

Monthly Meeting Minutes 9/4/19

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

Ventura Social Services Task Force

Attendees: Judy Alexandre, Brian Brennan, Nancy Broadhead, Kyler Carlson, Kevin Clerici, Betsy Erickson, Susan Everett, Jennifer Harkey, Veronica James, Shannon Kelly, Robert March, Marianne Norton, Kappy Paulson, Dina Pielaet, Melissa Ramirez, Clyde Reynolds, Jan Schmutte, Suki Sir, Elizabeth R. Stone

- I. Call to order - Kevin Clerici
- II. Introductions
- III. Approval of the minutes for 8/7/19 - MSC
- IV. Approval of the agenda for 9/4/19 - MSC
- V. Treasurer's Report - Jan Schmutte
 - A. Current balance - \$2,503.96. - no change
- VI. New Information
 - A. Census 2020 information and how to participate - Dr. Gabino Aguirre.
 1. Have been planning for 1-½ years
 2. Census Day is 4/1/20
 3. California broken into 10 regions (Ventura is in region 5, which includes the coastal counties between SF & LA).
 - a) Region 5 - ~3000 square miles with 2.5 million people
 4. Census data determines the level of federal funding in each jurisdiction
 - a) ~\$2k/person/year for social safety net
 - b) Also affects political power
 - (1) Affects redistricting.
 - (a) U.S. Congress, CA State Assembly, CA Board of Equalization
 5. Get involved at <https://venturacountycounts.org/>
 6. Census is not (yet?) fully funded by the federal government
 - a) Fewer census offices than in previous 2 censuses
 - b) California is spending \$100 million to help, with a focus on hard-to-count populations
 - (1) Children ages 0-5 years
 - (2) Non-English speakers
 - (3) Homeless people
 - (4) People in crowded housing
 - (5) People in economically deprived areas
 - (6) People in prison
 - (7) Millennials
 7. Ventura County - 38% of the population is hard-to-count
 - a) Nearly 400k of local population

8. There is a lack of trust in the government and in the data provided to the government.
9. Have to get people to trust the messengers
 - a) Rolling out initiative - "We are all neighbors, and we all count."
 - (1) Digital (Facebook, social media, etc.)
 - (2) Social (teachers, civic leaders, etc.)
 - (3) Broader human family
 - b) Will advertise - radio, newspapers, TV
10. Phased Campaign - Census goes live in 3/2020
 - a) Education Awareness Phase (through 4/2020)
 - b) Motivation Phase
 - c) Activation Phase (2/2020)
 - d) Non-response Phase
 - (1) Options are phone, paper forms, library kiosks
 - (2) After 3 reminder notices, home visits (by paid census workers)
 - (3) Looking for trusted groups to set up kiosks to reach out to marginalized groups.
 - (a) Possible kiosk locations:
 - (i) Veronica James - Citizenship Fairs
 - (a) Homeless people will require outreach.
 - (ii) Jan Schmutte - Family To Family
 - (iii) Judy Alexandre - any service providers can be a trusted place
 - (a) Jennifer Harkey - One Stop, etc.
 - (b) Kappy Paulson - What address should a homeless person use? One Stop PO Box?
 - (i) Veronica James - Actual residence is best.
 - (iv) Dina Pielat - businesses like Walmart
 - (a) Dr. Aguirre - businesses are the largest users of census data
 - (i) Walmart provided census education across the US in 2010

VII. Updates on Turning Point Foundation - Suki Sir

- A. Our Place Safe Haven
 1. 15 residents
 2. 8 moved into permanent housing recently
- B. River Haven
 1. 14 men, 8 women

- a) Residents range from 33 to 79 years old (3 over 60)
 - b) 8 moved into permanent housing (2 in last 90 days)
 - 2. Day of Caring - 9/28/19 (Register through United Way)
 - a) Going to install solar panels
 - C. World Mental Health Day - 10/10/19
 - 1. Focus on suicide prevention
 - D. Growing Works (non-profit wholesale plant nursery - vocational training program) and R.I.S.E. (program for treatment resistant individuals) programs are growing
- VIII. Reports & Updates
- A. VSSTF Faith Subcommittee - Marianne Norton
 - 1. Educational workshop on 9/12 at Poinsettia Pavilion
 - a) Focus on the permanent year-round shelter
 - 2. Blue Book update - Kappy Paulson
 - a) Resource guide - updated (70 pages)
 - (1) Services for homeless people
 - b) On VSSTF webpage - <http://vsstf.org/misc-docs/20190828-Blue-Book.pdf>
 - B. City of Ventura - Kevin Clerici
 - 1. Meredith Hart is finalizing contract on co-funded (with the county) outreach worker
 - a) Hope to hire within the next few months
 - b) Agreement will be up for ratification at 9/23 council meeting
 - (1) VSSTF requests 2 speakers in favor.
 - 2. Safe & Clean, Affordable Housing and Homelessness Committee - Judy Alexandre
 - a) The planned outreach worker is mostly funded by the county
 - (1) Will be using a county car
 - (2) All 3 council members at the meeting are in support.
 - b) Discussing names for the shelter
 - c) Detailed & positive report on River Haven delivered
 - d) According to the National Alliance To End Homelessness (NAEH), Ventura is embracing lots of best practices
 - (1) E.g. Ambassador programs (as they connect people with social services)
 - C. Homeless Prevention Fund - Rob March
 - 1. In August, HPF kept 8 households (20 people, 7 of which were children) housed.
 - a) Average cost per household - \$1,134
 - b) Assisted households are paying 58% of income on rent.
 - 2. Kathy Wertheim fundraiser - Sundaes on Sunday - raised \$2,190
 - 3. 14 donors contributed \$1,350 in honor of Neal Andrews.
 - 4. Submitted grant to Montecito Bank & Trust.

5. Members of the Board are very happy to come tell organizations and gatherings about the work we do and have lots of stories to share that may encourage folks to support the Fund. Please alert Sue Brinkmeyer, 818-281-6249, if you know of a place where she could share more about the work of Ventura Homeless Prevention or if you'd be willing to host an event like Sundaes on Sunday.

D. Continuum Of Care - Jennifer Harkey

1. Data Committee - reviewed applications for HUD funding
 - a) \$2.6 million for permanent supportive housing, rapid rehousing, and street outreach
 - b) Prepping recommendations for board meeting on 9/11
 - c) Mercy House applied for rapid rehousing funds

E. Homes For All - Kyler Carlson

1. Update on Housing Element of General Plan
 - a) Recommending affordable housing overlay
 - b) List of affordable housing parcels should be ready next month.
2. Kappy Paulson - How can we get NIMBYs to calm down?
 - a) Kevin Clerici - This will be a future agenda item.

F. Vulnerable Populations Housing Network Advocacy - Clyde Reynolds

1. Action Phase - Formed 5 action task groups
 - a) Tiny Homes - Judy Alexandre
 - (1) Meredith Hart has been receptive
 - (2) Want to set up a demonstration project in Ventura
 - b) High cost of building housing
 - (1) How should cities incentivize developers to build affordable housing?
 - c) Survey of all cities in county on general plan updates
 - d) Identifying vulnerable populations in each city by type
 - (1) Defining and counting.
 - e) Container Homes - Multi-family pilot project in Oxnard
 - (1) Many Mansions would work on design and funding
2. Meeting planned for October

G. Family To Family - Jan Schmutte

1. 9/28 - Fundraiser - Downtown Hoedown

H. Safe Sleep - Kappy Paulson

1. Ventura expanded program to 30 spaces
 - a) Unitarian Universalist Church of Ventura increased from 10 to 15 spaces

IX. Next meeting is **October 2, 2019, 3:15 pm, Catholic Charities Building.**

X. Meetings:

- A. City Council Subcommittee on Homelessness, Housing and Safe & Clean Initiative - 1st Tuesday of every month

- B. Faith Sub Committee 10/23/19 3pm, Church of the Foothills, Ventura, Marianne Norton ma4mail@aol.com .
- C. Homeless Prevention Fund will meet 10/16/19 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.