

Monthly Meeting Minutes 4/5/17 3:15 pm, 300 N. Ventura Ave. 93001

Ventura Social Service Task Force

Attendees: Judy Alexandre, Robert March, Manuel Minjares, Jerry Breiner, Miguel Marquez, Juliana McLaughlin, Rebecca McCloud, Antonio Rodriguez, Nicole Horne, Brian Brennan, Jan Schmutte, Pam Marshall, Ben Unseth, Erin Locklear, Tara Carruth, Fariborz Koozehkanani, Karol Schulkin, John Jones, Debora Schreiber, Neal Andrews, Melissa Perezchica-Ramirez, Kate Mills, Yvonne Adan, Michael Tweet, Peter Brown.

- I. Call to order
- II. Introductions (included reactions or thoughts regarding the council meeting of 3/20/17)
 - a. People expressed general disappointment with the City Council delaying the final passage of the zoning change until 4/10.
 - b. However, people did appreciate the excellent attendance of the meeting in support of the ordinance.
 - c. Judy Alexandre commented that a post-council meeting discussion gave her hope for future progress.
- III. Approval of or changes to the agenda for 4/5/17 as emailed (MSC).
 - a. Judy Alexandre noted that you must have attended 3 of the last 5 VSSTF monthly meetings to be eligible to vote on motions.
- IV. Approval of or changes to the minutes of 3/1/17 as emailed (MSC).
- V. Treasurer's report (Dave Schmutte)
 - a. No change to balance (\$3,837.51).
- VI. **New Business:**
 - a) Presentation of Laura's Law Implementation (Rebecca McCloud, Nicole Horne, Antonio Rodriguez) - Assist Program.
 - a. Dr. Schipper is director of Assist Program
 - b. Have received 4 year SAMHSA (Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration) grant for \$1M/year, plus an additional \$600K from the Ventura County Board of Supervisors.
 - c. Assist Program officially launched on 1/30/17, although it was in development for several years.
 - d. Intended to help people who keep going in and out of hospital
 - e. ACT (Assertive Community Treatment) based
 - f. In California, must allow people to voluntarily participate in program
 - i. Other states start immediately with court orders.
 - ii. Don't offer sanctions for failing to comply
 - iii. Can't force medications
 - iv. Can't require placement in locked facilities
 - v. Can't use physical restraints
 - g. Antonio Rodriguez presented referral sources (provided on handout)
 - i. Mostly family, roommates, or directors of agencies providing treatment

- h. Tara Carruth asked how homeless people get referrals, since many have no close relatives.
 - i. Judy Alexandre noted that this could be a mentally ill homeless person not at Hillmont, in jail or with family
 - ii. Rebecca McCloud - If called by a non-qualifying person (for referral), the person is automatically eligible for RISE (Rapid Integrated Support & Engagement).
 - iii. Nicole Horne - When RISE engages, a case history is started, which will help get Assist involved if necessary/possible.
 - i. Criteria for Assist AOT (Assisted Outpatient Treatment) Program (9 criteria must be met, list provided on handout)
 - i. Nicole Horne - Will check court documents for evidence of violent behavior.
 - ii. Jan Schmutte asked if all 9 criteria must be met.
 - 1. Rebecca McCloud - Yes, but still call. It will get RISE involved, which can possibly lead to Assist.
 - j. Neal Andrews - Concerned with reliance on referrals.
 - i. We should be going out to look for people who need help.
 - ii. Judy Alexandre - There are people too ill to recognize that they are ill.
 - 1. Outreach workers try to develop relationships with people in need of assistance.
 - 2. Outreach workers need stronger relationship with RISE personnel.
 - k. Karol Schulkin - What happens when there is a referral for someone who is homeless and meets the criteria?
 - i. Rebecca McCloud - It is possible for Ventura County Behavioral Health (VCBH) to provide short-term loans to help get housing
 - 1. Especially for people just coming out of prison.
 - 2. VCBH will help people fill out forms, look at places, etc.
 - ii. Note: Sober living facilities do not support the use of medications.
 - l. Update: As of 4/5/17
 - i. 42 Assist Calls
 - 1. 4 were information only
 - 2. 38 referrals
 - 3. 60% - family/friends
 - 4. 30% - mental health professionals
 - 5. 10% - other
 - ii. 11 through screening process with RISE & referred to Assist.
 - iii. 1 person is ready to proceed with Assist; several people are eligible and in the process.
 - m. Judy Alexandre requested electronic copies of VCBH presentation materials.
- b) Presentation by Ventura Bike Hub (Yvonne Adan, Michael Tweet)

- a. Michael Tweet - homeless for 12 years
 - i. Found support in community by learning how to work on bicycles.
 - ii. Wants to teach homeless people to be certified bicycle mechanics.
 - iii. Looking for ways to get referrals to program or walk-ins.
 - iv. WA man developed a design for a bicycle camper that is a very good temporary sleeping shelter.
 - v. Wants to do street outreach (e.g. to river bottoms).
- b. Judy Alexandre - On Mondays, people can go to Ventura Bike Hub (VBH) to earn bikes.
 - i. Earn bikes through work-trade credited at \$10/hour
 - ii. VBH can provide 3 levels of bike mechanic certification plus other skills (e.g. cashier)
- c. Michael Tweet - People can earn used bikes.
 - i. Haven't looked at how to provide parts yet.
- d. Yvonne Adan - VBH needs funding to pay for wages.
 - i. Karol Schulkin asked what is projected annual budget.
 - 1. Yvonne Adan noted \$56K.
- e. Miguel Marquez - what about liability for workplace injuries?
 - i. Someone answered - If someone gets referred to VBH & are injured, the referral agency is not held responsible.
 - ii. Pam Marshall noted that having people sign a waiver would be advisable.
- f. Ventura Bike Hub - (805) 641-2665
 - i. Tu, Th, Fr - 3-7pm; Sat - 11am-3pm.
 - ii. 1115 N. Ventura Ave, Ventura.
 - iii. action@vccool.org and toby@vccool.org
- g. Manuel Minjares - Met with VBH to discuss expansion into neighboring communities.
 - i. Feels that it could be helpful to River Haven.
- h. Judy Alexandre - Encourages agency reps to meet with VBH to develop a relationship and provide referrals.
- c) Recuperative Care update Sandra Troxell, Salvation Army (5 min)
 - a. Not covered, will be discussed at next month's meeting. The National Hospital Association will be making a presentation.

VII. Old Business:

- a) Update from city council meeting of 3/20/17 and plan for meeting on 4/10/17 (Judy Alexandre, Karol Schulkin, Jerry Breiner)
 - a. Jerry Breiner - The Shelter/Housing Subcommittee of VSSTF had a meeting with a potential partner for planning a shelter with services.
 - i. Very preliminary, but encouraging.
 - b. Peter Brown - Want people to take care to look only at the actual motions from the council meetings, as they are the only official statement/actions.
 - c. Judy Alexandre has asked 4 conservative clergy to write a letter to the VC Star

and the Citizens Journal in support of the Emergency Shelter Ordinance (as a response to recent letters published in opposition to the ordinance).

- d. Judy Alexandre indicated a need for some presence at the 4/10 council meeting.
 - i. Presence is intended to be thanking the council for the progress that they are making.
- e. Peter Brown - Staff is planning to ask for approval of the changes only.
 - i. Do not want to go through the entire presentation again.
- f. Neal Andrews - Got memo from Todd Collert with concerns about proposed changes to the ordinance.
 - i. Changes may make it too hard to move forward.
 - ii. May need to go back and address issues/flaws after the ordinance is approved.

b) Final report from the winter warming shelter (Peter Brown)

- a. Total End Users (with at least 1 stay) = 700+
- b. Total Stays = 10,699 (Dec = 2,227; Jan = 2,988, Feb = 2,915, March = 2,769)
- c. Total Meals Served = 21,000+
- d. Karol Schulkin requested a detailed breakdown of Ventura/Oxnard clients
 - i. Peter Brown - For every 5 clients, ~3 are from Oxnard, ~1 from Ventura & ~1 from elsewhere, but there will be a more detail provided later.

VIII. **Reports** (none presented...more time will be allowed next month for reports and from agencies)

- 1) No reports provided.

IX. Adjourn, **Next meeting** is May 3, 2017, 3:15; 300 N. Ventura Ave.

X. Meetings:

- Faith subcommittee of VSSTF April 26, 3:00pm ; Church of Christ (Bryn Mayr and Telegraph Pam Marshall pojcat@verizon.net)
- Family Promise May 4, 7:00 pm, Orchard Community Church, 8180 Telephone Rd (Telephone and Placid) Library, Rick Pearson rpearson@rhetorick.com
- City of Ventura Homeless and Housing subcommittee 4/12/17 4:00 pm City Hall
- Shelter, housing, services subcommittee of VSSTF, 4/18/17 3:00 pm Orchard Community Church, 8180 Telephone Rd, Library Ron Mulvilhill, ron@housinginnovationsandsolutions.com
- Homeless Prevention Fund (VSSTF, INC.) 4/19/17 4 pm. Unitarian Universalist Church, Ralston Sue Brinkmeyer sbrink@glendale.edu , Brian Brennan brian.brennan@ventura.org
- Continuum of Care April 20, 2017, 10 am.-12 noon; Ventura County Community Foundation Building, 4001 Mission Oaks Blvd, Camarillo Tara Carruth tara.carruth@ventura.org COC Housing and Services Subcommittee (including income sustainability) May 18, 2017 10 am-12 noon ; same location; Clyde Reynolds cbrreynolds@roadrunner.com, Ron Mulvilhill ron@housinginnovationsandsolutions.com.
- Contact John Jones for information regarding the **NAMI run** johsandersjones@gmail.com

- Contact Kevin Clerici kevin@downtownventura.org or Debora Schreiber kaloramaco@hotmail.com regarding the **4th of July table**
- Other

Need someone to bring 5 copies of agenda and minutes to our April meeting

Turning point foundation will bring copies for Guests in May, the City of Ventura will in June.

Thank you