

Ventura Social Service Task Force

3/3/21 3:15pm via Zoom: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88503050348>

Attendees: Judy Alexandre, Mike Anselmo, Brian Brennan (later), Gane Brooking, Kyler Carlson (later), Kevin Clerici, Amanda Cruz(?), Teresa Edwards, Jaydon Gaines, Doug Halter, Meredith Hart, Jenn Harkey, Mike Johnson, John Sanders Jones, Jacob Lesner-Buxton, Kappy Paulson, Clyde Reynolds, Chris Russell (phone), Elizabeth R. Stone, Summer Ward, Susan White Wood

- I. Call to order (Judy Alexandre)
- II. Welcome and introductions (Judy Alexandre)
- III. Approval of or changes to the Agenda for 3/3/21 (Move C Russell up, move KylerC. back)
- IV. Approval of Minutes of 2/2/21 Approve: Mike Johnson; Second – John Jones
- V. Financial update (Jan Schmutte) Absent but Judy reported no changes
- VI. Update from City Council (Mike Johnson)
 - a. Safe & Clean Aff Housing & Homelessness Council Members – Lorrie Brown – Chair; Mike Brown V. Chair, Doug Halter
 - b. Inclusionary housing ordinance in sync with report due in October 2021; prob no earlier
 - c. City WILL probably use the 120 days extension so Feb 2022
- VII. Report from **County** of Ventura Homeless Services (Chris Russell)
 - a. Largest service provider with rental assistance -Bridge housing, rapid rehousing
 - b. In 2020, 1100 service calls/month, 200 unique – homeless prevention or rapid rehouse
 - c. Down in 2020 due to Pandemic rental assistance & Eviction moratorium, some not in immediate risk of losing shelter; In January 2021, 1,300 calls
 - d. Bringing Families Home – new program working with child welfare to get housing
 - e. Supportive Services (State) Project – 2 new social workers, & permanent Supportive wrap around services WITH the housing
 - f. Family Emergency Sheltering with The River Comm. Two 2-bedroom units, emergency shelter for 60 days. Coming soon in either Ventura and/or Oxnard
 - g. Christina Cabral fund ½ of her compensation; adding one full time outreach Social Worker focusing on Ventura on 3/7/2021
 - h. Ventura Avenue & Crooked Palm area – Relatively smoothly; Parking permits, mobile sewerage pump truck 2-3 times/week, connecting people to social services & mental health services, also Dumpster placements (working on that issue).
 - i. Provided social workers at the Foul Weather event
 - j. Assessments at Project Room key at Vagabond & Best Western
 - k. Clients went to Castillo del Sol, 7 households or 9 people to go into Willit's Ranch, 2 mainstream vouchers and 1 HAS Choices
- VIII. Discussion of plan/strategy for implement goals (Judy Alexandre)
 - a) Prioritize, initiate, advocate action as needed?
 - a. Goals Collaborative Effort with service providers
 - b. Express gratitude to city and push for an “amendment” to rental goals now!

- c. Comprehensive plan to include Supportive Housing AND associated funding to maintain folks in the housing.
 - d. Housing By Right in mixed use areas
 - e. Establish and endorse Affordable housing overlay zones
 - f. Discourage in lieu of fees or at minimum make high to build a physical unit
 - b) Workshop in November – Strategies to reach Goals
 - a. History & Background in Ventura – What happened in the past and discussion of exclusionary zoning and racial equity issues
 - b. Successes VSSTF and others. We’ve worked this since 2014
 - c. Who qualifies for affordable/ low income and extremely low income housing (Ventura County Median Income & 80/50/30 %) Some info about minimum wage, Pie charts, typical salaries in Vta, etc)
 - d. Showcase innovative examples of affordable housing (tiny homes, Escape, Habitat, containers)
 - e. How we have missed the boat on earlier housing element goals. We want the housing element to be more than lip service.
 - f. Vouchers – Wait lists, getting landlords to accept
 - g. Target Audience - General Public and Faith community.
 - c) Collaboration with Homes for All, VPHAN, CAUSE, CAYIMBY, other?
- IX. Update from General Plan Advisory Committee (Kyler Carlson)
- a. The Committee is a sounding board for City Staff & consultants. Dana Warsnop is also on the Committee; Doug is Vice Chair
 - b. Regular Meeting 3rd Tuesday at 6-8:30, Public Comment is permitted
 - c. 3/16 -will discuss demographics; focus on Community Engagement
 - d. May (updated to June at H4All meeting) focus on the Housing Element Update. Need turnout.
 - e. VSSTF will advocate approval of the amendment to require 15% of rental housing by the end of 2021. Doug & Mike – wonder how would pushing for this jeopardize getting the housing element done early
 - f. Expect a first Draft in July or August
- X. Report on DVP Park Outreach Ambassadors (Kevin Clerici)
- a. Red Crew – Ambassador team 8:00A to 9:30P
 - b. Blue Team – Clean Team
 - c. No authority, just eyes and ears for VPD & Downtown Partners
 - d. Family Reconnection – 237 reconnections in 7 years; 65-70 in 2020, 6 so Fr in 2021. Cost ~\$200-250; always have to have someone to receive the person; All sorts of reasons for being there. Program is citywide not =just downtown.
 - e. Community Intervention Court – Ambassadors, Police & Meredith
 - f. Sometimes Caseworks will ask Ambassadors for info on known folks
- XI. Report on current housing legislation (CAYIMBY) – no rep attended; sent info

XII. Reports from:

- a) City of Ventura Safe and Clean, Homeless and Housing (Meredith Hart) NOTE
Committee meets on 3/2/221 at 3pm (via webex on the City web connection)
 - a. Foul Weather Shelter – no triggers expected soon
 - b. Over \$6000 of community donations, Pledge from St Vincent DePaul @ Assumption offered 3 rooms
 - c. Lorrie Brown asked to look at using some \$ for hot weather shelter
 - d. Christine’s outreach expires 3/22/2021 and extended for 3 years
 - e. River Camp Clean-up – handed out 200 bags on Monday; One site had 219,000 lbs. of debris after resident put aside their belongings.
 - f. Question about Community Refrigerator – concern about public health, access, etc. There is a new food waste law in 2024, with a need a need for restaurants to recycle or reuse food waste.
- b) Continuum of Care, County of Ventura (Jenn Harkey, Tara Carruth)
 - a. Mobile Clinic – vaccinations at the ARCH tomorrow, next congregate housing , shelter clients & Staff, street outreach ~100 vaccines/ week.
 - b. State Grants – Emergency Solutions Corona – Round 2; Homeless Housing & Prevention Program Round 2 includes Turning Point Salvation Army, ARCH, Health Services Agency for the Homeless
 - c. More info at <https://landlordtenant.dre.ca.gov> [Note: this is a more specific site [Housing Is Key \(ca.gov\)](#)]
 - d. Housing is Key March 15
 - e. Responding to VC Star article they got unsheltered off the street, many with chronic health & documentation to get benefits; 75% of the 210 people are chronically homeless.
 - f. Vagabond is now used for Recuperative care (20 rooms) with onsite staff to help
- c) Homes for All (Sonja Flores, John Jones, Kappy Paulson)
- d) VPHAN (Clyde Reynolds) –
 - a. Efficiency Housing – alternative Housing with Habitat for Humanity
 - b. Looking at tiny housing - Escape company, ~\$30k installed in 70-90 days
 - c. Loops Motel might offer the space behind hotel on a long-term lease
 - d. Last week of March will have a meeting
- e) Other

XIII. Other (Judy Alexandre)

- a. Future Meetings
 - i. TAY youth housing needs recommended by Elizabeth Stone

XIV. LGBTQIA homelessness, particularly youth – recommended by Eliz Stone

XV. Adjourn Next meeting is April 7, 2021 3:15pm via Zoom