

Monthly Meeting Minutes 2/6/19

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

Ventura Social Services Task Force

Attendees: Judy Alexandre, Karyn Bates, Jerry Breiner, Brian Brennan, Gane Brooking, Kevin Clerici, Betsy Erickson, Jennifer Harkey, Veronica James, Pamela Kelley, Verdiana Lejeune, Erin Locklear, Robert March, Miguel Marquez, Alexa Martin, Marianne Norton, Cappi Patterson, Sherri Pendlebury, Dina Pielacet, Melissa Ramirez, Maury Ruano, Chris Russell, Jan Schmutte, Karol Schulkin

- I. Call to order - Kevin Clerici
- II. Introductions (Name, Organization)
 - A. Dina Pielacet - Recommends buying \$1.99 ponchos at Rite Aid (or similar) to keep on hand for giving out to homeless people during inclement weather.
- III. Approval of the minutes for 1/2/19 with correction to amount in treasury - MSC
- IV. Approval of the agenda for 2/6/19 as emailed. - MSC.
- V. Treasurer's Report - Jan Schmutte
 - A. Current balance - \$3,076.46
- VI. Reports:
 - A. City of Ventura - Kevin Clerici
 1. Temporary Emergency Shelter (TES) - Oxnard Armory
 - a) Daily usage count (capped at 110 including staff)
 - b) Kevin Clerici will get #s from Meredith Hart
 - c) Chris Russell
 - (1) Foul Weather Shelter - County offered operations support (not as service provider)
 - (a) Had 112 guests at one point during one weather event
 - (2) TES - County got back in on 2/3 to offer services
 - (a) Social worker Tu-Th from 0900-1400
 - (b) Clients must get referral from service provider or 211
 - (i) TES personnel will work with people to get admitted if they don't already have a referral.
 - d) Cappi Patterson - up to 5 dogs and 2 cats have been at shelter
 - (1) Getting daily report of supplies needed
 - (2) Working with Mercy House on pet needs for permanent shelter
 - e) Judy Alexandre - Getting emails from people upset that TES is not drop-in
 - (1) NB: TES is part of a program for people who are trying to get into housing
 - (a) Intended as a beginning model for what the permanent shelter will do.
 - (2) But we still need a Foul Weather Shelter

(3) Currently no easy way for people in Ventura to get to the shelter in Oxnard.

B. Continuum Of Care - Jennifer Harkey

1. Point In Time Count - 400 volunteers countywide
 - a) Covered encampments and areas not normally surveyed
 - b) Got lots of observations
 - c) Still de-duplicating data.
 - d) Final report to CoC board in March & to the public shortly after.
2. Working on getting California Emergency Solutions and Housing (CESH) Program - funding for rental assistance, street outreach, rapid rehousing.
3. Other funding being worked.
4. Did not get bonus funding from HUD for victims of domestic violence.
 - a) But successful in rest of applications.

C. Inclusionary Housing Update - Judy Alexandre

1. Current status is unknown because Jeff Lambert was leading effort prior to leaving position.
2. Stakeholder group plans to make recommendations for changes to inclusionary housing policy.
3. Kevin Clerici - Definition of Inclusionary Housing
 - a) If you are doing market development, there needs to be a 15% set-aside for affordable housing.
 - b) City is still figuring out if the policy should also apply to commercial development.
 - (1) In lieu fees towards production of affordable housing.
4. Judy Alexandre - looking to expand policy to be citywide
 - a) In lieu fees don't seem to be enough to encourage further development of affordable housing.
5. Brian Brennan - Homelessness and Affordable Housing committee meeting on 2/20 at 1600

D. Homeless Prevention Fund - Brian Brennan

1. HPF spends all the money that they raise.
2. Melissa Ramirez - What is maximum payment?
 - a) Brian Brennan - one-time payment of \$1500, but amount is negotiable.
 - (1) Once per year.
 - (2) Seeing more seniors needing assistance; we need more senior housing.
3. Maury Ruano - What is the source of funds?
 - a) Brian Brennan - Mostly private individuals and churches.
 - (1) HPF is only for Ventura residents.
4. Update from Sue Brinkmeyer:
 - a) HPF helped 4 households consisting of 4 adults and 1 child in the month of January 2019.

- (1) Total expenditures \$3,840.
- (2) Average cost per household \$960.
- (3) Average cost per person \$640.
- (4) Rent as percentage of income 61.36%.

b) Thanks to a very successful year-end fund-raising letter to supporters, a little over \$10,000 is still available.

E. VSSTF Faith Subcommittee - Marianne Norton

1. Looking to get faith community engaged
2. Want to have workshop on how to best implement permanent shelter
3. Continuing work on (online and print) Blue Book
 - a) Sourcebook of homeless services from churches and other organizations.
4. Want to set up mentoring program in faith community.
 - a) To help/augment jobs/careers.
5. Want to set up job board to help give work to people who are homeless or near homelessness.

F. County Advocacy Network - Judy Alexandre

1. Group working for housing for vulnerable populations.
 - a) To work with each city in county to allow for building of extremely and very affordable housing.
2. 4 major efforts:
 - a) Collect data from each city - vulnerable populations (not necessarily homeless people)
 - b) Develop appropriate contacts in each city.
 - c) Educational campaign to work on changing opinions.
 - d) Develop and influence political will in city councils to support affordable housing.

VII. Discussion on how to support the development of the permanent shelter and housing - Kevin Clerici & Judy Alexandre

A. Kevin Clerici - 2019 General Plan update expected in Ventura

1. Currently on hold for a few months because of Dave Ward's new position.
2. How can we help change this to encourage more affordable housing?
3. Brian Brennan - new city manager has been involved in 4 General Plan updates.

B. Judy Alexandre - Mercy House presented at city council on 1/28

1. To be successful, they need housing into which people may transition
2. Shelter will have 55 beds.
 - a) What do we need to do as a task force to help the shelter succeed?
 - b) Where are good locations for housing locally?
 - (1) How can we encourage the city to develop housing?

C. Brian Brennan - The shelter may not be a done deal yet.

1. Observed some resistance at last council meeting

- a) Don't get distracted by what will happen after the shelter opens until it actually does open.
 - D. Dina Pielaet - Based on overall cost of shelter, it costs ~\$90k/bed to build
 - 1. Those kinds of numbers can result in local resistance to building the permanent shelter.
 - 2. Jennifer Harkey - Proposed budget for operating costs are very high, but doesn't include the county contribution or HEAP (Homeless Emergency Aid Program) funding.
 - E. Brian Brennan - Make sure that there is a Conditional Use Permit (CUP) for 10 years and not just yearly, which could affect the shelter opening.
 - F. Jan Schmutte - What is the ongoing yearly cost of running a shelter?
 - 1. Judy Alexandre - 2 years ago, Mercy House annual operating cost was \$1.2 million for 100 beds.
 - G. Jerry Breiner - Important for city council to understand that it costs much more to do nothing, compared to the cost of opening a shelter.
 - H. Judy Alexandre - the coalition supporting the shelter (business, law enforcement, social services) needs work together to keep pressure on the city council to allow sites for the development of need housing and the operation of the shelter.
 - I. Karol Schulkin - If the city is out of compliance on housing and the shelter, the city could lose state money.
 - 1. Need to make sure that the Housing & Homelessness Subcommittee hears this.
 - 2. Kevin Clerici - Will attend the next meeting.
 - a) Notes that there are 2 new members on committee (Sofia Rubalcava, Cheryl Heitmann) along with Matt LaVere.
 - 3. Kevin Clerici - Wants VSSTF members to make commitment to have someone attend each meeting.
- VIII. Review VSSTF Mission and Values - Kevin Clerici & Judy Alexandre
- A. Kevin Clerici reads current mission statement aloud and asks for suggested changes.
 - B. Who monitors the city to ensure that they meet their obligations?
 - 1. Judy Alexandre - It is on various communities to do this (mental health advocates, etc.).
 - C. Dina Pielaet - We don't have a watchdog element in current mission statement.
 - 1. Judy Alexandre - It is important, something that we do, but not explicit in the mission.
 - 2. Kevin Clerici - New governor seems to be acting as a watchdog on the issues of homelessness and affordable housing.
 - a) California is suing Huntington Beach. This could serve as a warning to other communities.
 - (1) Judy Alexandre - Ventura is currently out of compliance w/SB 35
 - D. Gane Brooking - Does VSSTF need a relationship with the state?
 - 1. Jennifer Harkey - We interact with the state on several fronts through the CoC board.

- E. Kevin Clerici - Confident that we can fulfill our current mission.
 - 1. Concerned that adding aspects could dilute our effectiveness.
 - F. Judy Alexandre - We could add a specific goal for 2019 about getting the shelter opened.
 - 1. Motion to add statement to mission the goal of the development of housing and the implementation of the permanent year-round shelter. MSC
- IX. Other
- A. Judy Alexandre - Measure O committee meeting on 2/7/19
 - 1. Jennifer Harkey - Budget is on agenda this week.
 - 2. Judy Alexandre - Need people to attend and speak.
 - B. Miguel Marquez - Currently developing proposal to encourage local businesses/organizations to adapt/mentor a homeless person to help them transition out of homelessness.
 - 1. Kevin Clerici - We could use VSSTF, Inc. as a vehicle to help people contribute (& write off) donations.
 - C. Interface Children & Family Services - Erin Locklear
 - 1. Youth homeless (often runaways) shelter to reopen with HEAP funding.
 - 2. Sheltering and case management for transitional aged youth (18-24)
 - D. Step Up Ventura - Judy Alexandre
 - 1. Looking for second location (in Oxnard hopefully)
 - 2. Currently serving 12 people at first location, which is maximum recommended #
 - 3. Looking into becoming a statewide pilot program for serving 0-5 year old kids
- X. Adjourn: Next meeting is **March 6, 2019, 3:15 pm, Catholic Charities Building.**
- XI. Meetings:
- A. Faith Sub Committee 2/27/19 Church of the Foothills, Ventura, Marianne Norton
ma4mail@aol.com .
 - B. Homeless Prevention Fund will meet in March. Sue Brinkmeyer (sbrink@glendale.edu)
 - C. Homes For All, contact John Jones (johnsandersjones@gmail.com)
 - D. Ventura City Council, 1st Monday of the month, open mic.
 - E. City of Ventura Housing & Homelessness Subcommittee, TBA