

Monthly Meeting Minutes 3/1/17

Ventura Social Service Task Force

3:15, Catholic Charities Building 300 N Ventura Ave 93001

Attendees: Judy Alexandre, Robert March, Cappi Patterson, Debi Reeves, Brian Brennan, Mich Moret, Ron Mulvihill, Steven Karnazes, Jan Schmutte, Peter Brown, Pam Marshall, Kappy Paulson, Eric Prieto, Chris Chalquest, Harold Cartlidge, Kathy Powell, Karol Schulkin, John Jones, Deborah Schreiber, Neal Andrews, David Deutsch, Melissa Perezchica-Ramirez, Kate Mills, Jennifer Harkey, Tony Serrano, Karyn Bates, Karen Baptiste

- I. Call to order
  - a. Judy Alexandre noted that the goal of the VSSTF after establishing permanent beds is to focus on development of extremely affordable housing in Ventura.
- II. Introductions (Name, who you represent and a 1 sentence reaction to either the new ordinance regarding behavior in the park or 1 question/concern about the council meeting on 3/20)
  - a. Brian Brennan - Introduced Debi Reeves & Cappi Patterson who represent Buddy Nation (advocates for homeless animals)
  - b. Harold Cartlidge - Sue Brinkmeyer has stepped down as head of LUYV (Lift Up Your Voice), with Harold taking her place
  - c. Multiple people expressed opposition to the new park ordinance in general
  - d. Some noted that it is a fine balance for the ordinance, because some park policing is necessary, but homeless people need access to bathrooms (amongst other things)
- III. Approval of or changes to the agenda for 3/1/17 as emailed (MSC)
- IV. Approval of or changes to the minutes of 2/1/17 as emailed (MSC)
- V. Treasurers report (Dave Schmutte)
  - a. No change to balance (\$3,837.51)
- VI. **New Business:**
  - a) Presentation by the Ventura Bike Hub (15 minutes; Toby Smith) - Did not happen.
  - b) Recuperative Care report (Sandra Troxell, Salvation Army)
    - a. Sandra not present to provide full report
    - b. Recuperative Care report approved at 2/28 Supervisors Meeting
      - i. Likely a while before beds are open
      - ii. Brian Brennan - Supervisors voted to add more funding to mental health for transitional youth
      - iii. Steven Karnazes - People currently being discharged from hospitals & going directly to shelters
      - iv. When facility is ready to open, the task force will get more details
      - v. Neal Andrews - How many beds are projected & what is the expected length of stay?
      - vi. Peter Brown - Average length of stay should be 3-5 days.
      - vii. There was discussion of the role of the Sr. Ombudsman, who is intended

to check out and report problems in skilled nursing homes.

1. The Sr. Ombudsman is important if there are concerns about the care a client receives in recuperative care.

- c) NAMI (National Alliance On Mental Illness) Walk - 5/6/2017
  - a. John Jones is the point person to take names of participants.
- d) Judy Alexandre proposed sending an appropriate thank you gift to Sue Brinkmeyer for her community service. (MSC)

VII. **Old Business:**

- a) Planning for planning commission on 3/8
  - a. There is need for a VSSTF presence, but it is not urgent to have a large crowd
    - i. VSSTF needs someone to speak for the task force in support of staff recommendations
  - b. 2 people from city's homeless stakeholders group presenting information on:
    - i. Cost of housing in Ventura vs.
    - ii. Salaries vs.
    - iii. Vacancy Rates
  - c. Planning Commission role is as an advisory board
    - i. Provide non-binding recommendations on any proposed developments in Ventura
- b) Planning for meeting at City Council on 3/20 (who will speak, talking points, attendance) {Judy Alexandre}; info from housing and sheltering sub-committee (Ron Mulvilhill/Jerry Breiner)
  - a. VSSTF has been working on establishing permanent beds in Ventura for 24 years
  - b. This meeting is for voting on the proposed zoning plan only
  - c. The zoning plan is the first item on the council agenda
  - d. VSSTF is not attending this meeting in an adversarial position, but rather a supportive one
    - i. TF is backing the work by staff & consultants
    - ii. TF wants strong attendance to demonstrate to the council that the proposed zoning change has the support of the community
  - iii. General plan is to:
    1. Show support for the plan
    2. Commend the council for moving forward
    3. Be positive!
    4. Show that people care.
    5. Signs are okay, keep message positive: "We support zoning change"
  - iv. 4 speakers are planned:
    1. Judy Alexandre
    2. Kate Mills
    3. Faith Community Selectee

- a. Judy Alexandre will send a letter to Rabbi Lisa & Jim Duran to get recommended speaker
  - 4. Social Services Community Selectee
    - a. Judy Alexandre will send a letter to Sandra Troxell, Ben Unseth and Jason Meek to get recommended speaker
  - v. Need to be prepared for organized opposition (Paul White)
    - 1. Kathy Powell - Important to have counter argument to “wet beds” talking point
    - 2. We want “dry beds”, which are provided in conjunction with social services
    - 3. Karol Schulkin - Many bes to allow for tobacco use or pysch meds
  - vi. Steven Karnazes - Volunteered to speak briefly on the value of offering social services at the Winter Warming Shelter (WWS)
  - vii. Peter Brown - Will people who don’t live at the shelter be allowed to use the social services?
    - 1. The desire is that anyone can use the services once the shelter is opened
  - viii. Steven Karnazes - number 1 complaint (about WWS) is about impact to environment (e.g. vomit on steps)
    - 1. Need to have answer to this concern for council meeting
  - ix. Judy Alexandre - once the zoning change is approved, then it is possible to start asking developers to provide plans for a proposed shelter
  - x. Ron Mulvihill - In process of seriously looking at developing a site working within the recommendations of the zoning change
  - xi. Judy Alexandre - Thanks to Peter Brown for his advice on the upcoming council meeting
- c) Follow up re Laura’s law (response to questions raised in Feb.) [Mary Haffner]
  - a. Mary Haffner not present to answer questions
  - b. Note that it is necessary to call approved personnel (e.g. RISE or similar) to get help to people
  - c. David Deutsch - It takes 6-8 months before people really start to use the services.
    - i. People coming out of prison need to get pointed to the Telecare services by parole officers
  - d. Probation officers appear to know more about how to use Laura’s Law than Parole officers.
    - i. Need to make sure that law enforcement (in general) is educated about Laura’s Law.
- d) Report on winter warming shelter (Steve Karnazes)

- a. Steven Karnazes
  - i. Total End Users (with at least 1 stay) = 550
  - ii. Total Stays = 8,148 (Dec = 2,039; Jan = 2,988, Feb = 3,121)
  - iii. Total Meals Served = 16,300
  - iv. Shelter held a Super Bowl Party
  - v. Karol Schulkin brought Valentine's Day goodies for clients
  - vi. Orchard Church brought large # of oatmeal packets
  - vii. Because of National Guard exercises, the shelter is moving across the street from 3/3 at 0600 and moving back to the armory on 3/6 at 1600 (any extra help in moving is appreciated)
- b. Peter Brown
  - i. WWS costs \$2,940/night to run
  - ii. City of Ventura loaned program \$44k last year, which was only repaid on 2/28
    - 1. New accounting head for Ventura is asking how we can be assured that Ventura gets paid back for future loans
  - iii. City of Oxnard gave another \$15K on 2/28 (total provided is \$84k from general fund and community block grants)
  - iv. City of Ventura has given \$60K (\$30k general fund/\$30k community block grants) in addition to proposed \$40k loan
  - v. County of Ventura has provided \$120k from general fund
  - vi. WWS will close on 3/17 if the \$40K loan from the City of Ventura doesn't come through
- e) Sabbath Weekend follow up
  - a. The response to the video has been positive so far.
  - b. Thanks to Rabbi Lisa & Jim Duran for their hard work!

**VIII. Reports:**

- 1) Faith sub-committee (Pam Marshall)
  - a. Sponsored 2 workshops (September?) following city council meeting vote on 3/20 to work with social services & faith community to help get people involved
- 2) Continuum of Care report (Jennifer Harkey)
  - a. COC board meeting on 3/8 at 1300
  - b. Emergency Solutions Grants (ESG) recommendations - 4/12
  - c. Alliance meeting - 4/20
- 3) Homeless Prevention fund (Brian Brennan, Sue Brinkmeyer)
  - a. Brian Brennan - not much use of the \$7,488 grant fund so far
    - i. There are criteria for using the funds
    - ii. This year, 4 adults & 4 children have been helped
    - iii. Since 2007, HPF has helped:
      - 1. 443 children
      - 2. 663 adults

3. 423 households
      - b. Karol Schulkin - lack of demand may be from Emergency Food and Shelter Program (EFSP) funding going to shelters
        - i. It may be easier to access money through other sources like the City of Oxnard
- IX. Other
  - a. Clean Comedy Night at Ventura Harbor on 4/1
    - i. Tickets available online from Step Up Ventura
- X. **Adjourn:** Next meeting will be on 4/5/17; 3:15, 300 N. Ventura Ave. Who will bring copies of agenda and minutes for quests?
- XI. **Meetings:**
  - Faith Sub Committee of VSSTF March 22. 2017, 3:00 Church of Christ (Bryn Mayr and Telegraph Pam Marshall [pojcat@verizon.net](mailto:pojcat@verizon.net))
  - Family Promise March 2, 2017 Orchard Community church, 8180 Telephone Rd (Telephone and Placid) Library Rick Pearson [rpearson@rhetorick.com](mailto:rpearson@rhetorick.com)
  - City of Ventura Housing and Homeless Subcommittee 4:00pm March 9 City Hall
  - Shelter, housing and services Subcommittee of VSSTF Orchard Community Church library, 3pm, Ron Mulvilhill [ron@housinginnovationsandsolutions.com](mailto:ron@housinginnovationsandsolutions.com)
  - Continuum of Care Housing and services subcommittee, March 16, 10-12noon; Ventura County Community Foundation Building, 4001 Mission Oaks Blvd, Camarillo; Tara Carruth [tara.carruth@ventura.org](mailto:tara.carruth@ventura.org); Clyde Reynolds [cbreynolds@roadrunner.com](mailto:cbreynolds@roadrunner.com)
  - Homes for all, John Jones [johnsaandersjones@gmail.com](mailto:johnsaandersjones@gmail.com)
  - Homeless Prevention Fund contact Sue Brinkmeyer [sbrink@glendale.edu](mailto:sbrink@glendale.edu); Brian Brennan [brian.brennan@ventura.org](mailto:brian.brennan@ventura.org)
  - other