

Monthly Meeting Minutes 8/7/19
3:15 pm, 300 N. Ventura Ave, Ventura, CA 93001

Ventura Social Services Task Force

Attendees: Judy Alexandre, Elizabeth Andrade, Jerry Breiner, Nancy Broadhead, Kevin Clerici, Susan Englund, Jennifer Harkey, Meredith Hart, John Jones, Robert March, Miguel Marquez, Alexa Martin, Marianne Norton, Kappy Paulson, Melissa Ramirez, Ralph Reyes, Jan Schmutte

- I. Call to order - Judy Alexandre
- II. Introductions
- III. Approval of the minutes for 6/5/19 - MSC
- IV. Approval of the agenda for 8/7/19 with 2 changes. - MSC
 - A. Kappy Paulson will make an announcement.
 - B. Judy Alexandre will discuss a meeting with Ventura Unified School District.
- V. Treasurer's Report
 - A. Current balance - \$2,503.96. - no change
- VI. Census 2020 information and how to participate
 - A. Will need to reschedule Dr. Gabino Aguirre.
 - B. Judy Alexandre - The need is great for an accurate count of hard-to-count populations.
- VII. United Way Housing Initiative - Susan Englund
 - A. Jennifer Herrera is regional advocacy coordinator
 - B. United Way is engaging on issues of housing and homelessness in CA
 1. Working closely with Continuum of Care
 - C. United Way has a vetting process for evaluating bills
 1. Look at bills for pros/cons, opportunities for success
 2. Willing to share their process & results with VSSTF & allies.
 - D. Three Advocacy Tiers
 1. Tier I: Leadership - UWVC will assume a high level leadership role – educating legislators and bringing visibility to a specific policy position. Volunteers & staff will be actively involved and additional financial support may be necessary for ongoing research, advocacy and partnership mobilization efforts.
 2. Tier II: Advocacy - UWVC will help educate the community on an issue and will take a clear position on this issue. Key United Way volunteers and staff will be active on an as-needed basis, and additional monies may be necessary, but not required.
 3. Tier III: Support - UWVC will lend its name and reputation to a policy issue. Staff and volunteers will monitor and respond to requests for support through such vehicles as signing on to letters. UWVC will support the work of coalition partners. No additional monies are likely to be necessary.
 - E. Judy Alexandre - She sees that the United Way advocates for certain bills & encourages partners to do the same.

1. Indivisible Ventura sends out periodic emails summarizing status of state bills on housing/homelessness.
- F. Marianne Norton - How can one ask for help?
1. Susan Englund - United Way has a tool to request help, which gets sent to board.
 - a) Plan is for communications committee to share info with CoC, who will forward to Judy Alexandre & Kevin Clerici.
- VIII. Housing Strategies and Immediate Needs - Judy Alexandre
- A. Group from VSSTF & Homes For All met with Betsy George, Assistant Superintendent, Business Services at Ventura Unified School District
 1. Very positive meeting!
 2. Betsy George shared list of properties to consider for developing housing
 - a) Could possibly be used for teacher housing
 - b) Looking at schools that maybe don't need all the land they have
 - c) VUSD part-time workers really need housing
 3. Kevin Clerici - didn't feel as optimistic as Judy Alexandre
 - a) Master Plan Service List
 - (1) Needs to be adopted by school district board of trustees
 - b) Judy Alexandre - There is openness to work on the issue at staff level
 - (1) Need to advocate at the board level.
- IX. Peter Gilli (Jeff Lambert's successor) asked to reschedule for next month.
- A. Has new team.
 - B. Meeting with VSSTF and Homes For All on 9/10.
- X. Announcements - Kappy Paulson
- A. Unitarian Universalist Church Of Ventura (UUCV) has a grant process.
 1. Invites nonprofits to apply (to Sue Brinkmeyer suebrinkmeyer@earthlink.net)
 - B. VSSTF Faith Subcommittee - Finished Blue Book, which contains information on local resources for ending homelessness.
 1. Final draft will be provided to Judy Alexandre to distribute to community.
 - a) There will be an opportunity to provide more feedback.
- XI. Reports and Updates
- A. VSSTF Faith Subcommittee - Marianne Norton
 1. Workshop on 9/12 at Poinsettia Pavilion - 6pm-8pm (can arrive at 530pm)
 - a) Focus on how the permanent shelter will operate.
 - (1) Mercy House will lead the discussion.
 - b) Mayor LaVere will speak on Ventura's plans for affordable housing.
 - c) Program
 - (1) Mercy House - Focus is on getting people housed.
 - (2) Judy Alexandre - a person experiencing homelessness will provide music.
 - (3) 24 local agencies will have tables.
 - (4) Meredith Hart & Matt LaVere will talk
 - (5) Discussions of how the faith community can donate.

(a) Important to get people to add to what they are already giving.

d) Spread the word and register - partnersforchangeventura@gmail.com

B. City of Ventura - Meredith Hart

1. Shelter Update

a) Opening date is now 1/9/20

(1) Delay is because final plan check has to be on 1/9/20

b) Doesn't have a name yet (suggestions being solicited from community)

(1) Common room will be named in honor of Neal Andrews

c) Construction is well underway

2. Attended National Alliance To End Homelessness conference a few weeks ago

a) Ventura appears to be using best practices

b) Need more outreach & engagement in community

3. Talked with Salvation Army about more permanent supportive housing

4. Safe Sleep Program - met with UUCV

a) Expanding program from 15 to 30 spaces with an hour of case management per week for each client

b) UUCV will go from 10 to 15 spaces

c) Looking for new locations for remaining new spots.

5. Measure O update

a) Committee meets on 8/8

b) Meredith Hart - wants new outreach worker

(1) County agreed to pay for half of the salary for social worker who will consistently engage with homeless population

(2) Person could be working by 12/20/19 if committee and city council approve

(a) County has 9 social workers addressing homelessness now, but their tasking is more reactive

(b) New outreach worker would be focused on proactive outreach.

C. Mercy House - Elizabeth Andrade

1. Making progress on year-round shelter

2. Developing plans for how the beds will be filled

3. Will solicit donations and invite the local faith communities to volunteer

4. Mercy House measures success on how many people can move into housing

D. Continuum of Care - Jennifer Harkey

1. In application process for funds from HUD.

a) \$2.6 million for rapid rehousing and permanent supportive housing projects

(1) Reviewing and ranking process of applicants for funding

b) 2 requests for proposals (RFP) on website

(1) Bonus funding projects

(2) Domestic violence projects (bonus funding from HUD)

- (a) Could increase the amount of outreach & coordination in the county
 - (b) Could increase the housing opportunities for those fleeing domestic violence.
 - 2. Dr. Sunghee Nam (CSUCI) helping with projects on public information outreach
 - a) Client stories
 - (1) Want to share successes, but also to highlight the challenges
 - (2) Hope to get young people involved in advocacy work
- E. Homes For All - Judy Alexandre
 - 1. Homes For All and Jerry Breiner - both made lists of sites for housing
 - a) People's Self Help Housing combined the lists and added analysis to figure out what districts are available
 - b) Some developers are willing to work with scattered sites, not just 2+ acre sites.
- F. Vulnerable Populations Housing Network - Judy Alexandre
 - 1. Continues to meet.
 - 2. Trying to get 2 pilot programs started:
 - a) Container homes in Oxnard
 - b) Tiny homes in Ventura
 - 3. Identifying vulnerable populations
 - 4. Evaluating where cities in Ventura County are on their general plan updates
- G. Ventura Homeless Prevention Fund - Rob March
 - 1. Neal Andrews asked for donations to VPHF in lieu of flowers for his memorial.
 - 2. Sue Brinkmeyer reports:
 - a) We helped 4 families (11 people, 5 of them children) in July and 2 households (4 people, 1 a child) in August. Average cost, Three of these households were extremely low income, and two were very low income. Those we have helped so far this year, on average, were spending 59% of their income on rent. . Average cost per household so far this year, \$1,127/ per person \$443.

XII. Next meeting is **September 4, 2019, 3:15 pm, Catholic Charities Building.**

XIII. Meetings:

- A. City Council Subcommittee on Homelessness, Housing and Safe & Clean Initiative - 1st Tuesday of every month
- B. Faith Sub Committee 9/25/19 3pm, Church of the Foothills, Ventura, Marianne Norton ma4mail@aol.com .
- C. Homeless Prevention Fund will meet 9/18/19 4pm at Unitarian Universalist Church Of Ventura on Ralston Ave, Ventura. Sue Brinkmeyer (sbrink@glendale.edu)
- D. Homes For All, contact John Jones (johnsandersjones@gmail.com)
- E. Ventura City Council, 1st Monday of the month, open mic.