

Monthly Meeting Minutes 9/5/18

3:15 pm, 300 N. Ventura Ave, Ventura, CA 93001

Ventura Social Services Task Force

Attendees: Judy Alexandre, Jerry Breiner, Brian Brennan, Gane Brooking, Kevin Clerici, Jim Duran, Sonja Flores, Veronica James, John Jones, Kay Lee, Robin Lerner, Robert March, Miguel Marquez, Pam Marshall, Arlene Martinez, Patricia Mason, Melissa Ramirez, Beth Sutherland, Sandra Troxell, Dana Worsnop

- I. Call to order
- II. Introductions (Name, Organization, brief sentence about strategy for ending homelessness)
 - A. Broad support for the following things necessary for addressing homelessness:
 1. Very and extremely affordable housing.
 2. Bathrooms and showers for homeless population.
 3. Personal services & street outreach.
- III. Approval of or changes to the agenda for 9/5/18 as emailed. - MSC.
- IV. Approval of or changes to the minutes for 8/1/18 as emailed - MSC
- V. Treasurer's Report - no report this month
 - A. Some funds expended for Homeless Education Workshop on 9/6.
- VI. Old Business
 - A. AB 1971 Update - Judy Alexandre presenting.
 1. This is legislation to change the criteria by which a person is determined to be "gravely disabled"
 2. VSSTF sent letter asking that Ventura County be included in the pilot program.
 - a) Legislation still only included LA in pilot.
 3. Following amendments passed by appropriations committee (although has not been signed yet):
 - a) Requires doctor's note indicating person has \leq 6 months to live.
 - b) Requires evaluation by health care professional.
 - c) 5-year pilot program in Los Angeles.
 - B. Educational Workshop on Homelessness in Ventura - 9/6 - 5:30-8:30 PM
 1. Poinsettia Pavilion, 3451 Foothill Road, Ventura
 2. Tremendous response (120 RSVPs)
 3. No Q&A session.
 - C. Update on year-round shelter - Judy Alexandre presenting.
 1. Report from Tara Carruth & Jenn Harkey from Continuum Of Care (COC):
 - a) Homeless Emergency Assistance Program (HEAP) funds released by state.
 - (1) \$4.8 million in one-time funding for Ventura County to address immediate & urgent needs on homelessness and shelter.

(a) All jurisdictions must declare a shelter crisis to get this funding.

(i) Ventura City Council to vote on crisis declaration at 9/24 meeting (6pm)

(2) COC developing list of priorities to present to COC board on 9/12, including (but not limited to):

(a) Low Barrier Emergency Shelter/Navigation Center

(b) Dedicated Street Outreach to homeless population

(c) Housing Navigation Team - to help people apply for resources & work through the process

(d) Housing Locator team - for building relationships with landlords

(e) Other temporary sheltering options - vouchers, River Haven expansion, safe sleep programs

(f) Pilot Projects - Master Leasing to utilize available housing vouchers.

b) Progress on year-round shelter

(1) RFPs under review

(2) City & county working on necessary building improvements.

(a) Report at 9/24 council meeting.

D. Update on Faith sub-committee Ventura city council candidate forum

1. On 10/4 from 7-9 PM at Temple Beth Torah, Rabbi Lisa Hochberg-Miller is emcee.

2. Planning committee for event on 9/11.

3. Co-sponsored by Homes For All.

VII. New Business

A. Foul Weather Shelter (FWS) - Beth Sutherland presenting.

1. Faith-based community met with Beth Sutherland & Jeff Lambert

a) To discuss contingency for this winter if Knoll Drive doesn't open on 12/15 (which is extremely unlikely)

(1) No decisions made on FWS planning

2. Still don't know where, how long, what it looks like.

3. City desires a faith-based solution.

4. Judy Alexandre - FWS is not our desire.

a) Oxnard & Ventura don't want to run Winter Warming Shelter this year.

b) FWS would open if $\geq 0.25''$ of rain or $\leq 45^\circ\text{F}$.

5. Dana Worsnop - FWS would be all day service.

6. Beth Sutherland - FWS would open with 48 hour notice, & remain open for 2 days.

7. Kevin Clerici - Board of Supervisors assigned task for coming up with FWS plan.

a) Feels that it is unlikely for year-round shelter to open this year, so we should move forward on FWS.

- (1) City needs to issue emergency permit to allow it.
- (2) Need faith community to help.
 - (a) But faith community not open to rotating shelter location.
- 8. Dana Worsnop - a central location is preferred.
 - a) Hosting is complicated for certain churches.
- 9. Jim Duran - It is hard for churches and clients if FWS location rotates.
- 10. Judy Alexandre - Call to Action: Are you willing to help:
 - a) FWS needs:
 - (1) Church volunteers.
 - (2) SECURITY
 - (3) Trained personnel who can address issues.
- 11. Pam Marshall - City presenting on FWS at 9/6 Workshop.
- 12. Jerry Breiner - What does centrally located mean?
 - a) Judy Alexandre - easy to access
- 13. Judy Alexandre - Ventura wants to have a plan in place soon.
- 14. Robin Lerner - Is there money available for churches helping with FWS?
 - a) Judy Alexandre - Yes, for covering costs. City will issue a contract.
- 15. Dana Worsnop - At recent meeting, Jeff Lambert noted that the city isn't backing away from the year-round shelter.
 - a) Ventura wants to give the operator the chance to do it right.
 - b) New target for opening shelter is 9/2019 (no longer 12/2018)
 - (1) No one is happy about this delay.
- 16. Miguel Marquez - What about a tent city on the shelter property?
 - a) Judy Alexandre - It is possible, but difficult to do during construction.
- B. COC report on funding/questions
 - 1. As noted above, HEAP funding is only available to jurisdictions that declare a shelter crisis.
 - 2. Crisis declarations must be in place when COC submits application to state for HEAP funding.
- C. Discussion of propositions and bill that impact funds for housing and shelter (props 1, 2, 5 & 10; AB 829; AB 2162)
 - 1. Some funding requires passage of props 1 & 2.
 - 2. Kate Mills requested VSSTF permission to set up table at 9/6 Workshop for people to gather info on props 1 & 2. - MSC
 - 3. Props 5 & 10 are more complicated and nuanced.
 - a) Judy Alexandre asked retired Judge Melinda Johnson to come to discuss all housing-related propositions on the ballot.
 - (1) MSC for inviting her to come to October VSSTF meeting on 10/3.
 - b) Judy Alexandre - Do we want Kate Mills to hand out info on props 5 & 10 as well on 9/6?
 - (1) Pam Marshall - has concerns about getting too political.

(2) Dana Worsnop - It needs to be information not advocacy.

(3) MSC - so long as it is information only.

4. AB 2162 & 829

a) Focus on planning/zoning supportive housing.

b) Judy Alexandre asked Sonja Flores to help explain these bills in October.

VIII. Action Items

A. Finalization of inclusionary items for strategy to end homelessness - Judy Alexandre presenting.

1. Our strategy to recommend is:

a) Very & extremely affordable housing.

b) Increased street outreach.

c) Increased personal services.

B. Recommendations on ballot propositions and bills.

1. Judy Alexandre - postpones recommendations until next month's meeting and Judge Johnson's presentation.

IX. Reports

A. Homeless Prevention Fund - Brian Brennan

1. No activity in last 4-6 weeks.

B. Safe Sleep - Judy Alexandre

1. Dana Worsnop - www.thesoapbox.love launched by Keely Brown

a) 2 shower trailer pod

b) UUCV is trial host for Safe Sleepers (2 month pilot)

c) Keely Brown wants to have trailer operate in other places, but needs donations of items and money, plus volunteers.

2. Ventura is considering expanding the program, based on recommendations from Neal Ortenberg.

C. River Haven - Judy Alexandre

1. Several congregations are concerned about River Haven.

a) Met with city officials and Jason Meek of Turning Point.

(1) All are aware of areas that need improvement, and also the desire to expand River Haven.

(2) Felt a genuine response to concerns of the faith community & the city.

2. Now have onsite manager and a case manager.

D. Family To Family - Kay Lee

1. Served 4,040 meals in August 2018.

2. Additional funding is needed:

a) 5 churches are donating funds.

b) Expenses > \$5K /month.

c) Getting ~ \$2K /month in donations.

E. City Center & Tender Life are currently full.

F. Step Up Ventura moved to Happy Ventures.

1. Also at all Vista Real Learn For Life Centers in the county
- X. September 24th Ventura City Council Meeting
- A. Please attend!
 - B. Consider speaking on:
 1. Foul Weather Shelter
 2. Year-round shelter.
 3. Shelter Crisis Declaration.
 - a) Judy Alexandre asked Jerry Breiner to write a VSSTF letter to the city council in support of the shelter crisis declaration.
 4. General Plan updates.
- XI. Adjourn: Next meeting is **October 3, 2018, 3:15 pm, Catholic Charities Building.**
- XII. Meetings:
- A. Shelter and Housing VSSTF Sub-Committee 10/16, 3pm Orchard Community Church library (Ron Mulvilhill) ron@housinginnovationsandsolutions.com)
 - B. Faith VSSTF subcommittee 10/24, 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 10/17, 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 10/18 10am-12pm Tara Carruth (tara.carruth@ventura.org). location to be decided
 - G. Ventura City Council Open mic, city hall 1st Monday of the Month