

Adopted Minutes of November 4, 2015 Meeting of Ventura Social Service Task Force

Present: Judy Alexandre, Brian Brennan, Kent Brinkmeyer, Sue Brinkmeyer, Peter Brown, Kevin Clerici, David Deutsch, Elisabeth Egelko, Mark Gisler, Tim Hawkins, Amanda Herrera, Tim Hockett, Ron Irwin, John Jones, Kate Mills, Kathy Powell, Melissa Ramirez, Dave Schmutte, Jan Schmutte, Karol Schulkin, Doug Stanton, Ben Unseth, Monica Vergara, Daniel Zapata Huerta

Meeting was called to order by Chair Judy Alexandre

1. All present introduced themselves, and shared a thought regarding the September or October meeting of the City Council Subcommittee on Homelessness, the October 8 Partners for Change event at the Poinsettia Pavilion, or the Winter Warming Shelter:
  - 1.1. Thoughts shared included:
    - 1.1.1.Re: Winter Warming Shelter - Housing is the answer; Half a loaf is better than none; There is a consensus that we shouldn't have to scramble every year-
    - 1.1.2.Re: October 8 - event was well attended; move on with momentum; conversation is valuable; hopeful; forced awareness; PATH helped people see what is happening in other places; key word is "partnerships"
    - 1.1.3.Re: Subcommittee on Homelessness meetings - proud of faith leaders who articulated issues appropriately; people are frustrated; it's exciting to see people coming together with one voice; there was disagreement with respect; we have important work to do
2. MSC to approve the agenda with the addition of announcements before oral reports.
3. St. Vince de Paul will be bringing 5 extra copies of the packet for December 2 meeting; John Jones will bring extra copies to the January meeting.
4. MSC to approve the minutes as presented.
5. Treasurer's Report - After \$126 expended for food at October 8 event, \$4,722 remain in account
6. New Business
  - 6.1. Laura's Law - Mary Haffner emailed to say that there is nothing new to report
  - 6.2. Winter Shelter -
    - 6.2.1. The shelter will be in Oxnard because the Ventura Armory is undergoing remodeling. Walk through has been completed and contracts have been signed. Plan is to have it open Dec. 1 through end of March, or as long as funding allows.
    - 6.2.2. Families with children will be in the same facility but in a separate area
    - 6.2.3. Steven Karnazes is the operations manager, and he is hiring staff with 2-5 year experience in the shelter; the shelter is in good hands
    - 6.2.4. Those needing information on the shelter should call 211; TB testing information is one the flyer
    - 6.2.5. Patrick Maynard of County EOC will be setting up tents around known camp areas and the Santa Clara River area to provide TB tests

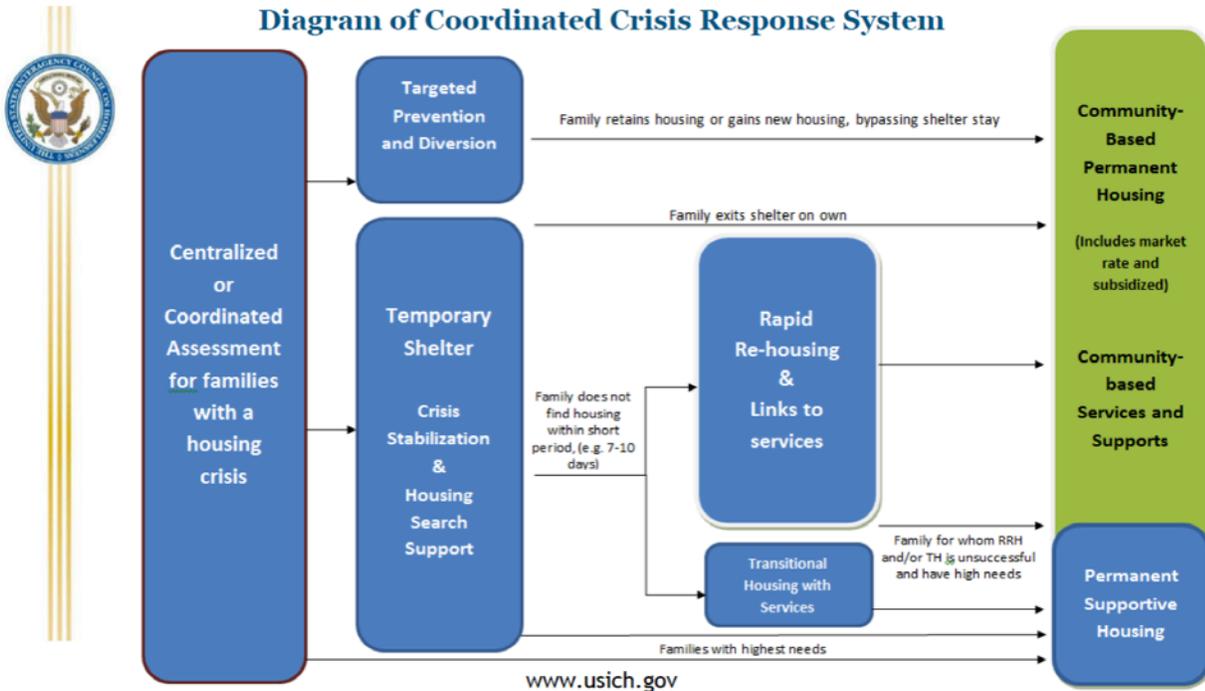
- 6.3. The National Alliance to End Homelessness conducted a System Design Clinic for the CoC Board and providers. Of particular interest: (1) a good chart of what Coordinated Entry to housing should look like (see Chart attached as Appendix A); (2) costs of various approaches from engagement to Permanent Housing; (3) We need the entire spectrum of housing to be well covered; (4) HMIS needs to be opened so users can see where beds and resources are available -- planing to open HMIS in January.
- 6.4. Question: Is Bridge (90 days to Permanent Housing) or Crisis Housing (30 days to Permanent Housing) still a goal for VSSTF? After a review of actions to date by VSSTF and its committees, the faith community, and City bodies, it was MSC (1 abstention) to reaffirm VSSTF's commitment to the creation of crisis housing with wraparound services in line with Recommendation 7 of the 10-Year Strategy as recalibrated in 2013 (See Appendix B).
- 6.5. MSC (3 abstentions) to have the Steering Committee appoint representatives from major sectors of the community to serve on an Ad Hoc group that would plan public gatherings/community conversations that would expand the conversation about homelessness to include new and power voices from all major sectors of the community, including health, business, education, neighborhood councils, and faith groups. (This should be similar to the process used when we created the 10-Year Strategy. We will work toward having the first conversation January 21, with Doug Green acting as moderator.). Names of potential Ad Hoc group members should be sent to Judy by Wednesday October 11.
- 6.6. It was moved that VSSTF, Inc. be allowed to act as fiscal agent for grants or fundraising and serve as a pass through agency funneling funding to social service agencies. After much discussion, this motion was withdrawn before being seconded.
- 6.7. VSSTF needs to elect new officers at its December meeting. Judy is willing to serve as chair. We will need a new vice-chair and a new secretary.
- 6.8. VSSTF website is old and not as user friendly as it might be. All are asked to think about what they would like the website to be used for and how the website might be re-designed to serve those uses.
7. Announcements
  - 7.1. No Room at the Inn (a display of nativity scenes) will be at Padre Serra Catholic Church in Camarillo Dec. 4, 5, and 6
  - 7.2. Breakfast is being served at Harbor Church at 9 am on Thanksgiving Day
  - 7.3. Lift Up Your Voice is sponsoring Take a Hungry Person to Lunch November 19, meet at 11 am at the UU Church of Ventura.
  - 7.4. The November meeting of the Homeless Subcommittee of City Council has been canceled.
  - 7.5. Aloha Steak House is providing a Thanksgiving meal to 250 people selected by social service agencies.
  - 7.6. Kevin is researching the establishment of an endowment to fund the gap between people's income and the cost to live in Ventura.
  - 7.7. One Stop has seen a big increase in numbers served. Over 50 are seen each Tuesday, and 25 of these are new each week.

- 7.8. People staying in 40-50 camps in the Santa Clara River near Johnson and the 101 overpass are being warned of the dangers of flooding expected this winter with El Nino. St Vincent de Paul, County Homeless Services, the Sheriff's office, and Oxnard PD are providing outreach. This is an area where the river has flooded in the past. People are being told they must leave by December 4.
- 7.9. Project Understanding is trying to grow the ie and go beyond local donors; its budget is almost in the black.
- 7.10. The Homeless Prevention Fund received \$1,692 in donations thanks to several houses of worship and individuals. To date the Fund has kept 966 people from falling into homelessness.
- 7.11. A number of individuals and faith groups came together and gathered resources and support for one woman who had lived for a number of years in an encampment to move with her belongings and her dogs to Oregon to be reunified with family.

Submitted Sue Brinkmeyer

# Crisis Response System

Diagram of Coordinated Crisis Response System



**Appendix B - Excerpts from  
Recalibrating for Results: A Five Year Evaluation and Update of the 2007–2017  
County of Ventura 10-Year Plan to End Homelessness. January 2013**

**From Page 9: RECOMMENDATION 7: Shelters**

☒ Create small local year-round emergency shelters which are intended to be short-term harbors while permanent housing solutions are sought.

This recommendation is distinctly different from the one that was included in the 2007 10-Year Plan concerning shelters. In 2007, the recommendation was to “create 150 additional shelter beds for individuals living on the streets and who should develop a case management plan with a case manager as a condition to admission.”

The Steering Committee recommends that the length of stay in shelters should be minimized and that shelter resources should be used to help households obtain permanent housing as quickly as possible along with home-based case management as needed. Thus, any new shelters should be short-term harbors while permanent housing solutions are sought.

**From Pages 35-36: RECOMMENDATION 7: Shelters**

☒ Create small local year-round emergency shelters which are intended to be short-term harbors while permanent housing solutions are sought.

Small local year-round emergency shelter beds are needed for short-term harbor while permanent housing solutions are sought. Shortening the Page 35 experience of homelessness has become a best practice adopted by an increasing number of local jurisdictions. The focus is to minimize the length of stay in shelter and reduce repeat homeless episodes such as homeless persons rotating in and out of shelters.

Such shelters should align resources to ensure that households have access to the services necessary to obtain permanent housing as quickly as possible. Services should include an intake and assessment that outlines the immediate steps to obtain housing. Working with a case manager to achieve these steps is usually necessary. Emphasis should be placed on locating housing that is affordable and increasing household income to maintain such housing. Once these steps are achieved the immediate goal should be to move the household into appropriate permanent housing including home-based case management as needed.

During the first five (5) years of the implementation of the plan, only 12 year-round shelter beds were created, all of which were located in Oxnard. No new year-round shelter beds were created in other parts of the county. In 2013, there were 237 shelter beds, of which 126 were year-round and 111 were seasonal.

Additional shelter beds are needed and should be modeled after this recommendation. Small local year-round shelters should consist of a number of beds that is proportional to its location. Such a proportion should be based on at least 10% of the local homeless population established by the homeless count. Each year a homeless count is conducted and the total number is broken down for each of the local jurisdictions. If a jurisdiction has a local homeless population of 100, a small local year-round shelter should consist of at least 10 beds.