

Ventura social Service Task Force Minutes to May 4<sup>th</sup>, 2016 meeting

Present: Brian Brennan, Deborah Schreiber, Eileen McCarthy, Jan Schmutte, Jason Meek, Jerry Breiner, Jim Duran, John Jones, Judy Alexandre, Karl Lawson, Karol Schulkin, Kate Mills, Lisa Hochberg –Miller, Manuel Mijares, Melissa Perezchica- Ramirez, Miguel Marquez, Monica Vergara, Neal Andrews, Peter Brown, Steven Karnazes, Sue Brinkmeyer, Tim Hockett

- I. Meeting was called to order by Judy Alexandre
- II. Members were asked to introduce themselves including agency and share, in one word, their reaction to the City Council workshop
  - a. Thoughts shared were mixed emotions of: hope, optimism, distort, disappointed, positive, and some found the outcome to be interesting
  - b. City Council meeting results: It was a 5:2 vote by City Council. The people who voted for the motion, asked staff to bring back to council the possibility to exploring the expansion of zoning for both, shelter and services, and to look into what modifications could be made with the conditional use fees. The report is supposed to be back on June 13<sup>th</sup>.
- III. Motion to, changes and approval of 4/6 minutes: Approved as emailed. Minutes are missing Jim as attendee at the April meeting
- IV. Motion to, changes and approval of the Agenda: Approved as emailed.
  - a. Reminder: If you have been present in the last 5 meeting, you are eligible to vote
- V. **Treasurers report** (Dave Schmutte): \$3,995.77
- VI. **Oral Reports:**
  - Final Winter warming shelter report (Steve Karnazes)
    - Total monthly individual stays: Dec 2,345; Jan 2,992; Feb 2,938; March 2,539; April 917 (averaging 61 a night after relocating to Ventura)
    - Total stays for the year: 11,731 people who took shelter at the WWS
    - Meals served: over 25,000
    - Percentage totals: (655 individual users)
      - Oxnard-381(58%) Ventura 117 (18%), other 157 (24%)
    - Judy shared feedback from the people who worked with the homeless: Homeless individuals felt safe, felt treated with respect, felt they had some dignity

(Steven Karnazes will email WWS report to Judy)
- VII. **Homeless Prevention Fund** (Brian Brennan): Report for April, donations were \$1600, the total put out was \$2800. Total of individuals were 7 adults and 4 children that were helped this month. Year to date is 14 households, 23 adults and 13 children (36 people total). Since the funds started back in 2007, we have 395 household and 1040 people kept from ending on the streets. All donors are thanked! Donors have made a difference.
- VIII. **Continuum of care update** (Tara Carruth or): The Data committee is working on system performance and standardization. Another committee is working on website and advocacy and

working on landlord improvement. The housing and services committee is currently assessing the existing housing, existing services, and existing employment training opportunities. For Veterans, there is a collaboration of the VA and the SSVF providers to create a by name list to target resources. The coordinated entry is moving strongly forward.

- IX. **Family Promise:** Meeting at 7pm on May 5th, 2016 at Temple Beth Torah. Meeting is to put program together. Rick Pearson has agreed to be the president.
- X. **H2H combined report:** Turning point will be gathering information for project understanding and salvation army and will be emailed to Judy to disperse via email
- XI. **City of Ventura (Peter Brown):** Next meeting for the Council Subcommittee is on May 12<sup>th</sup>. Reminder that the regular meeting dates have been changed to the second Thursday of the month at 4 p.m.
- XII. **Other Agencies:**
  - a. Project Understanding relocation handout. The pantry and the office for First Step will now be at the same location.
- XIII. **Any specific Agency report of a key event or update:**
  - a. The City Center (Jim Duran)- June 1<sup>st</sup> we will be moving about 8 more families.
  - b. Step Up Ventura- Running fundraiser and if you go to the website you can sign up for an event on June 5<sup>th</sup>, Art, Wine, & Chocolate fundraiser
- XIV. **City council Workshop on Homelessness:** The city can go in many different direction, but no matter what direction the city decides to go, it does not alter our goal as a task force and our commitment.
  - a. Different groups have met and have examined what might be some necessary components that are required simultaneously as next steps to move Ventura's efforts to end homelessness. A list was compiled and distributed to VSSTF. Several subgroups that have met with Judy have expressed the need to include permanent supportive housing as part of the components to have housing for those who have graduated a program (coming out of transitional housing, crisis housing, bridge housing, etc.). Challenges were expressed regarding those who not local residents of City of Ventura or Ventura County, who are coming into the city to receive such services. Component to be added is that these services will be limited to County of Ventura residents. However, fair housing laws need to be reviewed regarding limitations and exclusions.
  - b. Things to be added to components: Child care services, dental services, arrangement for car repair, legal assistance, explore the need of transportation options (shuttle van?), meals
  - c. Suggestion by VSSTF members: Once we have a sense of what needs to happen and we have statistics and rationale for each component to present to of city council and get their reaction to recalibrate our plans. We need to hear from those who opposed the reasons why they are opposing to gear into addressing such views in attempt to move change their vote and move forward. One thing that was mentioned from those who opposed did want to hear from the opposition community groups before making their decision. Also, another issue would be help with the CLP fees.

- d. The faith sub-committee has assigned some task to some people to gather some information on best practice with services. We need a lot of steps and we need affirmative action.
- e. Next steps:
  - First step- We are encouraged to thank Mayor Erik Nasarenko and also to write them in support in the stand that both, Neil and Carl, took.
  - Second Step- Neal made a motion, again, to try to get council to take action on what the homeless subcommittee had already approved. So beginning May 12<sup>th</sup>, we can again ask that what that subcommittee has already approved, be on the agenda for discussion. We need to resend the two-page report to full council which summarizes the history of those items that have already been approved. We also need to work on how to support what has been approved when it does get on the agenda to be prepared. We need to put on the agenda for the subcommittee the nine strategies that were approved for action to put on the agenda for Council. What we need to do is to get council to direct the staff to spend the time and resources necessary to make recommendations about the 9 strategies. So our action item for the council is to direct staff to analyze and formulate recommendations in respect to those nine strategies.
  - Some things that we can do: send thank you notes and send our summary to be forwarded to all council members.
  - If any would like to take a component from the list, research and give 1 fact that supports the need for such component, and include one resource to back it up, email Judy

XV. Judy will send out the 9 strategies and a clear revised two-page summary with our recommendations that the city can do. Meetings for the Month of May will also be sent separately via email.

XVI. Old Business will be addressed in June

XVII. Meeting Adjourned. Next VSSTF meeting will be on June 1, 2016 at 3:15 at the Catholic Charities building 300 N. Ventura Ave.# E 93001. Our focus will probably be on Youth homelessness and follow up and final preparation for the 6/13/16 council meeting.

No one assigned to bring material for the June 1st, 2016 meeting. Any volunteers? Please email Judy. Thank you Interface for bringing material for the month of May.