

Monthly Meeting Minutes 10/4/17

3:15 pm, 300 N. Ventura Ave, Ventura, CA 93001

Ventura Social Service Task Force

Attendees: Judy Alexandre, Brian Brennan, Gane Brooking, Peter Brown, Kevin Clerici, Sonja Flores, Jennifer Harkey, Steven Karnazes, Robin Lerner, Christy Madden, Robert March, Miguel Marquez, Pam Marshall, Ron Mulvihill, Clyde Reynolds, Jan Schmutte, Karol Schulkin, Sandra Troxell, Clyde Reynolds, Jim Duran, Kate Mills, Jerry Breiner, Jim Monahan, and others

- I. Call to order
- II. Introductions
 - A. Judy Alexandre - Provided the group with an opportunity to react to recent news (in general).
- III. Approval of or changes to the agenda for 10/4/17 as emailed - MSC
- IV. Approval of or changes to the minutes for 9/6/17 as emailed - MSC
- V. Treasurer's Report (Dave Schmutte) - Balance is \$3,271.46
- VI. Old Business
 - A. Judy Alexandre thanked Kevin Clerici, Jennifer Harkey & Clyde Reynolds for writing the letter to the Measure O committee.
 - B. Report from the Measure O oversight committee meeting (Judy Alexandre & others were present)
 1. Result of VSSTF lobbying with the city was a staff recommendation to allocate \$300K for FY18 for shelter, housing & services (instead of \$0, which was in the initial budget).
 - a) FY18 budget was approved by committee
 2. VSSTF (& affiliated people) requested 5% of Measure O funds going forward (~\$400K-600K/year)
 3. Pam Marshall felt good about the meeting.
 4. Jennifer Harkey - Notes that one of the committee members requested education about what was being done about homelessness & affordable housing
 5. Peter Brown - The city will probably approve the budget on 10/16/17.
 6. Steven Karnazes - Suggests sending a thank you letter to the city for the new budget. - MSC
 - a) Judy Alexandre - The thank you letter should mention our intention to provide education on the issues.
 - C. Next step for dealing with Measure O
 1. Ron Mulvihill - It is important to continue educating & communicating with the committee.
 2. Karol Schulkin - Education should include discussing the importance of annual funding to allow for planning & for getting matching funds.

3. Kevin Clerici - Not clear about the role of the oversight committee.
 - a) Peter Brown - The committee is intended to be an approval body for staff recommendations (not an idea body).
4. Ron Mulvihill - We need representation at 10/16 city council meeting to express support for the proposed budget.
 - a) Pam Marshall & Gane Brooking volunteered to attend. Note Pam and Judy attended.
5. Kevin Clerici - We need clarification about who we need to advocate with.
 - a) And clarify authority & role of the committee.

VII. Winter Warming Shelter (WWS) Update

- A. Christy Madden - There is a request for proposals (RFP) on the street for a shelter (\$750K)
 1. Too steep of an investment for the county to allow use of the juvenile justice complex for WWS
 2. The county is committed to a permanent shelter.
 3. On the RFP - asked for preliminary response within one week
 - a) Already finding multiple operators refusing to bid.
 - (1) Outside mission
 - (2) Can't mobilize in time
 - (3) Others don't see local support for a permanent shelter & don't want to work with the community as a result.
 4. Funding from county has to go towards best practices.
 5. May need to go back to the Armory.
 6. Not able to find a warehouse (or similar) to rent.
 7. No suitable county property is available for the winter.
 8. Even using tents, there is no place to set up.
- B. Peter Brown - Ventura is still considering the Ventura Armory.
 1. The standard 1800-0600 operating hours would be available.
 2. Could request 12/25 & 1/1 plus inclement weather options.
 3. \$440 per 12 hour period just for rent.
 4. Anticipate \$60K each from Oxnard & Ventura, and \$120K from the county.
 5. No operator on board yet.
 6. Still hope for 12/1 opening.
- C. Steven Karnazes - Need \$330K just to get an operator working for cost.
- D. Christy Madden - County funding not so restricted to locations.
- E. Judy Alexandre - Where is our voice helpful & in what way?
- F. Pam Marshall - fears that there will not be a WWS this year
 1. Steven Karnazes - Believes that the faith-based community will step up if necessary, though in a probably extralegal fashion.
- G. Christy Madden - A permanent year-round shelter will cost \$750K - \$1M / year to operate
 1. The juvenile justice center is not available for the year-round shelter.

- H. Steven Karnazes - Has anyone asked the medical reserve corps about tents?
 - 1. Christy Madden - It's the wrong funding source for tents.
- I. Judy Alexandre - Who in the faith community would run a WWS?
 - 1. Jim Duran - Would be ready to help.
 - 2. Steven Karnazes - Mission Church would be able to help.
 - 3. If 2 congregations are willing to act as hosts:
 - a) Who would they need to meet?
 - b) What would they have to do?
 - c) How to avoid punishment?
 - d) What kind of support is needed?
- J. Christy Madden - The county has an interest in operating a WWS.
 - 1. Operators are interested only if there is a path forward to a permanent shelter
 - a) Steven Karnazes - This sounds unlikely by next March.
- K. Judy Alexandre - We may have the Armory, but nothing is signed. There is no financial commitment, no operator.
 - 1. What can we do?
 - 2. Christy Madden - It is very dependent on political will.
 - a) The 400-bed shelter in Orange County was stood up in 29 days.
- L. Judy Alexandre - What is the next step regarding this winter?
 - 1. Pam Marshall - Advocate at the city council.
 - 2. Judy Alexandre - WWS needs to be on the agenda for 10/16.(request made, and not put on the agenda)
 - 3. Karol Schulkin - Ask the city what it needs to get to a position where it can commit to opening a permanent shelter.
 - 4. Jim Monahan - Feels that there should be county-wide support since people come to Ventura from other cities.
 - a) Christy Madden - Policy statement
 - (1) Homelessness is a local problem.
 - (2) Continuum of Care will lead.
 - (3) Each community needs to develop its own solution.
 - (a) There is a fear that any shelter that opens will be flooded with clients from other cities.
 - b) Clyde Reynolds - Is there any will for a county-run shelter?
 - 5. Oxnard is dependent on Ventura for WWS, but already has some permanent shelters.
 - a) Steven Karnazes - Oxnard is clear that it will not host WWS this year.
 - 6. Judy Alexandre - City & county will continue to work on Armory, but we need to consider a parallel path.
 - a) Asked Steve Karnazes, Jim Duran & Peter Brown to brainstorm about how the faith community might step in.
 - b) Ron Mulvihill - Don't just give the city an easy out on WWS
 - (1) Use leverage to make progress & create political will.

7. Miguel Marquez - We need a solution, because of the human consequences, regardless of the progress on a permanent shelter.
8. Christy Madden - The county needs a letter from the city (not staff) looking for assistance.
 - a) Judy Alexandre - Ask the city to declare the need for a year-round shelter & request help from the county to proceed (i.e. to begin cooperative action with the county)
 - (1) Judy will write a letter to several city council members to try and get WWS onto the 10/16 meeting agenda.
 - (a) Letter will be strong but realistic.
 - (i) Will note the possibility of no WWS this year.
 - (ii) Faith community needs to be ready to step in as a backup if the WWS falls through.
9. Christy Madden - The RFP is for WWS with consideration for being the operator of the permanent shelter.
10. Jennifer Harkey - The acquisition of a property is the key to moving forward on the permanent shelter.
 - a) Shelter operators need a solid commitment by the city.
11. Steven Karnazes - Ask the city council for a property to show the operators, not just a letter!
12. Christy Madden - actively looking for property in SB-2 zone
 - a) Only property that was available is now off the market.
 - b) County has property in the zone, but it is not available this winter.
13. Sonja Flores - In Santa Paula, Kay Wilson-Bolton runs a shelter
14. Christy Madden - 24 years ago, there was a weather-trigger shelter system
 - a) Could that happen again?
 - b) Steven Karnazes - We might be able to use mass-texting to tell people that a weather-trigger shelter is open
 - c) Karol Schulkin - weather-trigger used to be temperature- and precipitation-based.
 - d) Judy Alexandre - Mission Church offered to serve as weather-trigger shelter in the past.

VIII. New Business

- A. Tabled until next month.

IX. Announcements

- A. Jan Schmutte - Family To Family fundraiser on 10/27 at Poinsettia Pavilion from 5:30 - 8:30 PM. Intended to cover various repairs.
- B. Robin Lerner - Family Promise is holding a brainstorming meeting in January.
- C. Pam Marshall - VSSTF Faith subcommittee is waiting to see what city does next.
- D. Jim Duran - Team Up Against Domestic Violence is being hosted by The City Center Transitional Living and will take place on Thursday, October 12 from 6 to 8pm at The River Community Church.

- E. Sonja Flores - VHA - proposal for veterans' site in Ventura
 - 1. Project to include units for homeless vets, vets with families, senior vets.
- F. Clyde Reynolds - CoC resolution is being updated
- G. Brian Brennan - Ventura Homeless Prevention Fund currently >\$4400 (thanks to Salvation Army).
- H. Kevin Clerici - Homeless Memorial Service on 12/17
- I. Judy Alexandre - Step Up Ventura now operating
 - 1. Applications in for 10 children
 - 2. Slow getting vouchers from CDR
 - 3. Parents getting cash aid have priority over homeless parents.
 - 4. Ready to hire second mental health specialist.
- X. Adjourn; Next meeting is November 1, 2017, 3:15 pm; 300 N. Ventura Ave.
- XI. Meetings:
 - A. Faith Sub Committee of VSSTF October 25, 3:00 pm Church of Christ Bryn Mawr and Telegraph Pam Marshall pojcat@verizon.net
 - B. City of Ventura Homeless and Housing Subcommittee City Hall, October 11, 4 pm
 - C. Sheltering and Housing subcommittee of VSSTF October 17 3:00 pm library of Orchard Community Church (Telephone and Placid) Ron Mulvillhill
ron@housinginnovationsanadsolutions.com
 - D. Homeless Prevention Fund 3rd Wednesday, 4:00 PM, Unitarian Universalist Church (Ralston) new point person is Roland Barrio. Does not meet every month.
 - E. Continuum of Care Alliance meeting Oct 19 10-12 am. (tara.carruth@ventura.org); Housing and services subcommittee at 9:00 am (Clyde Reynolds (cbreynolds@roadrunner.com) 4001 Mission Oaks Blvd, Camarillo Community Foundation Building
 - F. Homes for All, check with John Jones johnsandersjones@gmail.com.
 - G. Open mic at City Council November 6.