an Open House in September.
- Project Understanding has a new Executive Director – Ben Unseth
- Christy M. announced Meg Drury is retiring. The County is recruiting for her position. It is a continuous recruitment for Management Analyst II.

VII. Success Stories

Kathy Powell: A person from the Harbor Church has been “adopted” by the office managers. They got him new teeth, a car and got a certificate in computer programing. He was homeless 3 years ago and he is now employed.

Kevin Clerici: Mary Jane reconnected with her sister and brother-in-law in San Jose. She needed a car for the trip and she made it safely.

Karol Schulkin: a family of 11 came to us through One Stop. They came to California to work with an Uncle in Camarillo. They received help from Catholic Charities and the couple went back to Illinois to see the grandmother who had their children. Their 14 year old son has joined a class action lawsuit to receive pay for money he had earned.

Meeting adjourned at 4:50 PM

Respectfully submitted, Susan Everett