

Monthly Meeting Minutes 5/3/17 3:15 pm, 300 N. Ventura Ave. 93001

Ventura Social Service Task Force

Attendees: Judy Alexandre, Jerry Breiner, Brian Brennan, Peter Brown, David Deutsch, Sonja Flores, Jennifer Harkey, John Sanders Jones, Steven Karnazes, Robert March, Miguel Marquez, Pam Marshall, Kate Mills, Melissa Ramirez, Chris Russell, Karol Schulkin, Tony Serrano, Sandra Troxell

- I. Call to order
- II. Introductions (Thoughts on what needs to be the next step for VSSTF re: the shelter and housing)
 - a. Pam Marshall wants to focus on chronic homelessness
 - b. Sonja Flores wants to see general plan refinement
 - c. Karol Schulkin - Stay engaged & alert on goal to bring in year round shelter
 - d. Jerry Breiner - What are the obstacles to getting the year round shelter approved?
 - e. Kate Mills:
 - i. Continue to identify shelter aspects
 - ii. Press on need for affordable housing
 - iii. Need to push for job creation to help sustain people in housing
 - f. Melissa Ramirez - Need to identify what types of programs & services should be put in place
 - g. Jennifer Harkey - We need to make sure there is landlord engagement
 - i. To ensure that Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing (VASH) & Section 8 vouchers are accepted
 - h. David Deutsch - Reach out to organizations with history of developing shelters as an advisor or even full partner
 - i. John Jones - Check out understandhomelessness.com
 - j. Steven Karnazes - Currently dealing with a lawsuit from one of the Winter Warming Shelter (WWS) clients
 - k. Sandra Troxell - Wants to make sure that we link permanent housing with the year round shelter
 - l. Judy Alexandre - Reiterates Jerry Breiner's question
 - i. What will Ventura commit to?
 - ii. What will Ventura do to make sure the shelter happens?
 - iii. How do we push for housing?
 1. Some shelter operators require available housing before they will build a shelter
 2. Housing doesn't have to be at site of shelter; it can be a bridged program
 - iv. Side comment - Mayor Nasarenko asked Judy about the homeless youth report
- III. Approval of or changes to the agenda for 5/3/17 as emailed - MSC
- IV. Approval of or changes to the minutes of 4/5/17 as emailed - MSC
- V. Treasurer's report (Dave Schmutte)

- a. No change to balance (\$3,837.51).
- VI. **New Business:**
- a) Recuperative care (presented by Sandra Troxell)
 - a. Will start operations on 7/1/17
 - b. 5 hospitals associated with program:
 - i. Los Roblas, Simi Valley, St. John's, CMH & VCMC
 - c. Currently 12 beds (on Oak St., Ventura)
 - i. Provide 3 meals/day
 - ii. No set length of stay (determined on case-by-case basis)
 - d. Referral process:
 - i. Discharge planner at hospital to social worker from National Health Foundation (NHF)
 - e. NHF social worker will work with clients to find transitional housing
 - f. Nurse on staff from 0800-1700
 - i. Oversees medications
 - ii. Not intended to provide medical services
 - 1. Clients must be somewhat ambulatory
 - g. Karol Schulkin comments/questions:
 - i. Confirms that all referrals are homeless
 - 1. Program will strive to adhere to HUD guidelines
 - ii. Will program affect number of (Salvation Army?) shelter beds?
 - 1. Sandra Troxell - possibly
 - h. Kate Mills answer to question- Ventura County Human Service Agency (HSA) & RAIN will maintain 5 beds
 - i. Judy Alexandre - What happens when medical issues arise?
 - i. Sandra Troxell - will have to call emergency services
 - b) Homeless count (presented by Jennifer Harkey)
 - a. Shelter and street count conducted on 3/23 & 3/24
 - i. 9% decrease from prior year, possibly due to:
 - 1. street outreach
 - 2. rapid rehousing programs
 - b. Ventura - 2016 count was 300; 2017 count was 301
 - c. Number of chronically homeless people increased
 - i. Need to focus on serving this population
 - d. Report breaks down population by jurisdiction
 - e. Ventura County families in count dropped from 17 to 12
 - i. Rapid rehousing efforts appear to be working
 - f. Homeless Count Report available at <http://www.venturacoc.org/>
 - g. Housing Inventory:
 - i. 45 Vet vouchers
 - 1. VASH vouchers are for chronically homeless vets with mental (or physical?) disabilities

- 2. Trying to get lists of veterans to help them get the vouchers
 - h. Homeless Count - A snapshot of the situation
 - i. The cold, wet winter could have caused some reduction in the reported numbers
 - ii. There is resentment among homeless population in that they are told the count affects money coming in, but there appears to be no change in their situation; this resentment may also lead to lower participation in the count.
 - i. Pam Marshall – COC recommends that each city needs to take direct responsibility of their homeless populations
- VII. **Reports:** (by agencies and individuals as needed)
- a) City of Ventura (Peter Brown)
 - a. City is interested in developing relationship with PATH (People Assisting The Homeless) to learn:
 - i. Best practices
 - ii. Recommendations on designs of programs, buildings, etc.
 - iii. Jerry Breiner asks if PATH would be involved in transitional housing
 - iv. Judy Alexandre notes that people have seen PATH’s efforts in San Diego & Los Angeles
 - b. Steve Karnazes - Are any local organizations (churches, advocacy groups) offering to work with the city on a shelter?
 - i. Peter Brown - Ventura will have go through a formal request for proposal (RFP) process
 - 1. Have had preliminary conversations with Project Understanding, but seems unlikely at this point.
 - ii. Pam Marshall - Faith Subcommittee is putting out info on what is happening with shelter plans
 - 1. Intends for Faith Subcommittee to host a workshop to involves congregations on how they can be involved as plans progress
 - b) City Stakeholders group (Karol Schulkin)
 - a. Had participated in creation of overlay zone map; work is now complete
 - b. Have been asked to continue working
 - i. Group agreed as long as housing & shelter aspects are still being worked
 - c) Continuum of Care (Jennifer Harkey)
 - a. Presentation to the County Board of Supervisors on 5/23
 - i. Covering the homeless count and state of homelessness in the county
 - d) Homeless Prevention Fund (Brian Brennan)
 - a. In April - 5 households assisted, keeping 10 adults & 10 children from becoming homeless
 - b. Current funding = \$2400

- i. As rents rise, the funding gets spent more quickly
 - c. Have been getting support from various churches (Mission Church especially)
 - d. Karol Schulkin recommends applying for Emergency Food and Shelter Program (EFSP) funding next year
 - e. Brian Brennan - had meeting with Johnson Gill (head of Ventura County Health Agency)
 - i. Discussed medical outreach
 - ii. Currently seeing lice and scabies outbreaks
 - iii. Street outreach includes decontamination and medication
- e) Faith Subcommittee of VSSTF (Pam Marshall)
 - a. 2015 - Partners For Change group
 - i. The bluebook(resources and what local congregations are doing) put together by the Faith sub Committee is being updated
 - b. Next newsletter coming out in June
 - i. Inviting congregations to talk about what they are doing to combat homelessness
 - ii. Judy Alexandre asked:
 1. Steve Karnazes to write about the WWS for the newsletter
 2. Brian Brennan to send info about the Homeless Prevention Fund to the subcommittee
- f) Housing report...number housed this month, last 6 months by Salvation Army, Turning point Foundation, Project Understanding, St. Vincent de Paul, other)
 - a. No reports this month.
 - b. Currently no collaborative effort.
- g) VSSTF Shelter & Housing Subcommittee (Jerry Breiner)
 - a. Shelter will only be the first step.
 - b. Want clarification on:
 - i. If limited service shelter is approved, is that the only one allowed in the new zone as per the ordinance?
 - ii. What is meant by day services?
 - c. Recommends a field trip to Anaheim to check out Mercy House.
 - i. Mercy House has contract with Orange County, Santa Ana, others.
 - ii. Family Promise is offering their van to drive a vanload on field trip to check out shelters.
 - d. Will need a significant designated permanent funding source (bond, tax, etc.)
 - e. Need to identify properties for the shelter
 - i. If new construction is required on vacant land, will be subject to "net zero" water fees:
 1. The "net zero" ordinance imposes a one-time fee of \$26,457 for every acre foot of new water a development needs (as reported in 6/16 VC Star)
 2. Judy Alexandre - the fee affects the ability to design a shelter

1. Cannot provide homeless prevention services except in Oxnard.
 2. Close to new fiscal year, so we'll know more when the new budget is developed.
- e. Housing Authority of San Buenaventura is in the process of applying
 - i. There is a 9 acre site in Saticoy for veterans' housing
 1. Request for Proposal (RFP) has been submitted.
 2. 3 phases:
 - a. Homeless veterans
 - b. Senior veterans
 - c. Families with veterans
 - f. People's Self Help - Tony Serrano
 - i. Applying for grants to increase support to have a full-time social worker in Ventura
- VIII. **Discussion** (as time allows)
- a) Karol Schulkin - In Santa Barbara, a 2 story building is opening that can provide very affordable housing to 40 families
 - b) Habitat For Humanity - currently selecting 6 families for new housing development in Oxnard.
- IX. Other
- X. **Adjourn. Next Meeting is June 7, 2017**, 300 N. Ventura Ave 93001, 3:15 pm (Note: The city of Ventura will bring the extra minutes and agenda for guests)
- XI. **Meetings:**
- Faith subcommittee of VSSTF: May 24, 2017 3 pm; Church of Christ (Bryn Mayr and Telegraph), Pam Marshall pojcat@verizon.net
 - Family Promise of West Ventura County May 4, 7pm, Orchard Community Church (Telephone and Placid), library; rick Pearson rpearson@rhetorick.com
 - City of Ventura Homeless & Housing Subcommittee, City Hall, May 10, 4pm (2nd Wednesday of every month at 4pm)
 - Shelter and housing subcommittee of VSSTF May 16, 3 pm Orchard Community church library, Ron Mulvillhill ron@housinginnovationsandsolutions.com (3rd Tuesday of every month at 3pm)
 - Homeless Prevention Fund (VSSTF, Inc) June 21, 4pm, Unitarian Universalist Church, Ventura Sue Brinkmeyer sbrink@glendale.edu or Brian Brennan brian.brennan@ventura.org
 - Continuum of Care housing and Services subcommittee May 18, 10-12 am, Ventura County Community Foundation Building; 4001 Mission Oaks Blvd., Camarillo Clyde Reynolds cbreynolds@roadrunner.com or Ron Mulvillhill.
 - NAMI Run john jones johnsandersjones@gmail.com
 - 4th of July table Debora Schreiber kaloramaco@hotmail.com