

Monthly Meeting Minutes 4/3/19
3:15 pm, 300 N. Ventura Ave, Ventura, CA 93001

Ventura Social Services Task Force

Attendees: Denise Adams, Judy Alexandre, Jerry Breiner, Gane Brooking, Tara Carruth, Kevin Clerici, Betsy Erickson, Sonja Flores, Meredith Hart, Robert March, Miguel Marquez, Pam Marshall, Marianne Norton, Jan Schmutte, Cynthia Woolery

- I. Call to order - Kevin Clerici
- II. Introductions
- III. Approval of the minutes for 3/6/19 - MSC
- IV. Approval of the agenda for 4/3/19 as emailed.
 - A. Kevin Clerici asked for 2 modifications - MSC.
 1. Add - Ask for support for reserving Poinsettia Pavilion for fall educational workshop.
 2. Move - Sonja Flores report to earlier in meeting.
- V. Treasurer's Report
 - A. Current balance - \$3,076.46 (No change)
- VI. Request for authorization to reserve Poinsettia Pavilion for educational workshop in September.
 - A. Will cost ~\$200. - MSC.
- VII. Point In Time Count (PITC) Results - Tara Carruth
 - A. PITC is an annual requirement to receive COC/HUD funding.
 - B. Survey-based count using geographic information system-based (GIS) mobile app.
 1. Able to pinpoint locations.
 - a) Saw increase in numbers in unincorporated areas.
 - C. Count trending up over past 2 years
 1. Countywide - 1669 counted in 2019, up 25.8% from 2018
 - a) Up >40% over last 2 years.
 - b) Biggest growth seen in Oxnard and Santa Paula.
 - c) Every demographic but families saw increase
 - (1) Seniors, vets, transition-age youth (18-24 yo)
 - d) 35% were first-time homeless
 - (1) 20% were homeless for first time in last 12 months.
 - e) 34 people countywide were homeless due to a natural disaster
 - f) Need to keep asking for resources to get ahead of this trend.
 2. Temporary Emergency Shelter (TES) was not open on night of count.
 3. 555 counted in Ventura.
 - a) 398 unsheltered persons - 260 surveys taken. State desires 70% survey rate.
 - (1) 93 chronically homeless
 - (2) 26 w/developmental disorder
 - (3) 119 first-time homeless

- (4) 85 w/mental health issues
- (5) 115 released from correctional institute in last year.
- (6) 94 w/physical disability.

- D. Full report will be available on <http://www.venturacoc.org/>
- E. Need to focus on preventing homelessness
 - 1. Rents going up at unsustainable pace.
- F. Funded programs are working.
 - 1. Housed people tend to remain housed.
- G. New state resources - allocated based on PITC data.
 - 1. Current trailer bill language uses 2017 numbers.
 - a) Trying to get lawmakers to use more recent numbers if available.
 - (1) Could have a large impact on Homeless Emergency Aid Program (HEAP) funding.

VIII. Update on current Temporary Emergency Shelter (TES) and report from city of Ventura - Meredith Hart

- A. TES has seen 78 unduplicated stays by Ventura residents.
 - 1. Hoping to keep TES open until end of May.
 - a) There might not be enough funding.
 - (1) Funding is provided by Ventura, Oxnard and the county.
 - 2. There is a new security team in place.
 - 3. Mainstream referral system with local police departments.
 - a) 10 beds are available every night for immediate use.
 - (1) Also can provide a quick TB test
- B. Mercy House
 - 1. 6/3/19 - will sign bilateral governance agreement with Ventura and county.
 - 2. 4/3/19 - meeting with Ventura and county.
- C. 4/2/19 - Safe & Clean, Affordable Housing and Homelessness Committee meeting held.
 - 1. **IMPORTANT:** Meetings will be held on 1st Tuesday of every month going forward.
 - 2. Lift Up Your Voice (LUYV) speakers participated (these are homeless individuals who have gone through a speaking course for becoming advocates for their community).
 - a) Effort made to give speakers a stronger voice in the committee.
 - 3. River Haven contract was updated on 4/2

IX. Housing Strategy Discussion - Judy Alexandre

- A. Need an overall VSSTF strategy on influencing Ventura's General Plan to support housing development.
- B. VSSTF and Homes For All are collecting list of potential sites for new housing.
- C. There is a list of new housing bills to review (see email from Judy Alexandre)
- D. Tara Carruth - Met with United Way about doing more advocacy.
- E. Sonja Flores
 - 1. General Plan Update and Housing Element
 - a) Dave Ward & Iain Holt (from Ventura) came to VSSTF meeting last year

- (1) Gave info on what was in old General Plan and potential direction for the update.
 - (a) Collecting input from many local community groups.
 - (b) Completion of update pushed back for a variety of reasons.
2. Need good sites for developing affordable housing in Ventura
 - a) Already have several responses from Homes For All & VSSTF communities
 - b) Gave list to People's Self Help Housing who are compiling more detail.
 - c) Suggested affordable housing programs to include in new General Plan.
 - d) Affordable housing overlay - a overlay over existing zoning that allows for the inclusion of affordable housing (only) in areas not currently zoned for housing.
3. Affordable Housing in the pipeline:
 - a) Ventura Avenue Project - rehab effort
 - (1) Currently 33 units; will be 26-30 upon rehab, but with better features (no efficiencies)
 - b) Willett Ranch
 - c) Westview Village Phase I - Under construction
 - (1) 131 units - all affordable housing for families
 - d) Westview Village Phase II - 50 units for seniors, 5 for homeless people.
 - e) Westview Village Phase III - 105 family units (starting in 3/20)
 - f) Westview Village Phase IV - for sale units
 - (1) 34 units - 12/21
 - g) Rancho Verde - units for farmworker families
 - (1) 24 units under construction
 - h) Snapdragon Place II - 22 units
 - (1) 11 for homeless households
 - (2) 9 for people with special needs
 - (3) 4 for veterans
4. Kevin Clerici - Ventura has put a hold on General Plan update
 - a) Not being worked until later this summer
 - (1) But VSSTF and allies can continue to prepare input.
 - (a) Sonja Flores - Better to give input early
 - (i) Unsure of who to talk to.
5. Tara Carruth - State funding for housing may become available
 - a) State resources will not keep coming, so act soon!
6. Jerry Breiner - Notes that all of the recent housing developments are on the periphery of Ventura.
7. Sonja Flores - Looking for 2 acre lot suggestions (for possible housing development) because of issues that arose during a previous housing element update in Oxnard

F. Shorter Term Strategies - Kevin Clerici

1. How much does Ventura need us to advocate for housing?
 - a) Meredith Hart - Looking for public-private partnerships.
2. Safe Sleep - Meredith Hart
 - a) Looking to fund full-time caseworker for Safe Sleep
 - (1) Funding to Salvation Army, preferably from private sources.
 - b) Judy Alexandre - AB302 - would permit safe sleep parking at VCC for homeless students
 - (1) Meredith Hart - would be Ventura College's responsibility
 - c) Tara Carruth - non-traditional sheltering options (like Safe Sleep) aren't eligible for HUD funding.

X. Reports

A. VSSTF Faith Subcommittee - Marianne Norton

1. Streamlining newsletter production
2. Working on educational forum in September

B. Continuum Of Care - Tara Carruth

1. HEAP contracts are out
2. Prepping for annual funding competition
3. HUD changed process this year
 - a) More local control - good, but partners are wary

C. Vulnerable Populations Network - Judy Alexandre

1. Countywide advocacy network on county housing elements (and in each city)
2. Initial workshop on 5/16
 - a) Small meeting with consultant about next step
3. Priorities:
 - a) Influence/develop housing plans
 - b) Education/advocacy to make a) happen
 - c) Resources available to help achieve a) & b).

D. Homeless Prevention Fund - Judy Alexandre for Sue Brinkmeyer

1. So far in 2019:
 - a) Helped 17 households (18 adults, 9 children)
 - b) Expended \$14,057 in 3 months (vs. \$27,630 in all of 2018)
 - (1) \$1,171 per household in 2019 (vs. \$987 in 2018)
 - (2) Average rent in 2019 is \$1428 (vs. \$1,185 in 2018)

E. Agency Updates

1. Salvation Army - Denise Adams
 - a) 5 new beds in January
2. Buddy Nation - Tara Carruth for Cappi Patterson
 - a) Cappi Patterson attended Oxnard city council meeting
 - (1) Oxnard has a 5-year plan to address homelessness.
 - (a) Where is Ventura's?
 - (2) Oxnard is starting to consider using the armory as site for permanent shelter.

3. Family To Family - Jan Schmutte

a) Fundraising dinner planned for 9/28.

XI. Adjourn: Next meeting is **May 1, 2019, 3:15 pm, Catholic Charities Building.**

XII. Meetings:

- A. City Council Subcommittee on Homelessness, Housing and Safe & Clean Initiative - 1st Tuesday of every month,
- B. Faith Sub Committee 4/24/19 3pm, Church of the Foothills, Ventura, Marianne Norton ma4mail@aol.com .
- C. Homeless Prevention Fund will meet in 5/15/19 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. Continuum Of Care Alliance - 4/18/19 10am, Foster Library (tara.carruth@ventura.org)
- F. Ventura City Council, 1st Monday of the month, open mic.