

Monthly Meeting Minutes 11/7/18
3:15 pm, 300 N. Ventura Ave, Ventura, CA 93001

Ventura Social Services Task Force

Attendees: Judy Alexandre, Gane Brooking, Betsy Erickson, Jennifer Harkey, Veronica James, Jeffrey Lambert, Erin Locklear, Robert March, Pam Marshall, Alexa Martin, Marianne Norton, Cappi Patterson, Melissa Ramirez, Dana Worsnop

- I. Call to order - Judy Alexandre
 - A. We need to elect a new VSSTF chair next month.
 - B. It is important to bring new people into leadership roles.
- II. Introductions (Name, Organization, 1 sentence about changes you see or service gaps in care for or 1 thing that you want be state gratitude about in care for our homeless neighbors)
 - A. Veronica James - Sad that Prop 10 did not pass.
 - B. Dana Worsnop - We need better public transit.
 - C. Jeff Lambert - Happy to have brought Michael Tweet to speak at the Church Of The Foothills.
 - D. Melissa Ramirez - We need money to help families subsidize rent costs.
 - E. Jennifer Harkey - Grateful that Props 1 & 2 passed.
 - F. Pam Marshall - Need to work to address human trafficking and domestic violence.
 - G. Judy Alexandre - Need for ongoing regular daily hygiene care for homeless community.
- III. Approval of or changes to the minutes for 10/3/18 as emailed - MSC
 - A. Change to note the need for increased hygiene services availability.
- IV. Approval of or changes to the agenda for 11/7/18 as emailed. - MSC.
 - A. Judy Alexandre - Added item about discussing Bombas socks program. - MSC.
- V. Treasurer's Report - No report this month.
- VI. VSSTF offered thanks for the those who organized the two events honoring Neal Andrews.
- VII. Reports & Questions
 - A. Continuum of Care - Jennifer Harkey
 1. Data Committee met on 11/6
 - a) To develop recommendations for the board about Homeless Emergency Aid Program (HEAP) funding.
 - b) Applications for HEAP funding total \$18 million (Ventura County is eligible for \$4.8 million).
 - (1) Ranked applications on various criteria
 - (2) Money has to be spent by 6/2021.
 - c) Recommending \$1.5 million for **both** Oxnard & Ventura for pilot and permanent shelter (& other programs)
 - (1) Targeting 12/10/18 for opening pilot shelter.
 - d) UPDATE: Following table contains the approved HEAP allocations:

Applicant	Project Title	Service Area	Requested	Total Funding Recommendation
1.City of Oxnard	Homeless Shelter/Navigation Center + Safe Sleep	Oxnard	\$2,750,000	\$1,500,000
2.City of Ventura	Winter Pilot Shelter and permanent emergency shelter	Ventura	\$4,200,000	\$1,500,000
3. Interface Children & Family Services	Emergency Shelter (minor youth + TAY)	Countywide	\$1,318,290	\$800,000
4. Help of Ojai	HELP's Homeless Prevention & Services	Ojai Valley	\$125,000	\$125,000
4. The Salvation Army	Housing Location Program	Countywide	\$171,803	\$250,000
7. Turning Point Foundation	Our Place Safe Haven expansion	Countywide	\$171,697	\$171,697
5. SVDP Padre Serra Conference	Emergency Aid for Camarillo	Camarillo	\$45,000	\$45,000
6.SPIRIT of Santa Paula	Santa Paula Winter Warming Shelter	Santa Paula	\$170,228	\$170,228
7.CSUCI	CSUCSI Emergency Housing	CSUCI	\$196,425	\$53,110
	Administrative	-	-	\$242,897
	TOTAL	-	-	\$4,857,931.63

A. Continuum of Care (continued) - Jenn Harkey

- a. California Emergency Solutions and Housing (CESH)
 - i. Flexible housing subsidies.
- b. Hunger & Homelessness Awareness Week is 11/10-11/18.
- c. Point In Time Count - 1/22/19
 - i. Register on Volunteer Ventura County:
 1. <http://www.volunteerventuracounty.org/>

B. City of Ventura - Jeff Lambert

- a. Pleased with proposed \$1.5 million of HEAP funding for Ventura.
- b. Emergency Shelter Navigation Center Pilot (Winter Shelter)
 - i. To be located at Oxnard Armory
 - ii. Operating for 4-6 months starting in December.
 - iii. Mark Alvarado of Oxnard is doing great work.
 - iv. 24 hour shelter with services.
 1. Will need lunch donations.
 2. Breakfast & dinner to be catered.
 - v. Still no operator.
 1. Oxnard issued RFP (Request for Proposals) last week.
 2. Will need to hire team and organize volunteers.
 3. Mercy House (candidate for running permanent shelter) turned down offer to run pilot shelter.

- c. Permanent year-round shelter
 - i. Offer out to operator (Mercy House)
 - ii. Looking for input about layout.
 - iii. Hope to have operator locked in by end of year.
 - iv. No year round site found for Oxnard yet.
 - 1. Oxnard Armory is not eligible
 - a. Because it is in flight path of airport.
 - v. Negotiating with county on 50/50 cost sharing.
 - 1. And a tri-party agreement (Oxnard/Ventura/county) on managing the shelters.
 - vi. Tenant improvements - costs now anticipated to be much less than the \$4 million reported earlier
 - vii. Architect engaged to develop shelter design.
 - viii. On track to open shelter in ~12 months.
 - d. Foul Weather Shelter (FWS)
 - i. No current plan to have FWS this season
 - ii. Pam Marshall - In future, will be located where permanent shelters are located.
 - 1. This may not be a walk-in.
 - e. Safe Haven Shelter - really upgraded
 - i. Just had ribbon cutting ceremony
 - ii. Ventura is providing 3 years of CDBG (Community Development Block Grant) funding
 - f. River Haven
 - i. Had a delegation from Topeka, KS touring the site.
 - g. Safe & Clean Program
 - i. Currently interviewing candidates for a full-time manager of program
 - 1. Should be hired by early December
 - 2. Will work with Park Ambassadors and negotiating contracts for shelter.
 - h. Cappi Patterson - Very impressed with Mercy House (<https://mercyhouse.net/>)
 - i. Pilot shelter is one of a handful that allow pets
 - 1. Pet policy performance will be scrutinized at a national level.
- C. Housing Plans - Jeff Lambert
- a. Inclusionary Housing Ordinance
 - i. 15% set aside for affordable housing units on new construction
 - ii. Updating program next year.
 - 1. Will add in-lieu fee option.
 - 2. Planning Commission meeting in 1/2019
 - 3. City Council meeting in 2/2019
- D. Homeless Prevention Fund update - Judy Alexandre

- a. Is an organization under VSSTF, Inc., which can receive funds because it is a non-profit.
 - b. Sue Brinkmeyer provided the following report to Judy Alexandre:
 - i. Current balance = \$2,146.
 - ii. The Fund paid rent totaling \$1,600 in October and kept a father and his teenage daughter and a senior citizen in their homes.
 - iii. In CY2018, HPF has kept 61 people (23 children) from homelessness.
 - iv. Since 2007, HPF has prevented homelessness for 1,224 people (486 children).
 - v. Average cost to keep a household in their home has risen to \$987.
 - vi. Clients are paying, on average, 56% of income in rent.
 - c. Judy Alexandre - Since above report, balance is now negative.
 - i. Need new funds from churches, non-profits, private individuals.
- E. Agency Updates
- a. Turning Point - Judy Alexandre
 - i. Safe Haven - renovations complete; looks much better
 - 1. Good volunteer effort to assemble furniture, clean & prep kitchen, etc.
 - 2. Jennifer Harkey - as of 11/5, at full capacity
 - a. But now looking for River Haven applicants, because there are open billets.
 - i. Does cost \$300/month for tenants.
 - b. Call 211 for an assessment to get referrals to get into housing.
 - i. Can also go to One Stop on Tuesdays for similar assistance.
 - b. Veronica James - Suggests that a group meet with the city councillors-elect to discuss housing & homelessness.
 - i. Judy Alexandre - Advocacy community already has an appointment.
 - c. Interface Children & Family Services - Erin Locklear
 - i. Looking at expanding services for youths age 12-24.
 - ii. Want to also increase capacity within 211 services.
 - iii. Applied for funding to do street outreach assessments.
 - d. Ventura County Homeless Services - Melissa Ramirez
 - i. Adding another social working in 1/2019.
 - ii. Plan to have social workers at Pilot Shelter 2 days/week.
 - 1. To answer questions, do assessments, etc.
 - e. City Center / Tenderlife - Judy Alexandre
 - i. Both are full with waiting lists.
 - f. Lift Up Your Voice - Rob March / Veronica James
 - i. Memorial Service for our Homeless Neighbours - Saturday 12/15/18 at 3pm in Plaza Park.

- ii. No Room In Paradise screening at Unitarian Universalist Church of Ventura on 11/18 at 1130am.
- iii. Speaker's Program continues to show promise as graduates are becoming leaders in the homeless community (and good advocates for!)
- iv. Safe Sleep - UUCV location getting 6-8 guests per night.
 - 1. Ventura has not provided case management funding to Salvation Army in several years.
 - 2. Pilot shower program is down to 1 day/week for now.

VIII. Information Items

- A. Blanket Drive - Judy Alexandre
 - 1. VSSTF Faith Subcommittee is collecting new/used **clean, functional** blankets.
 - 2. Kathy Powell is coordinating collection & distribution.
- B. Bomba Socks - Judy Alexandre
 - 1. Looking for agency to be a sponsor.
 - 2. Company will donate in lots of 1000
 - a) Need agency to apply - simple grant fom.
 - (1) Jennifer Harkey offered to apply through COC & help distribute socks locally.
- C. Buddy Nation Cookbook - Cappi Patterson
 - 1. Miguel Marquez came up with idea.
 - 2. Please send recipes with anecdotes & pet pictures to ccparis@sbcglobal.net
 - 3. Judy Alexandre - Requested flyer to distribute via email.
- D. Clothing Collection & Suggestion for Thrift Shop voucher - Judy Alexandre
 - 1. No agency has storage space for clothing donations.
 - 2. **VOLUNTEER ACTION:** Need a point person to create a relationship with a local thrift store
 - a) To have store accept vouchers for clothing that will be donated by community
 - b) To collect **clean, usable** clothing & taken to the thrift shop that agrees to be part of program.

IX. VSSTF Faith Subcommittee Report - Pam Marshall

- A. New chair starting next year - Marianne Norton
- B. John Jones will be editing the newsletter.
- C. Working on updating resource book.
- D. Currently updating subcommittee mission.
- E. Next meeting on 11/28 at UUCV at 3pm (**NEW LOCATION**)

X. New chair/co-chair for VSSTF in 2019

- A. **ACTION** - Need candidates for heading up VSSTF.

XI. Next Month Agenda

- A. Sonja Flores will provide a summary on recent bills and passed propositions regarding housing.,

1. Judy Alexandre - Our overarching goal is pushing for very & extremely affordable housing in Ventura.

XII. Adjourn: Next meeting is **December 5, 2018, 3:15 pm, Catholic Charities Building.**

XIII. Meetings:

- A. Faith Sub Committee 11/28/18 Unitarian Universalist Church of Ventura, Ralston Ave, Ventura, Conference Room, Pam Marshall pojcat@verizon.net
- B. City of Ventura Council Housing and Shelter Committee - November meeting cancelled.
- C. Other meetings...
 1. Housing for Vulnerable populations, Homes for All are by invitation
 2. Continuum of Care will meet in Jan.
 3. Housing subcommittee of VSSTf needs a chair before it meets again.