


DRAFT Minutes of August 5, 2015 Meeting of Ventura Social Service Task Force

Present: Judy Alexandre, Neal Andrews, Jerry Breiner, Sue Brinkmeyer, Peter Brown, Randy, Kevin Clerici, Jim Duran, Elisabeth Egelko, Melissa Garza, Howard Goldberg, Tim Hawkins, Tim Hockett, John Jones, Kate Mills, Kathy Powell, Debora Schreiber, Doug Stanton, Holly Whitmore, Daniel Zapata Huerta

1. Meeting was called to order by Chair Judy Alexandre at 3:19 pm
 - 1.1. All present introduced themselves and gave one word each hopes would be true in their work. Among words shared were inclusivity, humbleness, housing, contentment, self-sufficiency, hope, vision, parity, happiness, safety, funding, success, collaboration, community, and coordination.
2. The agenda was approved as presented.
3. The minutes were approved with 1 change: the next meeting date should have been August 5, 2015.
4. Treasurer's Report: There have been no changes since last month.
 - 4.1. MSC (2 abstentions) to approve spending up to \$1,000 to create a comprehensive resource book for providers, which will be available online and updated as needed. Expenses would include time of ex-intern to prepare and costs to print 3 copies.
 - 4.2. MSC (2 abstentions) to spend up to \$500 for October 8 Partners for Change follow-up event. Expenses could include rental of Poinsettia Pavilion and food. We will look for sponsors and so may not need to spend this money.
5. New Business
 - 5.1. Talking Points were presented and discussed. A glossary of terms will be added, and they will be edited and then returned to September 2 meeting for modification/approval.
 - 5.2. MSC (2 abstentions) to be a co-sponsor for the Ventura County Women's Forum Collaborative panel discussion "Women and Homelessness, September 14 from 6-7 pm at the VC Community Foundation, 4001 Mission Oaks Blvd., Camarillo. Judy Alexandre, Sue Brinkmeyer, and Kate Mills will be part of the panel.



VCWFC Presents THROUGH A GENDER LENS: Issues of Importance to Women

WOMEN AND HOMELESSNESS
A COMPELLING EVENING OF PERSONAL STORIES,
HARD STATISTICS AND LOCAL ADVOCACY EFFORTS

Monday, September 14, 2015
Social hour 5:00 pm, Introductions and Announcements 5:45 pm, Program 6:00 - 7:00 pm
Ventura County Community Foundation
4001 Mission Oaks Blvd., Camarillo

- On average, homelessness reduces a person's life span by 30 years.
- The Ventura Unified School District counts among its students 451 who are homeless. (2013)
- 23,000 Ventura residents are on the verge of homelessness on any given day.
- Homeless families comprise roughly 34% of the total U.S. homeless population
- Over 92% of homeless mothers have experienced severe physical and/or sexual abuse during their lifetime
- Over 85% of homeless families are headed by women - specifically, by single women with children - and domestic violence is a principal cause homelessness among single mother families.

Cost: members FREE / non-members \$10 suggested donation. Annual membership is \$15 for individuals, \$25 for organizations. You can join/renew at the door or through our website: vcwf.org

5.3. Status of Winter Warming Shelters in Oxnard and Ventura

- 5.3.1. Oxnard's Commission on Homelessness held an emergency meeting and passed a motion asking that the Council's Subcommittee on Homelessness hold an emergency meeting to discuss the crisis of there being no Winter Warming Shelter for the winter, with heavy rains expected
- 5.3.2. The Oxnard City Council's Subcommittee on Homelessness met four days later and directed staff to identify possible locations, funding, operator, and process. New Oxnard Housing Director Arturo Casillas and City Manager's office are pursuing solutions. Language may contain prioritization for Oxnard residents.
- 5.3.3. No word on a shelter for Ventura as yet. Ventura City staff are meeting to discuss implications of Oxnard moving forward.
- 5.3.4. Peter indicated that it was not likely that any locations outside SB2 shelter zones might be approved to use City funds/CDBG funds this winter.
- 5.3.5. Having smaller and more localized shelters would be in keeping with recommendations in Recalibrated 10-Year Plan. It would keep people in their own communities and enable neighbors to support housing for their neighbors without homes. Ideally, shelters will be created that serve as bridges into permanent housing.
- 5.3.6. No plan has yet been discussed for dealing with people traveling through town and needing shelter on a night with rain or extreme cold.
- 5.3.7. Howard Goldberg will send contact info to Chair of Bridge Housing Committee, Doug Stanton, for Jim DeArkland, who has provided Christmas parties for all the children in the Ventura schools experiencing homelessness.

5.4. Report on Housing programs from Karol Schulkin tabled until September.

5.5. Initial input on gaps in services:

- 5.5.1. Housing, including small scale housing and creative housing options
- 5.5.2. Permanent Supportive Housing for chronically homeless and disabled - frequent users of services
- 5.5.3. Zoning maps to allow shelter and services in same place
- 5.5.4. Way to help individuals with severe mental illness who don't want assistance
- 5.5.5. Special services for homeless children
- 5.5.6. Consistent political will to address the issue
- 5.5.7. Employment
- 5.5.8. Showers

5.5.9. Place for people to store belongings while they work, apply for work, or attend appointments (see attached report on San Diego project, as Appendix A)

5.5.10. Services for undocumented who have been here 30+ years and are now homeless in their old age

5.5.11. Coordination and communication

5.5.12. Genuine, ongoing, immediate services to get people housed

6. Reports:

6.1. Bridge Housing - still working to move forward with some sort of plan for shelter for this winter; Ben Unseth and Steven Karnazes both have possible plans. A solution might need to involve both plans. CDBG \$41,000 needs to be applied for (for reimbursement), and County shelter funds might be requested.

6.2. Housing People Can Afford - met with Loretta McCarthy from the Ventura Housing Authority, who advised that additional project-based vouchers are needed, as last available vouchers are being used for project now under development on Hansen Trust property. Loretta recommended that we look at rehabilitating or repurposing buildings rather than building new as it would be faster and much less expensive. Holly Whitmore from People Self Help (PSH) attended and explained how openings are made available in PSH housing. Someone from development portion of PSH will be at the next meeting to share the advice of PSH on getting affordable units built in Ventura

6.3. Education and Advocacy Committee -

6.3.1. October 8 event at Poinsettia Pavilion sponsored by Faith Subcommittee will present what has been done in communities similar to Ventura and explore what can be done here. (see attached flyer as Appendix B).

6.3.2. Also working on a traveling show that can be taken to houses of worship, service groups, or businesses. It would include one or more short videos, a brief presentation, and a question & answer period, all of which can be tailored to the time available and the interests of the group. Film topics include Housing First, How Houses of Faith Can Help, What Other Communities Are Doing, and Homeless Prevention.

6.4. Faith Subcommittee - Pam Marshall is the new chair. All attention at the moment is focused on planning and getting the word out about the October 8 event, 6:30-8:30 PM at Poinsettia Pavilion, Partners for Change - Together We Can End Homelessness. Houses of faith, the business community, government representatives, and the general public are all invited.

6.5. Homeless Prevention - Homeless Prevention - In the month of July, the VHPF kept 4 households consisting of 6 adults and 2 children housed, bringing our total for the year to 29 households, 48 adults, and 31 children. Since 2007, that's 360 households and 953 people kept in housing because of donations to the Fund and the good work of case managers at Project Understanding and the Salvation Army.

6.6. The City - Peter Brown

- 6.6.1. The Homeless Subcommittee of City Council will not meet August 6, nor will it meet September 3. There may be a special meeting later in August or after September 3.
- 6.6.2. The large homeless camp on Fifth Street near Harbor is being removed August 17. Service providers have been meeting with residents for past several months. Motel stays are available for those accepting assistance.
- 6.6.3. A clean up operation is scheduled for the Santa Clara River between Johnson and the Ocean on September 17.
- 6.6.4. City Council approved \$28,000 for H2H to use for first and last month rent because of loss of grant funds.
- 6.7. Human Services Agency of the County:
 - 6.7.1. HSA placed 22 households into permanent housing
 - 6.7.2. Cal Works grant from the State was renewed for a total of \$514,000. Any family connected in any way to Cal Works should call 805-385-1811. Grant can provide first month rent, beds or other items to get started, and case management.
- 6.8. Homeless Prevention - In the month of June, the VHPF kept 4 households consisting of 7 adults and 6 children housed, bringing our total for the year to 25 households, 42 adults, and 29 children. Since 2007, that's 356 households and 945 people kept in housing because of donations to the Fund and the good work of case managers at Project Understanding and the Salvation Army. In June, the Fund received donations totaling \$1,032.50 and paid landlords a total of \$3,380 to keep people housed, leaving a balance of \$5.59. Follow up calls completed by the Salvation Army recently indicate that 100% of those the Fund has helped over the past 9 months are still housed. The Fund is scheduled to receive major donations from the UU Church again in early July.
- 6.9. Peter Brown for the City -
 - 6.9.1. Council Committee on Homelessness meets tomorrow. On the agenda are funding for H2H and a report on the downtown ambassadors program.
 - 6.9.2. The Oxnard Commission on Homelessness will meet Monday, June 6 at 4:30 in Council Chambers
 - 6.9.3. The Mental Health Board voted unanimously to support Laura's Law. It next goes before Board of Supervisors.
 - 6.9.4. H2H program lost a major source of housing funding when Turning Point did not get \$106,000 in ESG grant renewed
- 6.10. One Stop
 - 6.10.1. Kate Mills presented a report giving statistics for One Stop from January through June, 2015 (see attached Appendix C)
 - 6.10.2. Biggest needs: we need to get more creative about creating jobs and we need some type of shelter for people who can afford just \$400 per month.
 - 6.10.3. Perhaps we can create a barter system in which people exchange services for housing.

- 6.10.4. If we truly want to end homelessness, we must be allowed to have affordable housing.
- 6.10.5. Among the 100,000 Acts of Kindness the Mayor is supporting, foremost should be the provision of affordable housing.
- 6.10.6. A new program, CATCH, is available at One Stop; it is for people experiencing problems with breathing; a nurse will go out and work with them. (See attached Appendix D)

6.11. Continuum of Care -

6.11.1. Housing Committee met for the first time in years; Ron Mulvihill and Clyde Reynolds are co-chairs. Some 30 people attended. The group will look at Recalibrated Plan and list of duties for CoC committees at put together real projects detailing the number of units, population to be served, services necessary, and enlist jurisdictional support and community support. For now the group will meet monthly.

6.11.2. City Center - July Results: 3 single moms, each with a child under 5 moved in (6 people) as did a single male from Community Action.

7. Networking/Upcoming events

- 7.1. Food can be delivered to seniors and disabled/dependent adults via the Project Understanding pantry.
- 7.2. A program called Financial Coaching for Veterans is now available at America's Job Center in Oxnard. (see flier attached as Appendix E)
- 7.3. Community Action celebrated its 50th Anniversary with a barbecue and fun at Camarillo Ranch. Sadly its Kayak program must be suspended, as the boats are simply not selling; Tim Hawkins has left Community Action and is now working at the County Executive's office with Tara Caruth.
- 7.4. Turning Point celebrated its ribbon cutting at the new veterans facility on Vince Street.
- 7.5. Homes for all meets on the 3rd Tues, 3:30 pm at Cabrillo Economic Development
- 7.6. Dependent Adults and Seniors Homeless or at Risk of Homelessness meets Sept. 14, 9:30 a.m. at the Ventura County Area on Aging Agency, County Square Dr.
- 7.7. Continuum of Care meets Sept 17, 10-12 a.m. at the Ventura Community Foundation, Camarillo

The meeting was adjourned at 4:55 pm.

The next meeting of the VSSTF will be September 2 at 3:15. at the Family to Family site, 303 N Ventura Ave #E. Karol Schulkin, HSA will bring materials for guests to the Sept. meeting.

Submitted by Sue Brinkmeyer

Appendix A

VSSTF Bridge/Interim Housing Sub Committee

Report on the trip to **PATH, San Diego**. 6.29.2015

Present: Judy Alexandre, Sue Brinkmeyer, Doug Stanton, journalist Claudia Boyd-Barrett, and Kalie Standish, PATH Associate Director of Community Engagement

PATH SAN DIEGO

DS impression: the urban facility was amazing, with subterranean level dining and sort of a “services mall.” Only four overnight shelter beds, but with lower floors for interim housing (I don’t recall the number of beds or the length of stay), and upper floors with permanent supportive housing. We were told it was a “very expensive project.” PATH was asked to come in by the city of San Diego, as the area is well within recently developed blocks of valuable real estate. Its mission was to only serve a ¼ square mile area, and people coming from outside that area, or who are resistant to PATH’s services, are asked to move on. It seems that PATH San Diego was not intended to end homelessness in San Diego, but only to end homelessness in that area.



TRANSITIONAL STORAGE CENTER, operated by Girls Think Tank: 2 miles away from the PATH facility, in an area heavily populated by homeless persons. The storage bins allow people to leave their belongings if they have a job or need to go to a job interview. Such a facility in any city would have to be located in an area in which the homeless are more accepted, as its location would ensure the presence of homeless persons.

SAVE THE DATE

SAVE THE

DATE

**Partners for Change —
Together We Can End Homelessness**

Follow up to March 12 event

October 8, 6:30–8:30 PM, Poinsettia Pavilion

Hear what other communities are doing to end homelessness from our special guest: PATH (People Assisting the Homeless). PATH operates 22 service locations in high-cost California cities like ours, from San Jose to San Diego. They are using national best practices to dramatically reduce the number of people in those communities experiencing homelessness.

Explore with a panel of local experts which solutions will work best in Ventura and how we can move forward collaboratively.

Together we can end homelessness. Come find out how.

RSVP or questions: partnersforchangeventura@gmail.com

**Sponsored by
the Faith Committee of the Ventura Social Services Task Force:**

Appendix C

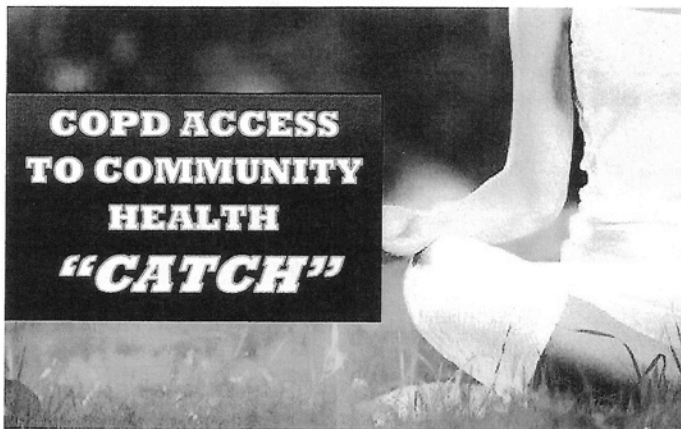
2015 January to June One Stop Stats

January 2015 - June 2015	New	568
	Returning	1213

Incomes 288 (37%) with incomes
136 of the 288 (47%) with incomes \$700-\$1000/month
80 of the 288 (28%) with incomes over \$1000/month
72 of the 288 (25%) with incomes below \$700/month

Income Breakdown:

- 61 SS
- 25 SDI
- 100 SSI
- 53 Jobs
- 12 CalWorks
- 8 unemployment
- 3 VA
- 2 GR
- 24 Unknown



CATCH

CATCH is a FREE program designed to improve health outcomes for people with respiratory complications.

The project described is supported by Grant Number 1C1CMS331320 from the Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services. The contents of this publication are solely the responsibility of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official views of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services or any of its agencies.

CONTACT US

Phone: 805-677-5162

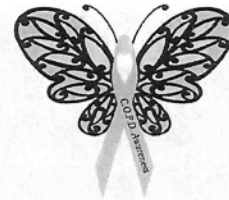
Email: catchgrant@ventura.org

Website:

www.vchca.org/copd/catch



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HEALTHCARE AGENCY**



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MEDICARE OR MEDI-CAL & BE A
VENTURA COUNTY RESIDENT.**

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