

Monthly Meeting Minutes 8/1/18
3:15 pm, 300 N. Ventura Ave, Ventura, CA 93001

Ventura Social Services Task Force

Attendees: Judy Alexandre, Jerry Breiner, Brian Brennan, Nancy Broadhead, Gane Brooking, Sonja Flores, Veronica James, Jeffrey Lambert, Robert March, Clyde Reynolds, Jan Schmutte, Dana Worsnop

- I. Call to order
- II. Introductions (Name, Organization, brief sentence/question about housing or homelessness)
 - A. Gane Brooking - When could upper floors on Knoll Drive turn into transitional housing?
 - B. Jeff Lambert - City of Ventura currently looking for a homeless manager.
 - C. Jerry Breiner - When will the shelter open?
 - D. Clyde Reynolds - Where is the permanent supportive housing for people coming out of the shelter?
 - E. Dana Worsnop - How much work can we do for shelter aesthetics?
 - F. Rob March - What is the city's policy on a foul weather shelter due to heat?
 - G. Jan Schmutte - Will a winter shelter open before 12/15/18?
- III. Approval of or changes to the agenda for 8/1/18 as emailed
 - A. Judy Alexandre proposed change to add item about RPF review request (from one of the eligible shelter operators). - MSC
- IV. Approval of or changes to the minutes for 7/11/18 as emailed - MSC
- V. Treasurer's Report - Balance is \$3,398.96
- VI. Homeless Prevention Fund update - Judy Alexandre presenting
 - A. Working on getting word out that the fund exists!
 1. \$1500 available to applicants for one-time expenses
 - a) Paid directly to landlords
 - b) Applicants meet with a case manager at Salvation Army
 2. Jerry Breiner - Is there advertising for the fund?
 - a) Judy Alexandre - City of Ventura did some ads in the past, but the HPF is not authorized to spend money on ads.
 - b) Veronica James - volunteered to link to HPF on the Indivisible Ventura website.
- VII. AB 1971 Update - Judy Alexandre presenting.
 - A. This is legislation to change the criteria by which a person is determined to be "gravely disabled"
 - B. Mary Haffner reported before the meeting to Judy Alexandre:
 1. VSSTF, City of Ventura, NAMI sent letters
 - a) Judy Alexandre got calls from State Senate Judiciary & Appropriations Committees
 2. In a conference call, it was asked to at least include Ventura in the pilot program
 3. No testimony at the Senate Appropriations Committee on 8/6

- a) Word is that the committees don't want to get rid of the amendments
 - (1) Committee chair is Senator Anthony Portantino.

VIII. Update on year-round shelter

- A. Continuum of Care (COC) - Data & Evaluation Committee meeting in October in Camarillo
 - 1. Reviewing applications.
- B. Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) process underway
 - 1. More money for domestic violence cases.
 - 2. Potential money for affordable housing.
- C. Next COC board meeting on 9/12 at 1 pm at Ventura County Community Foundation in Camarillo
- D. Request For Proposals (RFP) for shelter open to 8/15
- E. Statewide NOFA for housing funds (associated with SB2)
- F. Jeffrey Lambert - Shelter Update
 - 1. Hope to have operator selected by 9/30
 - 2. 2 meetings on shelter details with Barry Zimmerman
 - 3. Working deadline to open shelter on 12/15
 - a) Will know by 10/1 if this is feasible
 - b) In order to open ASAP, considering interim improvements (temporary showers, etc.)
 - c) If not open by December, County directed to set up foul weather shelter
 - (1) Based on specific weather triggers (low temps, rain, etc.)
 - d) Board of Supervisors, Oxnard & Ventura - all voted to keep momentum on setting up year-round shelters; meeting bi-weekly.
 - 4. Job description coming next week for city homeless manager
 - 5. Comprehensive Homelessness Strategy (prepared by Beth Sutherland)
 - a) Draft to Stakeholders Group
 - b) Hope to release to public at workshop on 9/6 (at Poinsettia Pavilion)
 - 6. Council Homelessness Committee looking at possibly expanding Safe Sleep
 - a) Potential to expand at current locations; encourage new hosts.
 - 7. River Haven 2.0
 - a) City in talks with Turning Point about ongoing improvements
 - b) Whole Person Care pod operates 1 day/week
 - (1) City approved expanding to 2 days/week.
- G. Judy Alexandre - Asked about timing of using upper floors on Knoll Drive.
 - 1. Idea was not immediately shot down.
- H. Judy Alexandre - VOALA (Volunteers of America LA) asking to partner with VSSTF as a way to get community support for operating the shelter.
 - 1. Not comfortable with endorsing any applicant.
 - 2. VSSTF will decline to partner with VOALA; MSC.

IX. Faith Subcommittee Items - Judy Alexandre presenting

- A. Educational Workshop on Homelessness in Ventura - 9/6 - 5:30-8:30 PM

1. Poinsettia Pavilion, 3451 Foothill Road, Ventura
 2. Several groups speaking (~15 minutes each)
 3. Real People, Real Stories - 3 speakers
 - a) Graduates of recent speaker training at UU Ventura
 - (1) Dana Worsnop - Very impressed with course
 - (a) Uplifting, strength-based training.
 - (b) Follow-up meeting on 7/31 showed that the trainees are very enthusiastic about the training.
 4. Important to RSVP (with focused questions) - no open Q&A
 5. Purpose - To mobilize faith (& other) communities about what are next steps to take regarding homelessness
 6. Low-income housing developers are invited.
 7. Veronica James - offered to add event to Indivisible Ventura calendar
 - a) Judy Alexandre - yes, the event is open to all
- B. Candidate Forum for Ventura City Council - 10/4 from 7-9 PM at Temple Beth Torah
1. Rabbi Lisa Hochberg-Miller moderating
 2. Issues that impact Ventura
 - a) Focus on housing, homelessness, density
 3. Send questions to Judy Alexandre.
 - a) Both Y/N questions and long-form questions are expected.
 - b) Brian Brennan - Concerned that questions have potential to create political problems (if candidates feel forced to stake out a position)
 - (1) Clyde Reynolds - asked Brian for guidance on Y/N questions
 - c) Judy Alexandre - Questions are being fine-tuned by a large group
 - (1) Dana Worsnop & Jerry Breiner volunteered to assist.
- X. Strategies to end homelessness - brainstorming session
- A. What are the strategies for which we should advocate for ending homelessness?
 - B. Judy Alexandre - We need housing that all people can afford.
 1. Need an increase in variety of housing.
 2. Need wages that people can live on.
 - C. Brian Brennan - Need (equitable) rent control, i.e. win-win rent control
 1. Over time, landlords will not improve or maintain properties.
 - D. Nancy Broadhead - (Self) employment development/training for people who have trouble (coming out of prison, hospitals, etc.)
 1. Re-entry process and plan for people coming out of correctional facilities.
 2. Judy Alexandre - Make use of people's strengths to help them get employment opportunities.
 - E. Nancy Broadhead - Help for people with learning disabilities.
 1. Judy Alexandre - And early diagnosis of mental illness and disabilities.
 - F. Gane Brooking - Mental Health Services Oversight & Accountability Commission (MHSOAC) - Prevention/early intervention funding.

1. Judy Alexandre - Prevention efforts - substance abuse, mental health issues, family problems.
 2. Jerry Breiner - Need early assessment of various issues.
- G. Judy Alexandre - Year-round shelter could incorporate work elements.
- H. Clyde Reynolds - Robust street outreach.
1. Too many expectations that people will come looking for help.
 2. Veronica James - Do you need to be a case worker to do outreach?
 - a) Clyde Reynolds - Generally, yes.
 3. Judy Alexandre - PATH (People Assisting The Homeless) in L.A. uses very targeted street outreach to build relationships.
- I. Judy Alexandre - Create a gathering of people who experienced homelessness to find out what did & did not work for them.
1. Can LUYV take the lead on this? Or leverage the progress made with the recent speaker training?
- J. Dana Worsnop - Needed to end homelessness:
1. A change of heart & understanding in the community that a greater diversity (of income, race, age, etc.) is ultimately a net gain for everyone.
 2. Getting beyond the scarcity thinking that each must protect what they have; this limits greater possibilities.
- K. Nancy Broadhead - Not enough affordable housing & not enough beds at treatment centers.
1. Judy Alexandre - Sober living is costly. Many treatment centers are profit driven (& terrible).
- L. We will continue with this discussion at next month's meeting.
- XI. Housing Strategies and Planning
- A. Judy Alexandre - US Senate passed FY19 THUD (Transportation, Housing and Urban Development) bill
1. 92-6 vote to approve bill for robust funding of affordable housing.
 2. Info from National Low Income Housing Coalition.
- B. Judy Alexandre - Housing Issues Forum on 8/14 at 8 pm (Camarillo Public Library)
1. To discuss Propositions 1 & 2
 - a) Proposition 1: Veterans and Affordable Housing Bond Act of 2018
 - b) Proposition 2: No Place Like Home Act of 2018
 2. John Fowler & Michael Hopkins from PSHH presenting.
 3. This is about state money for housing. We need to be advocates.
- C. Jerry Breiner - Certain types of developers build affordable housing
1. Difficult to get investors to come to Ventura.
 2. Only 7 parcels big enough to build on
- D. Judy Alexandre - We need Ventura to declare a housing emergency.
- XII. Adjourn: Next meeting is **September 5, 2018, 3:15 pm, Catholic Charities Building.**
- XIII. Meetings:

- A. Shelter and Housing VSSTF Sub-Committee 9/18, 3pm Orchard Community Church library (Ron Mulvilhill) ron@housinginnovationsandsolutions.com)
- B. Faith VSSTF subcommittee 9/26, 3pm Seventh Day Adventist Church conference room Pam Marshall pam@pojcat.verizon.net
- C. Homeless Prevention fund, VSSTF Inc. 10/18, 4pm.; location TBD (Roland Barrio rbarrio100@msn.com)
- D. City of Ventura housing and Shelter subcommittee, probably 9/12, 4 pm city hall Mayor Andrews is chair.
- E. Homes For All, by invitation John Jones johnsandersjones@gmail.com
- F. Continuum of Care Housing & Services Committee 9/20 10am-12pm Tara Carruth (tara.carruth@ventura.org). location to be decided
- G. Open mic, city hall 1st Monday of the Month