

## Monthly Meeting Minutes 6/3/20

3:15 pm, via Zoom video chat

### Ventura Social Services Task Force

Attendees: Judy Alexandre, Jerry Breiner, Ninna Castellano, Kevin Clerici, Jennifer Harkey, Brian Hollander, John Sanders Jones, Pamela Kelly, Shannon Kelly, Robert March, Pam Marshall, Cathi Nye, Jackie Pearce, Kappy Paulson, Clyde Reynolds, Erin Rode, Maury Ruano, Debora Schreiber, Suzanne West, Susan White Wood, Rev. Dana Worsnop

- I. Call to order - Judy Alexandre
- II. Welcome, introductions - Kevin Clerici
- III. Approval of the agenda for 6/3/20 - MSC
- IV. Approval of the minutes for 5/6/20 - MSC
- V. Treasurer's Report - Judy Alexandre
  - A. Current balance - \$2,356.46. - no change
- VI. Actions from last month's meeting - Judy Alexandre
  - A. Individual letter about location for RVs in Ventura
  - B. Letters to the Ventura County Board of Supervisors and Ventura County Behavioral Health in support of the need for board & care facilities.
  - C. Letter regarding mental health chairs & beds
    1. Kevin Clerici mailed the letter.
- VII. Updates from:
  - A. Continuum Of Care - Jennifer Harkey
    1. Project Roomkey
      - a) 340-350 households (individuals and couples)
      - b) Using motels in Ventura, Oxnard & Newbury Park
      - c) Working on transition to housing for all individuals in program
        - (1) Including permanent supportive housing
          - (a) But there are few vacancies in the county
      - d) Funding from FEMA covers through 30 June.
      - e) Need to find rooms for rent, share housing options, other creative solutions
    2. COVID-19 Funding received for motels, street outreach, backpack medicine
    3. Emergency Solution Grant (ESG) to board
      - a) COC authorized, and also for CARES (Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security) Act ESG funding.
      - b) Rapid rehousing, street outreach, emergency housing.
  - B. City of Ventura - Judy Alexandre
    1. Jennie Buckingham - point person for housing in Ventura (affordable housing projects)
    2. Homes For All & Housing Advocacy Group want info on inclusionary housing
      - a) Have not followed up yet.

- b) Stakeholders meeting soon to make sure the plan includes more than just rentals and has a larger area.
      - 3. Zoning and ordinance changes to meet demand for affordable housing
        - a) Timing is right (next meeting) to clarify what specific properties to look at for affordable housing.
        - b) Homes For All and People's Self Help Housing have done a good job of picking spots all over the city.
      - 4. Seeing a loss of affordable housing as affordable homes go on the market again at market value.
        - a) Ventura doesn't have any money to purchase affordable units
      - 5. Housing Preservation Profile - (National Low Income Housing Coalition - NLIHC)
        - a) Shortage of homes and the loss of housing is quite high.
      - 6. How is Ventura going to make sure that affordable housing doesn't disappear in the future?
        - a) Now affordable housing units remain so for 55 years for rentals and 45 years for sales.
        - b) Possible action items - Write to state/city that we want housing to not ever time out (as noted above)
        - c) Coastal zones are required to have more affordable housing.
      - 7. General plan and housing element
        - a) Jennie Buckingham is working on the Climate Element, which includes housing as a discussion point.
  - C. The ARCH - Ninna Castellano
    - 1. Still taking recommended precautions for COVID-19
    - 2. Several clients are in Project Roomkey
    - 3. 3 men's and 2 women's beds are available.
  - D. Downtown, Park Ambassadors, Emergency Funds - Kevin Clerici
    - 1. Park Ambassadors - still working 7 days/week
    - 2. 2 funds
      - a) Family Reconnection Program
        - (1) To assist homeless people w/o support in town & a desire to move elsewhere (where they have support)
        - (2) 214 reconnections in 5 years
      - b) Emergency fund
        - (1) Used recently to help someone get into rehab
        - (2) Intended to cover emergent financial needs
          - (a) From agency case manager or similar
  - E. Homeless Prevention Fund - Judy Alexandre
    - 1. Very successful program
    - 2. Try to figure out how to adjust policies due to COVID-19
- VIII. West Ventura Concerns - Jackie Pearce (Westside Community Development Corporation)
- A. Organization focus - economic development in West Ventura
  - B. Ongoing & new problems

1. Homeless people have been living on private property
  2. People are using alleyways for bathrooms
    - a) Business owners are required to clean up
    - b) Nearby bus stops have similar issues - excessive trash and human waste
  3. The community wants to help people but also need to maintain their businesses
- C. Jennifer Harkey - In Ventura, we have park ambassadors, code compliance
1. Resources and referrals - 211 (local services information phone number) is still the best option
  2. Need to make sure people are referred into the system and are on the lists for services.
- D. Kevin Clerici - sympathizes with Westside issues
1. Unfortunately, resources are limited
  2. Thinks we can work out a better plan for dealing with these issues.
- E. Kappy Paulson - Unitarian Universalist Church of Ventura (UUCV) has been dealing with an uptick in people sleeping on the property with the associated trash and human waste
- F. Jackie Pearce - Issue with bathrooms
1. Direction to look for funding for a portable bathroom or a public restroom on the Westside
    - a) Need to find a good location
- G. Jennifer Harkey - looking at Whole Person Care expansion to Westside
1. Possible shower pod
- IX. Independent Living Resource Center (ILRC) Information - Brian Hollander
- A. Centers for Independent Living
1. Assist people across spectrum of disabilities, age & income level to live independently in a community
- B. Provide wide array of services for:
1. Housing
  2. Deaf/blind individuals
  3. Transitional youth (14-24 years old)
  4. Benefits advisement and enrollment
  5. Peer support
  6. Individualized advocacy
  7. Teaching self-advocacy
  8. Systems advocacy
  9. Assistive tech assistance and loans
  10. Educating property owners about the benefits of providing accessibility
- C. There is no database of accessible units in the area
- D. Philosophy - All people with appropriate supports can live independently
- E. Jennifer Harkey - Recommends connecting with Amy Duggan at United Way.
1. Amy Duggan deals with landlord engagement.
- X. Housing Strategies (Next steps) - Judy Alexandre
- A. Motel Conversion
1. Discussions underway with 1 motel

- a) Potential for long-term lease
- 2. Maury Ruano will look up the funding amount currently being considered for this project.

B. Action items

- 1. Joint letter to city regarding general plan & housing element
  - a) Drafted by Homes For All (Sonja Flores)
  - b) Includes sites that we identified as having potential for affordable housing development.
  - c) Request for overlay zones for allowing multi-use (commercial & residential) units.
  - d) MSC - Send the letter with VSSTF signature.
    - (1) Clyde Reynolds will bring the letter to the Vulnerable Populations Housing Network (VPHN) for possible signature.

XI. Agency Updates & Information

A. Report from UUCV - Rob March

- 1. Moving In Project - [kathypurpleprincess@gmail.com](mailto:kathypurpleprincess@gmail.com) (Kathy Powell)
  - a) When someone who is homeless finally gets into the apartment they have been waiting years for, most of the time they need everything a person moving into their first home needs: furniture, appliances, sheets, towels, blankets, a shower curtain, dishes, small appliances, cleaning supplies, and sometimes even toiletries. A number of congregations (including the Unitarian Universalist Church of Ventura, the Center for Spiritual Living, Temple Beth Torah, Church of the Foothills, The River Community Church, and Orchard Community Church) have joined forces to help these folks move in and get settled in their new home. You can help:
    - (1) Donate new or gently used furniture, appliances, or household goods — in good enough condition that you'd feel happy giving it to a friend or relative;
    - (2) Help transport donated items to storage or to people's new home — especially helpful if you have a truck.
  - b) Please contact Kathy Powell to confirm that she needs and/or has space for potential donations.
- 2. Victoria Galindo Lopez - A single mother of four, an essential worker at the Vagabond Inn (Project Roomkey), helping to care for homeless veterans & elderly people in need of housing during COVID-19. Since 2011, she has submitted applications to stay in America. Since 2011, her Stays have been granted. This year, her application submitted in February was denied. Deportation has been scheduled for 11 June 2020.
  - a) <https://www.stayofremoval.com/> has information on how to help.
  - b) Update - Ms. Galindo Lopez was granted a 30 day extension to 11 July 2020, but advocacy efforts are still needed.

- c) MSC - Rob March requested permission to have Judy Alexandre send information about Ms. Galindo to the VSSTF mailing list, as her case is not directly related to homelessness (although it intersects).

XII. Vulnerable Populations Housing Network (VPHN) - Clyde Reynolds

- A. Efficiency Housing Action Task Group
  - 1. Alternative housing models
    - a) Container homes
      - (1) Oxnard has provided a list of possible properties
    - b) Tiny homes
  - 2. Working to put together a combined approach for a local landlord
- B. County & City Advocacy (Carl Morehouse)
  - 1. Working with planners on development fees/impact fees
- C. Connor Finney - YIMBY - working with VPHN on legislation
- D. Spent time identifying local housing advocacy groups in each city in Ventura County
- E. Current bills impacting housing:
  - 1. AB 3155 - Streamline small ( $\leq 10$  units) housing projects
  - 2. AB 2345 - Expand state's existing density bonus law.
  - 3. AB 2323 - Updates rules to have housing projects near transit.
  - 4. AB 2580 - Motel conversion
  - 5. AB 3107 - Allows housing in commercial zones if housing has at least 20% affordable units

XIII. Next meeting is **July 1, 2020, 3:15 pm, via Zoom.**