

Monthly Meeting Minutes 12/1/21

3:15 pm, via Zoom video chat

Ventura Social Services Task Force

Attendees: Judy Alexandre, Brian Brennan, Kyler Carlson, Kevin Clerici, Rebecca Evans, Sonja Flores, Jaydon Gaines, Doug Halter, Jennifer Harkey, Doug Jensen, John Sanders Jones, Pam Kelley, Robert March, Pam Marshall, Kappy Paulson, Jan Schmutte, Inger Smuts, Elizabeth R. Stone, Summer Ward, Susan White Wood

- I. Call to order - Judy Alexandre
- II. Approval of the agenda for 12/1/21 - MSC
- III. Approval of the minutes for 11/3/21 - MSC
- IV. Treasurer's Report - Jan Schmutte - no change - \$2,316.46
- V. Follow-up up/feedback regarding Housing Element - Sonja Flores & Kyler Carlson
 - A. Judy Alexandre - 12/6 council meeting is very important.
 1. Really need community support when our housing recommendations come before the city council.
 - a) Letters are important, too, especially to each councilor individually.
 - B. We have met with most city councilors.
 1. Housing Element - City council is receptive to VSSTF/HFA ideas.
 - a) No implementation dates. Request adding them to the draft Housing Element.
 - b) Need more specific language of commitment to the ideas.
 2. Pro-housing designation.
 - a) Ventura should apply for it, as the designation provides more access to state funding.
 - b) Housing Authority has received \$20 million in the last 5 years.
 - (1) Need funds to be competitive when constructing housing.
 3. Permit streamlining.
 - a) Need comments (emails, letters) or attendance at council meetings.
 - (1) Local opposition is mounting, but so is support (e.g. Ventura Chamber of Commerce is a supporter).
 - b) The process currently takes a couple of years.
 - (1) Even simple permits take a very long time.
 - (2) Streamlining will simplify getting applications through the review process.
 - c) Would allow projects to go to administrative hearings instead of before the city council.
 - d) Judy Alexandre - Part of streamlining is knowing what kind of housing can go where.
 - (1) Design guidelines will come from the city.

- VI. Information from Workforce Development Board on how to access programs and service providers - Rebecca Evans.
 - A. Focus on employment for the unhoused.
 - B. Currently working with local shelters: The ARCH, Salvation Army, etc.
 - C. Share presentation about Workforce Development Board (WDB)
 - 1. Federal funding - Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA)
 - a) Funding breakdown:
 - (1) Youth (16-24)
 - (2) Adult (18+)
 - (3) Dislocated workers (e.g. laid off)
 - 2. Some people need help to be ready for employment.
 - 3. America's Job Center of California (AJCC)
 - a) Locations in Oxnard and Simi Valley.
 - 4. WDB partners with local organizations who do similar work
 - a) Oxnard location works with Salvation Army
 - 5. Volunteer board from diverse interests.
 - 6. Lots of programs and grants focused on specific fields or circumstances (e.g. COVID, wildfires)
 - D. Judy Alexandre - How do we help people who are unhoused?
 - 1. Rebecca Evans - connect via website, email or phone.
 - a) 805-477-5306 (main) / 805-758-8411 (Rebecca Evans mobile)
 - b) www.workforceventuracounty.org
 - c) hsa-info.wdb@ventura.org / rebecca.evans@ventura.org
 - E. Elizabeth R. Stone - Is paid on-the-job training available?
 - 1. Rebecca Evans - It is possible.
 - a) Can reimburse employers for costs of training a person on the job.
 - b) Employers can reach out to AJCC.
 - F. Jaydon Gaines - Wants to partner ILRC with AJCC.
 - G. AJCC Oxnard - 805-204-5186
 - H. Kappy Paulson - Can WDB send a person to One Stop?
 - 1. Rebecca Evans - Currently don't have the staff to cover it.
 - a) Have partnered with Mobile Library Units to help people connect with employment specialists.
- VII. Goal Review - Judy Alexandre
 - A. Continue working on Housing Element implementation.
 - B. Employment for unhoused individuals.
 - C. Gap needs.
 - 1. What are these?
 - a) Judy Alexandre - Safe storage units.
 - b) Pam Marshal - Transportation - bicycles, buses, etc.
 - (1) To/from jobs, job centers.
 - c) Jan Schmutte - more accessible restrooms / showers.
 - (1) Jennifer Harkey - We need long-term options.

(2) Elizabeth R. Stone - Need these outside of normal business hours, too.

d) Kappy Paulson - Laundry services and clean clothing (especially men's pants and big shoes)

e) Jan Schmutte - Safe parking at night.

(1) Including places for charging electronics.

f) Elizabeth R. Stone - Helping people learn what help is available.

g) Doug Halter - Support for mental health and substance abuse issues.

h) Pam Marshall - Legal support.

D. New strategic plan.

E. How to better serve those with mental illness.

VIII. Elections - Judy Alexandre

A. Nominations:

1. Chair - Judy Alexandre

2. Co-chair - none

3. Secretary - Rob March with backup as required

B. Vote:

1. Chair - Judy Alexandre - unanimous

2. Co-chair - remains empty

3. Secretary - Rob March - unanimous

IX. Reports

A. City of Ventura - Doug Halter

1. Next HOPES subcommittee meeting on 12/7 (?)

B. Continuum Of Care - Jennifer Harkey

1. Project RoomKey - FEMA extended funding through 4/1/22

2. Ventura Housing Authority - vouchers

a) Families at risk of losing housing.

b) May be able to shift people out of permanent supportive housing.

3. Landlord engagement program - partnered with United Way

a) Working to increase housing stock.

4. Board meeting on 12/8 at 1500.

a) Final decisions on Emergency Solutions Grants Program funding.

(1) Street outreach, rapid rehousing, motel vouchers.

5. Kappy Paulson - When people leave supportive housing, is it a physical move or administrative?

a) Jennifer Harkey - It can be either.

C. Foul Weather Shelter - Judy Alexandre

1. Still need groups to sign up for meals.

2. Need supplies for warming packs.

D. Agency reports

1. Ventura County Behavioral Health - Susan White Wood

a) Small grant to help transitional age youth.

(1) Job coaching, rent help.

- b) Grant - peer support coming to all clinics.
- 2. Step Up Ventura - Judy Alexandre
 - a) Upcoming fundraiser - Sundaes on Sunday
- 3. Memorial For Our Homeless Neighbors - Kappy Paulson
 - a) 12/18 at 1530 in Plaza Park in Ventura.
 - b) 12/19 at 1530 at Plaza Park in Oxnard.
 - c) Please provide names if you have any.
 - d) 136 people died unsheltered in Ventura County in 2021.
- E. Legislative Report - Pam Marshall
 - 1. Email sent with a round-up of what's passed.
 - 2. We need to be aware (as does Ventura) of: SB-8, SB-9, , SB-10, SB-478, AB-816.

Next meeting is Wednesday, 5 January, 2022, 3:15PM on Zoom.