

Monthly Meeting Minutes 7/1/20

3:15 pm, via Zoom video chat

Ventura Social Services Task Force

Attendees: Marisol Alejandres, Judy Alexandre, Jerry Breiner, Brian Brennan, Gane Brooking, Christina Cabral, Mitchell Cameron, Kevin Clerici, Clayton Coates, Connor Finney, Jennifer Harkey, Brian Hollander, John Sanders Jones, Robert March, Miguel Marquez, Pam Marshall, Alexa Martin, Ken Maryanski, Kappy Paulson, Jan Schmutte, Mark Stadler

- I. Call to order - Judy Alexandre
- II. Welcome, introductions - Kevin Clerici
- III. Approval of the agenda for 7/1/20 - MSC
- IV. Approval of the minutes for 6/3/20 - MSC
- V. Treasurer's Report - Jan Schmutte
 - A. Current balance - \$2,356.46. - no change
- VI. New Reports & Information
 - A. City of Ventura Outreach update - Christina Cabral
 1. Riverbottom outreach
 - a) Looks different - taking precautions
 - b) Asking about symptoms
 - c) Going out with Backpack Medicine
 - d) Meeting in River Haven
 - e) Finding that people are looking for housing
 - (1) Shared room & board is \$750-800/month
 - (a) Hard to afford on SSDI.
 - B. City of Ventura Safe & Clean, Housing & Homelessness Committee Update - Mitchell Cameron
 1. Update on housing, funding homeless services.
 2. Mitchell Cameron is backfilling Meredith Hart while she is on maternity leave
 3. Christina Cabral is funded through Measure O & the county.
 4. Funding:
 - a) Prior to this year, The ARCH was funded by the city, county & Measure O
 - b) This fiscal year, The ARCH is funded through Measure O, Community Development Block Grants (CDBG)
 - c) Funding has not decreased, but the sources have diversified.
 5. The ARCH - Limited to 32 residents (versus 55 capacity) due to COVID-19
 - a) Exploring options to increase the capacity.
 - (1) Judy Alexandre - Are the county and city are looking at using the next floor at The ARCH?
 - (a) Mitchell Cameron - It's still under discussion.

6. Ventura was awarded Homeless Housing, Assistance and Prevention (HHAP) funding through the state & county
 - a) \$180K to increase outreach efforts, will allow for another outreach worker
 7. Confident of maintaining services and increasing outreach.
 8. County is leading an effort with Ventura to acquire a motel to use as additional affordable housing.
- C. Continuum Of Care - Jennifer Harkey
1. Project Roomkey - only funded through 30 June
 - a) Working on housing plans for clients
 - (1) 350 participants
 - (2) Phased many people back to shelters, transitional housing, sober living, permanent housing, Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing (VASH)
 - b) Looking to use federal funds through CARES Act to secure motel vouchers.
 - (1) For most vulnerable clients.
 - c) Have 2 weeks to clean motels to return them to original condition.
 - d) Board approved Emergency Solutions Grants (ESG) funding on 6/10
 - (1) For Turning Point, Mercy House, etc.
 - e) COVID-19 Funds
 - (1) Shelters, street outreach, rapid rehousing
 - (2) Mercy House, Interface, Gold Coast Veterans Foundation
 - f) Judy Alexandre - how many participants are back on the streets?
 - (1) Jennifer Harkey - Between Ventura & Newbury Park, probably a handful who are not considered highly vulnerable.
 - (a) The numbers fluctuate on a daily basis.
 - (i) Based on emerging medical issues.
 - (b) Working on solutions to get more time to help people
 2. Request for Quotation (RFQ) for motel proposals ends on 3 July 2020.
- D. Census Update - Kenneth Maryanski (Census Bureau Partnership Specialist)
1. Emphasis on low response areas in Ventura & how the homeless population is being counted.
 2. Judy Alexandre - Ventura is doing well, but still needs another 30% counted.
 3. Two problem areas:
 - a) Downtown between Main Street and the coast.
 - b) Down by Sanjon Road.
 - c) Both areas have a younger average age.
 4. Rescheduled the homeless person count from March to 9/22-9/24/20.
 5. Outreach continues until August, when census takers go out (August through October)
 6. Separate operation to count hotels, motels & marinas.
- E. City of Ventura Housing Authority - No update

- F. Legislation Update - Connor Finney
 - 1. Many of the big ticket items died in committee.
 - 2. From Connor Finney's email of 6/23:
 - a) At the moment, we have SB 902 which just passed the state senate (legalizes duplexes in job rich areas and it allows local governments to plan for "missing middle" housing up to 10 units to get CEQA streamlining)
 - b) There is also AB 2580 (which allows the regulatory streamlining of hotel conversions for project roomkey's fate is being held in committee but has had it's language amended in AB 83.
- VII. Other Reports
 - A. The ARCH - No report this month.
 - B. Vulnerable Populations Housing Advocacy Network - Judy Alexandre
 - 1. Oxnard has identified several city sites for potential development of the container homes project.
 - a) Hope to have a 6 to 10 unit pilot program.
 - b) We need to encourage Ventura to follow suit.
 - 2. Ventura needs to add 5000 new housing units (all types, not just affordable) in the new housing element.
 - C. Homes For All - John Jones
 - 1. Drafted a letter requesting overlay zones and for more sites for affordable housing units.
 - a) Co-signed by VSSTf, HFA, VPHN
 - b) Letter is getting fine tuned before it is sent out.
- VIII. Agency Updates - None.
- IX. Other
 - A. Mental Health - Judy Alexandre
 - 1. Mary Haffner sent a letter about how lack of mental health treatment hurts people.
 - a) Letter focused on one case in particular.
 - 2. Grand Jury report in Santa Barbara about lack of mental health beds.
 - a) Do we want to ask for a similar grand jury in Ventura County?
 - (1) To ask why does Ventura County have such a low number of beds compared to other counties in CA, and compared to the recommended number.
 - (2) Not taking a vote today.
 - (3) Possibly on next month's agenda.
- X. Adjourn meeting.

Next meeting is 5 August 2020, 3:15PM on Zoom.