

Ventura social Service Task Force Minutes to June 1, 2016 meeting

Present: Tim Hockett, Miguel Marquez, Kate Mills, Miranda Gonzalez, Rigoberto Ruiz, Monica Vergara, Harold Cartlidge, Kent Brinkmeyer, John Jones, Deborah Schreiber, Neal Andrews, Mary Haffner, Clyde Reynolds, Judy Alexandre, Sue Brinkmeyer, Jerry Breiner, David Deutsch, Holly Whitmore, Pam Marshall, Jan Schmutte, Linda Rossi, Ben Unseth, Brian Brennan, Arlene Martinez

- I. Meeting was called to order by Judy Alexandre
- II. Members were asked to introduce themselves and include one thing they are doing working with others to end homelessness
- III. Motion, changes to and approval of the minutes of 5/4/16
 - No changes to the minutes.
 - Minutes are approved.
- IV. Motion, changes to and approval of agenda
 - Judy Alexandre asks to make changes to add *Showers of Blessings* to the agenda and include it on the oral reports. No objections. No additional changes by other members.
 - Agenda is approved by all members
- V. Treasurers report (Jan Schmutte): \$3995.77
- VI. Oral reports:
 - Showers of Blessings (Harold Cartlidge): Handout was passed around. Showers of Blessings is a mobile shower unit operating in the Santa Barbara area that has been operating for a couple of years. It is a trailer with two shower units and restroom, where individual get about 10 minutes to shower and clean up. Showers of Blessings will be at our next meeting in July to present what they do. They might be having a show-and-tell at the UU Church of Ventura in August and possibly next Wednesday at Oxnard One-Stop. Suggestion that Arlene Martinez from VC Star be present with the camera. An email will be sent once we get confirmation for the August show-and-tell. UU church plans to send an invitation to all churches when Showers of Blessings confirms their attendance for August.
 - Homeless prevention fund (Brian Brennan): Fortunate enough to be able to help a father and his two teenage daughters (\$800 to keep them housed). We have been getting low in funds, but that brings us to, so far this year, help 16 households consisting of 25 adults and 16 children. Since the beginning of the program (2007) this brings the total to 397 households, consisting of 1,045 people that have been helped to staying in their homes. We are down to \$180 with \$500 in allowance to go over, but we are starting a new month and thats when the checks start coming in. Brian thanks the faith-based community and everyone who has been contributing. The committee has been planning on keeping track of how many people they have to turn away to raise awareness
 - Continuum of Care (Tara Carruth): Tara not present, Clyde Reynolds gave a brief overview about the issue in implementation of the Coordinated Entry System.

- H2H Combined report of Salvation Army, Project Understanding, Turning Point, St. Vincent de Paul:
 - Judy Alexandre gave report for Project Understanding- 5 new intakes, 1 person went to permanent housing, 1 reunited with the family, 1 went to Salvation Army, and 1 person was referred to Home Share
 - No other report
- Report from HSA and One Stop: Seeing approximately 50 people on Tuesday in Ventura. Approximately half of them are new to One-Stop. Of those who are returning, there is an increase in the number of individuals that have been returning from 4 to 7 years ago.
- Workshop on Homelessness on Neighborhood watch by VPD: A follow up on the workshop held by Ventura Police Department was planned by Paul White on Thursday June 16th @ 7pm at 1500 Palma Drive, Ventura. If anyone can attend to respectfully share some facts/information and find out what is happening. They are supporting the Clean Safe city policy.
- Faith Sub-committee: After the workshop with the city, the faith sub-committee have been trying to work through ideas of plans for getting bridge crisis housing. In that process they are looking at what they want to see in that place, what kind of programs and benefits. In doing that, they want to write convincing arguments for those. The faith community, they will be talking about the biblical and spiritual part of their call, but also talking about housing first program, barriers to housing, and arguments as to why it is important for people to keep their animals with them. Emphasizing that people will be needing day services while they are at the place. The subcommittee will also emphasize in encouraging the faith leaders and congregation members to be present and speak up at the city council meeting during the comment section. Letter writing will continue—writing letters regarding the homeless issues. Next meeting is June 22nd @ 3pm at the Church of Christ
- Ventura downtown Partners (Kevin Clerici)- No report

VII. Agency reports

- Project Understanding has moved to the east end to Johnson Drive. Location is now very accessible to Oxnard, Camarillo, and the river bottom homeless individuals. Intake services are all taking place at Johnson's location. Grand opening July 7th at 5pm (Ribbon Cutting & 39th anniversary).
- City Center (Tim)- The City center was originally centered to try to shelter single mothers with kids. They opened up 3 units to us about a year and a half ago for the chronically homeless and sub-populating it with veterans and it did not work well. They decided that they would no longer continue with that arrangement, but they were successful in finding 2 units that were going to place the people that were going to be there, but are working in looking into the private market trying to find additional units. City Center is also working with a job search company and have been able to place 9 people into jobs.

- NAMI- Thank you to everyone who supported the NAMI Walk. This has been the largest turn out and were about 95% into the fundraising goal.
 - Step Up Ventura- Fundraiser Wine & Chocolate coming up this Sunday June 5th. Also, joining with Project Understanding for a fundraiser Run at Kimball Park at 9am Sunday June 5th.
 - Talking points of best practice to areas distributed last meeting to be sent to Sue or Judy
- VIII. Report from May 12 City of Ventura Homeless Subcommittee action:
- Update from Judy: Action was taken on getting information on the recalibrated 10-year plan. What that action is? Still unknown but action was taken. Next meeting is schedules for the City Council Homeless subcommittee is at 4pm on June 9th.
- IX. Report on youth Homelessness (Monica Vergara):
- Presentation handout was given to members (an electronic copy will be emailed)
 - Provided information about Interface programs: Street Outreach Program and Basic Center Program and provided Youth Crisis line information
 - Discussed facts, causes, and effects of youth homelessness
- X. Focus on collaboration as a part of our mission (Discussion)
- Business partnerships: trying to get the business community more involved. Linda will lead in some discussion in August in how we can best work with the business community and collaborate with them. August topic: Business Community
- XI. Old Business:
- Web page: committee has not met
 - Laura's Law implementation: Bringing stake holders together and educating and responding to questions that people have. Nothing new. NAMI is working on letter of commitment to expand services.
 - July 4th street fair Debora Schrieber: Volunteers needed for the 4th of July Street Fair or on July 3rd for preparation for the event. If anyone who was previously homeless can come out to help out at the booth, please contact Debora Schrieber.
- XII. **Next steps for 6/13/16:**
- City Council to receive from staff a report regarding possible zoning changes and possible zoning sites. Also looking at fees. Not obligated to vote that night, but we need speakers at the meeting. Who will represent VSSTF? → Pam will go, but not sure if she will speak, Kate will go, Deborah? Harold? Ben?
 - **Motion:** for VSSTF Steering committee to put together a letter combining the information gathered and send to city council. Approved
 - Needing providers to attest to the importance for shelter with onsite services
- XIII. Steering Committee has met with John and Susan from Rescue Mission
- July 10th tour. Rescue Mission culinary program will be providing lunch
 - Will be meeting with local service providers

Meetings:

1. Faith Subcommittee Church of Christ,(Bryn Mawr) Ventura 3:00 pm 6/22/16 Pam Marshall pojcat@verizon.net
 2. Continuum of Care Housing and Services Committee 6/23/16, Ventura Community Foundation building, 4001 Mission Oaks Blvd, 10-12 am
 3. Bridge and Housing People Can Afford 6/21/16 2 pm, Orchard Community Church (Placid and Telephone Judy Alexandre judyalexandre@gmail.com
- XIV. Meeting Adjourn
- XV. Next Meeting is July 6, 3:15 pm., Catholic Charities building (Family to Family) 300 N. Ventura Ave #E

Linda Rossi will bring copies of the agenda and of the minutes for our July meeting. Thank you!

Brian Brennan will be bringing guest copies of the agenda and the minutes in August. Thank you!