

Monthly Meeting Minutes 7/11/18

3:00 pm, Community Room - Ventura City Hall, Ventura, CA 93001

Ventura Social Services Task Force

Attendees: Judy Alexandre, Jerry Breiner, Gane Brooking, Marissa Chacon, David Deutsch, Jim Duran, Sonja Flores, Mary Haffner, Jennifer Harkey, Veronica James, John Jones, Jeffrey Lambert, Erin Locklear, Robert March, Miguel Marquez, Pam Marshall, Melissa Ramirez, Jan Schmutte, Beth Sutherland, Sandra Troxell, LeeAnn Wilkie

- I. Call to order
 - A. Judy Alexandre acknowledged all of the good work that has gone into setting up the year-round shelter (with special thanks to Jeff Lambert).
- II. Introductions (Name, Organization, Brief Sentence about housing or homelessness)
 - A. Veronica James - Offered help from Indivisible Ventura in mobilizing people to attend city council (& other) meetings.
 - B. Jeff Lambert - Beth Sutherland was tasked with leading effort to put together comprehensive plan for the city to address homelessness.
 - C. Judy Alexandre - Wants/hopes for a shelter operator who can interface well with community resources.
 - D. General comments praising the progress made on the year-round shelter.
- III. Approval of or changes to the agenda for 7/11/18 as emailed
 - A. Judy Alexandre proposed change to include time for Mary Haffner to present on AB 1971. - MSC
- IV. Approval of or changes to the minutes for 6/6/18 as emailed - MSC
- V. Treasurer's Report - Balance is \$3,398.96
- VI. Reports
 - A. City of Ventura - Jeff Lambert
 1. Permanent Year-Round Shelter
 - a) Expect to have top 2 finalists for RFP for shelter operator by end of August.
 - (1) Final selection by end of September.
 - (2) Hope for same operator for both Oxnard & Ventura.
 - b) Targeting 12/15 opening in both cities.
 - (1) Lots to do to be able to open.
 - (2) Need council approval.
 - (3) Preliminary work needs to be complete by 9/30 to remain on schedule.
 - c) Oxnard City Council - voting on 7/24 on shelter.
 - B. River Haven - Judy Alexandre
 1. Safe Haven residents are now River Haven residents
 - a) While Safe Haven is undergoing major remodel.

- b) Significant remodel permit issued, plus \$300K in Community Development Block Grants (CDBG) funds available.
 - 2. Judy Alexandre notes that River Haven still needs a lot of work.
 - 3. Jeff Lambert - The city is looking at River Haven 2.0
 - a) Wants to expand population, but needs to be mindful of resident to case manager ratio.
- C. Step Up Ventura - Judy Alexandre
 - 1. Relocated to Happy Ventures Preschool.
 - 2. Can accept new children.
 - a) CalWORKS kids can get vouchers.
- D. Inclusionary Housing Update - Jeff Lambert
 - 1. City has funded 2 part analysis
 - a) Residential and Commercial/Industrial
 - b) First report presented to council on 7/9
- E. Faith Subcommittee of VSSTF - Pam Marshall
 - 1. Education Workshop on homelessness on 9/6 at Poinsettia Pavilion.
 - a) Invitations going out to faith community soon.
 - b) Asking for people to share concerns ahead of event to be shared with various agencies & non-profits.
 - c) Various agencies will set up tables at event.
 - d) 3 people expected to speak about experiencing homelessness.
 - e) Goal: Discuss what is happening in Ventura & what do we want to see happen (regarding homelessness).
 - 2. Candidate Forum for City Council at Temple Beth Torah in October
 - a) Submit questions to Judy Alexandre who will distribute them to candidates.
 - (1) Can be "yes or no" or long answer questions.
- F. Feedback from 4th of July Street Fair - Judy Alexandre.
 - 1. Overall, it was an excellent event.
 - 2. Booth got lots of traffic (& few hecklers).
 - 3. Raised ~\$600 at the fair, with an additional \$1900+ in matching funds (for Ventura Homeless Prevention Fund)
 - a) HPF also got ~\$10K from Family Promise when it folded.
- G. AB 1971 - Mary Haffner / David Deutsch
 - 1. This is legislation to change the criteria by which a person is determined to be "gravely disabled"
 - a) Current law doesn't include people who clearly need this designation.
 - 2. Sandra Troxell - Has witnessed people eating from dumpsters, living with no real shelter, but not designated as gravely disabled because they are "surviving"
 - a) People who are sleeping in the river bottom, with no possessions and refusing to get necessary treatment.
 - 3. 3 criteria for involuntary hospitalization:

- a) Threatening to harm themselves,
 - b) threatening to harm others, or
 - c) gravely disabled.
- 4. Mary Haffner - Wants VSSTF to write a letter of support backing the bill as written (before it went through committee)
 - a) Especially for having the bill apply to Ventura County.
- 5. Redefining “gravely disabled”
 - a) Currently “condition where person is unable to provide themselves with food/clothing/shelter”
 - (1) Doesn’t apply to many/most homeless people.
 - b) Expand definition to include “inability to meet needs for medical treatment”
- 6. Status of bill - went through several committees with bipartisan support, but State Senate Judiciary Committee amended the bill, changing it so that it:
 - a) Applies only to LA County.
 - b) Covers a 5-year pilot program.
 - c) Only applies expanded “gravely disabled” designation to people in danger of dying in 6 months.
 - d) Note that the changes were driven partly by civil liberties concerns.
- 7. Jan Schmutte asks about next step
 - a) Mary Haffner - Apply political pressure.
- 8. Judy Alexandre - How does this new bill work with Laura’s Law (California state law that allows for court-ordered assisted outpatient treatment)?
 - a) David Deutsch - Would allow people to more likely be admitted to Assist program (Ventura County Behavioral Health’s Assisted Outpatient program).
 - b) Mary Haffner - There is some backlash to Laura’s Law
 - (1) Too many hoops to jump through.
 - (2) Still difficult for mentally ill people to get the help that they really need.
- 9. Judy Alexandre - Proposed a vote on VSSTF support for AB 1971 as written (i.e. before committee changes). MSC.
 - a) Proposed that Mary Haffner write the letter to come from VSSTF. MSC.
- VII. Discussion on housing & involvement with next steps - anticipated focus on next month’s meeting.
- VIII. Other Items
 - A. John Jones - NAMI walk planned for 10/18.
- IX. Adjourn: Next meeting is **August 1, 2018, 3:15 pm, Catholic Charities Building**. we need a volunteer to bring a few copies of the agenda and minutes
- X. Meetings:
 - A. Shelter and Housing VSSTF Sub-Committee 8/21, 3pm Orchard Community Church library (Ron Mulvilhill) ron@housinginnovationsandsolutions.com)

- B. Faith VSSTF subcommittee 8/22, 3pm Seventh Day Adventist Church conference room
Pam Marshall pam@pojcat@verizon.net
- C. Homeless Prevention fund, VSSTF Inc. 8/15, 4pm.; location TBD (Roland Barrio
rbarrio100@msn.com)
- D. City of Ventura housing and Shelter subcommittee, probably 7/12, 3:30 pm city hall
Mayor Andrews is chair.
- E. Homes For All, by invitation John Jones johndandersjones@gmail.com
- F. Continuum of Care Housing & Services Committee 8/16 10am-12pm Tara Carruth
(tara.carruth@ventura.org). location to be decided
- G. Open mic, city hall 1st Monday of the Month 8/6/18