

Ventura social Service Task Force Minutes to August 3, 2016 meeting

Present: Ben Unseth, Dave Schumutte, David Deustch, Deborah Schreiber, Harold Cartlidge, Karol Schulkin, Jan Schmutte, Jim Duran, John Jones, Judy Alexandre, Kate Mills, Kathy Powell, Melissa Perezchica-Ramirez, Miguel Marquez, Monica Vergara, Neal Andrews, Pam Marshall, Peter Brown, Steven Karnazes, Tim Hockett, Sandra Troxell, Erin Locklear, Stephanie Caldwell

- I. Meeting was called to order by VSSTF Chair Judy Alexandre.
 - Judy gives encouragement announcements:
 - Stephanie Caldwell from Ventura Chambers of Commerce was introduced as a new member of VSSTF.
 - Ventura Unified School District Superintendent joining our member list to remain informed.
- II. Members were asked to introduce themselves and express (in one sentence) reaction to the July 11 council vote). Majority of members expressed reaction of optimism, encouragement, hopefulness, delight, and in agreement to the VCSTAR editorial. One member expresses status quo.
- III. Motion, changes to and approval of agenda:
 - Judy Alexandre asks to add an item to the agenda regarding to a request by council member Carl Morehouse
 - Agenda and changes are approved by members
- IV. Motion, changes to and approval of July minutes:
 - No changes to July minutes.
 - Minutes are approved by members
- V. Treasurers report (Dave Schmutte):
 - VSSTF-\$3995.77
 - Homeless Prevention Fund- \$2,764.33. An application for a \$15,000 grant was submitted to Ventura County Federal Credit Union. Status of award will be given by the end of August.
 - Administration Fund: \$2,800
- VI. Old Business:
 - Showers of Blessings: Last month a team was appointed to take next steps and move forward with Showers of Blessings. Report is given by Karol to VSSTF members regarding costs/expenses to move forward with showers of blessings. Report included cost for administrative service, supplies, water waste fees, cost to purchase a trailer (\$50-60K) and the need for approximately \$20,000 reserved funds for maintenance. Options were suggested in regards to grey and black water disposal which is heavily regulated and costly. VSSTF will support the agency that takes over implementing Showers of Blessings by providing cooperation, letters of support and letters of encouragement.
 - Follow up to the July 11th: Judy Alexandre gives a summary of what city council approved and did not approved for those who did not attend. Summary is as follows:

Report written by Ken Lee's consultation was received. City Staff made a recommendation and those recommendations were received. Based on the results from the homeless workshop, certain things were adopted that would come back to council with a plan and those things are to come back to council in March 17, 2017. City council agreed that they will have staff develop a specific plan that will implement the already existing housing element. Nothing was approved as to what would happen as far as approving or disapproving the plan that comes from staff. They acknowledge the need for the development of public and private funding for bridge housing of all types that focus on beds and transitional living. They agreed to cooperate and participate in the continuum of care Pathways to Home Program. No plan has been approved other than have staff develop a plan. An area has been designated that could be used for bridge housing and services by CPU. Staff was also directed to develop a subsidized CPU program. Staff was directed to build a committee that will be composed of CBOs, Faith-based organizations, police, local agency advocacy groups, to develop an action plan to implement what had previously been approved. Additionally, the wording "last year" was eliminated from the recommendation that this would be the last year of a winter warming shelter. Staff was directed to pursue the ongoing work that council member Heitmann has been doing with the veteran's home so that the city again has ownership of that would be able to work in developing veteran housing on that site.

➤ Looking into next steps...

- ❖ The bridge housing and housing people can afford committee met and was suggested at that meeting to go forward and pursue identifying a site in the designated area and developing a plan to be prepared when coming back to council.
- ❖ Make a vision to get political buy-in: the more we put together the more consensus we can bring forward.
- ❖ VSSTF remain in contact to not work in isolation and keep council periodically informed.
- ❖ Anything that we can do to smooth the committee process for the CPU and the community (public relations)
- ❖ Increase amount of public education about the need for these services

Our overall goal is to be proactive and continues to move forward in developing a plan and be in continuous communication with city council. The pre-goal is to educate and build positive public relations, the operator, the community and any stakeholder, to collaborate for success as they move forward with this application process.

Motion to approve goals as a task force: Motion was approved with 2 member abstaining votes.

How do we collaborate best with the business community?

- ❖ Keeping the dialog open. Keeping the business community informed and VSSTF informed.
- ❖ There has been positive reaction from the Chamber of Commerce members wanting to find ways to get involved. The Chamber is looking to building a separate committee to work on this issue. With the goal to get into the community that will be affected and talk to those businesses that would be neighboring to the operating facility to hear their concerns and address how they can best mitigate some of their concerns and give some feedback to the city as far as what some of the conditions might be in building part of the CUP so that those business can be more comfortable.
- ❖ Education to the community in regards to the misconceptions of available facilities and bed space.
- ❖ Judy Alexandre and Stephanie Caldwell are invited by Peter Brown to serve in a pre-blue-ribbon panel to hear and work toward some of the things that have been discussed in this meeting today. Both Judy and Stephanie accepted invitation

VII. New Business:

- Laura's Law implantation (Mary Haffner)- No report
- Stronghold Ministries (Judy et all)- Not responding to Next Door/Paul White
- **Motion** to writing a letter of response to the VCSTAR editorial: The VSSTF has voted that the steering-committee will write a letter thanking them and highlighting our pledge to be cooperative.

VIII. Oral Reports:

- Homeless prevention fund: Took in \$2870, paid out \$3460. 4-5 families were helped from going homeless
- H2H/Homeless Services report (Salvation Army, Turning Point, Saint Vincent de Paul, Project Understanding, HSA Homeless Services): Project understanding indicated that they placed 3 people in permanent housing last month. In July, Turning Point placed 5 people into housing, 22 have been housed for six months or less, and 48 have been housed up to 12 months. No other reports were received.
- Continuum of Care- There is the probability to working with VC Cool to establish a social economy dealing with bike repair.
- Faith Sub Committee (Pam Marshall)- The Faith Sub Committee is still talking about family promise. Discussing about VC Cool and discussing Showers of Blessings.
- City of Ventura (Peter Brown/Neal Andrews)- Homeless Committee Meeting tomorrow the 4th has been cancelled and date is tentatively for August 11th.

IX. Agency reports:

- Community Action housed three people last month into permanent supportive housing which raises a total to six. Nine people have been placed into jobs.
- Jennifer Santos, homeless coordinator in the City of Simi informed Chair Judy Alexandre via email that there are four very affordable housing units that have been constructed and are now open and available.
- Steven Karnazes: Church has placed three people into sober living last month and one job placement.
- Winter warming shelter: There is no existing plan for the city of Ventura for the winter warming shelter this year. City of Oxnard is taking a different direction in how they will move forward with winter shelter this year. Steven Karnazes moves to approve that VSSTF members send a letter to city council to move forward with a plan for winter shelter and highlighting that the existing agencies have no plan for this winter.
 - **Motion** was approved by members with no and a letter will be sent to council
- Carl Morehouse has requested to come and speak to VSSTF to get support for the city's tax. VSSTF has agreed to have Carl come and speak and share information with the task force as long as there is no expectation of an endorsement, but rather an opportunity for the members to hear and receive information that we could more accurately share with others.

X. Meetings:

1. Faith Subcommittee, Church of Christ, (Bryn Mawr and Telegraph) 3:00pm, Pam Marshall, pojcat@verizon.net, Aug. 24
2. Continuum of Care, Housing and Services Committee, 10-12 am, 4001 Mission Oaks Blvd, Camarillo, Clyde Reynolds cbreynolds@roadrunner.com
3. Bridge Housing and Homes People Can Afford, Aug. 16, 3:00pm, Orchard Community Church Library (Placid and Telephone) Judy Alexandre judyalexandre@gmail.com (interim)
4. Homes for All; Aug 18. Contact Sue Brinkmeyer sbrink@glendale.edu or John Jones johnsandersjones@gmail.com for information.
5. City of Ventura, Council Homeless subcommittee, City Hall, 4 pm, tentatively, Aug 11, 2016
6. Family Promise, Aug. 4, 7pm, Orchard Community Church Library Rick Pearson rpearson@rhetrorick.com
7. Homeless Prevention Fund as needed, Brian Brennan Brian.Brennan@ventura.org

XI. Next VSSTF meeting Sept. 6, 2016, 3:15 pm, 300 N Ventura Ave #E 93001

XII. Meeting was adjourned by Judy Alexandre.

(Sept meeting will include best practice for Family Homelessness, discussion of collaboration in general, follow up to this month's items)

Kate Mills, One Stop will bring copies for September

