

Monthly Meeting Minutes 1/2/19
3:15 pm, 300 N. Ventura Ave, Ventura, CA 93001

Ventura Social Services Task Force

Attendees: Judy Alexandre, Jerry Breiner, Brian Brennan, Gane Brooking, Tara Carruth, Kevin Clerici, Betsy Erickson, Sonja Flores, Meredith Hart, Veronica James, Jeffrey Lambert, Robert March, Pam Marshall, Carl Morehouse, Cappi Patterson, Kappy Paulson, Dina Pielaet, Kathy Powell, Melissa Ramirez, Maury Ruano, Jan Schmutte, Karol Schulkin, Elizabeth Stone, Dana Worsnop

- I. Call to order - Judy Alexandre
- II. Introductions (Name, Organization, and 1 question or comment that you have re: sheltering until the year round shelter is open)
 - A. Jeff Lambert - 3 points to make about the shelter:
 1. It is a coordinated effort.
 2. Homelessness and shelter is a community wide problem.
 3. We have stopgap solutions in place (though inadequate)
 - B. Many comments on the recent cold & wet weather. People are angry, frustrated and worried.
- III. Approval of the minutes for 11/7/18 as emailed - MSC
- IV. Approval of the agenda for 1/2/19 as emailed. - MSC.
- V. Treasurer's Report - Jan Schmutte
 - A. Current balance - \$3,027.79
- VI. Essential reports and discussion:
 - A. Update on the 24/7 year-round shelter - Tara Carruth & Jeff Lambert
 1. Jeff Lambert - 3 shelters:
 - a) Winter (Pilot) shelter at Oxnard Armory
 - (1) Filling positions (need 10 people)
 - (a) Federal government shutdown affecting ability to get background checks.
 - (2) Amanda Herrera is the shelter manager.
 - b) Permanent year-round shelter
 - (1) Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between city & county.
 - (2) Had kickoff meeting with Mercy House
 - (a) Hope to have under contract in 7/2019 to be a consultant during the ramp up to opening the shelter.
 - (b) Judy Alexandre - please invite Mercy House to VSSTF meetings.
 - (3) Remodel of space is the biggest factor in when shelter opens.
 - (a) Looking at 1/2020 opening.
 - c) Foul Weather Shelter
 - (1) Meredith Hart - Still need volunteers
 - (a) Have 3, need 9 to operate.

- (2) Working with River Church (who have 25 beds)
 - (3) Meredith Hart - Blankets have been delivered to Plaza Park for distributing to homeless people.
 - (a) Judy Alexandre - Center for Spiritual Living also handing out blankets.
 - (4) Motel vouchers - provided by Unitarian Universalist Church of Ventura & Saint Vincent de Paul.
 - (a) Kathy Powell - motels don't want "problematic people"
 - (5) Dina Pielat - Handing out rain ponchos (\$5 each at drug stores)
 - (6) Betsy Erickson - Hand warmers & socks are also good to distribute.
 - (7) Cappi Patterson - Buddy Nation is bringing food for people and pets when they get calls.
- 2. Jerry Breiner - What will happen at the 1/14 city council meeting?
 - a) Jeff Lambert - MOU with county is on agenda
 - (1) Should be approved, so don't need a large crowd (a few people would be helpful)
 - (a) Don't need a large crowd at 1/28 council meeting either.
 - 3. Jeff Lambert - we have 3 new council members (Sofia Rubalcava, Lorrie Brown, Jim Friedman)
- B. Follow up on meetings with new city council members (L. Brown & J. Friedman so far) - Judy Alexandre, Dana Worsnop, Jerry Breiner
- 1. Jerry Breiner - Jim Friedman seems open-minded, but cautious.
 - 2. Dana Worsnop - Lorrie Brown is receptive to discussing the issue.
 - a) LB wants facts & statistics; DW directed her to contact Tara Carruth.
 - (1) Hard figures about the #s of homeless people & evidence-based backing for solutions.
 - 3. Judy Alexandre - meeting with Alex McIntyre (city manager) on 1/3/19.
- C. Current housing bills - Sonja Flores
- 1. Provided presentation that was delivered at SCANPH (Southern California Association Of Non-Profit Housing) - electronic copies will be distributed soon.
 - a) Covered SB-35 (Planning and zoning: affordable housing: streamlined approval process.), AB-2162 (Planning and zoning: housing development: supportive housing).
 - 2. Jeff Lambert - Credit as affordable housing project is based on how many affordable units at the various (extremely, very, etc.) levels of affordability.
 - 3. Judy Alexandre - VSSTF advocates for extremely & very affordable housing
 - 4. Tara Carruth - State has made funding available to help developers build more affordable housing
 - a) Currently seeing 2 applications for projects to help homeless people.
 - b) Jeff Lambert - HEAP (Homeless Emergency Aid Program) funding for shelter.

- (1) Tara Carruth - State is working with Continuum Of Care offices all over California.
 - (2) Jeff Lambert - State goal is 1 million new homes, but new governor is pushing for 3 million (!).
 - (3) Judy Alexandre - Does Ventura have plans to reach out to low income housing developers? (JL - yes)
- VII. Brief update on COC applications for Bombas and Hanes socks, blanket collection, work with thrift shops for vouchers & clothing receipts - Judy Alexandre
- A. Tara Carruth - applications to Bombas & Hanes are in, but will take time.
 - B. Judy Alexandre - Any progress on developing a relationship with local thrift shop?
 1. Dina Pielat & Jan Schmutte volunteered to contact ARC.
 2. Tara Carruth - Good if we can work out a clothing exchange program to help reduce clothing trash in various parts of Ventura.
 - a) Kappy Paulson - One Stop - when people ask for socks, she asks to trade, but it never happens.
 - C. Melissa Ramirez - got a big donation from local Hanes outlet.
- VIII. Election of Chair/Co-Chair - Rob March presiding
- A. Kevin Clerici volunteered to be a co-chair with Judy Alexandre.
 1. His background was presented (with Downtown Ventura Partners, as a reporter working in the river bottom, etc.)
 - B. Present voting members MSC to make Kevin Clerici & Judy Alexandre co-chairs for 2019.
- IX. Other Reports
- A. Homeless Prevention Fund - Brian Brennan
 1. HPF is under VSSTF, Inc., a 501c3, which makes it eligible to take donations.
 2. Kept 30 people housed in 2018
 3. Salvation Army is intake operator.
 4. Want to develop metric of how many people contact HPF & follow-up
 5. Sue Brinkmeyer - HPF board sent out fundraising letters recently
 - a) Raised \$2600 in December
 6. No new clients in December.
 - B. Point In Time Count (countywide on 1/22/19) - Tara Carruth
 1. Still recruiting volunteers (<http://www.volunteerventuracounty.org/need/>)
 2. Training on 1/17/19 at 1230pm & 530pm at Ventura City Hall.
 - a) Using a mobile app again
 3. Will count River Haven, river bottom, etc.
 4. Morning & afternoon shifts.
 5. Kappy Paulson - Are we counting:
 - a) Couch surfers
 - (1) Can be counted but don't get used in HUD stats
 - b) Car/RV sleepers
 - (1) Only if it is not a place meant for human habitation.

- X. Agency Reports
 - A. Ventura County Homeless Services - Melissa Ramirez
 - 1. New social worker starting in January.
 - 2. Hiring more staff - housing specialist, supervisor, multiple social workers.
 - a) To support the Temporary Emergency Shelter, Foul Weather Shelter.
 - B. Lift Up Your Voice - Kathy Powell
 - 1. Got \$1000 donation to use on socks to distribute during Point In Time Count.
 - C. Buddy Nation - Cappi Patterson
 - 1. Valentine's Day Fundraiser
 - 2. Box Social on 2/10/19 - will send flyer to Judy Alexandre
 - D. Step Up Ventura - Judy Alexandre
 - 1. Have 11 kids enrolled.
 - 2. Looking to become preschool pilot program to qualify for state funds.
 - E. Family to Family - Jan Schmutte
 - 1. 100 Women Who Care gave \$5600 to pay for kitchen upgrades.
- XI. Next Month Agenda
 - A. Ventura City Planners will attend.
 - 1. Please send suggestions of good location for affordable housing to Kevin Clerici (kevin@downtownventura.org) for compilation
 - a) Regardless of current zoning
- XII. Adjourn: Next meeting is **February 6, 2019, 3:15 pm, Catholic Charities Building.**
- XIII. Meetings:
 - A. Faith Sub Committee 1/23/19 Church of the Foothills, Ventura, Marianne Norton ma4mail@aol.com .
 - B. Continuum of Care - 1/17/19 10-12pm.