

Monthly Meeting Minutes 7/7/21

3:15 pm, via Zoom video chat

Ventura Social Services Task Force

Attendees: Denise Adams, Judy Alexandre, Tess Allen, SGT Mike Anselmo, Karyn Bates, Jerry Breiner, Kyler Carlson, Ninna Castellano, Kevin Clerici, Jim Duran, Jaydon Gaines, Jennifer Harkey, Mike Johnson, John Sanders Jones, Pam Kelley, Jacob Lesner-Buxton, Staci Mallett, Robert March, Pam Marshall, Sandra Meyer, Ella Moore, Carl Morehouse, Maria Navarro, Cathi Nye, Kappy Paulson, Clyde Reynolds, Inger Smuts, Elizabeth R. Stone

- I. Welcome & Introductions - Judy Alexandre
- II. Call to order - Judy Alexandre
- III. Approval of the agenda for 7/7/21
 - A. Judy Alexandre added a few announcements - MSC
 1. Inger Smuts - Mercy House needs underwear (mens/womens) in all sizes.
 - a) Contact ingers@mercyhouse.net
- IV. Approval of the minutes for 6/2/21 - MSC
- V. Treasurer's Report - no report
- VI. Presentation by Diversity Collective re: LGBTQIA homelessness & outreach - Tess Allen
tess.allen@diversitycollective.org
 - A. Diversity Collective stood up in 2014.
 - B. Provides HIV/AIDS education & prevention
 1. Free confidential testing (monthly)
 - C. Rainbow Umbrella - support group for ages 13-23
 - D. Little Unicorns - support for ages 9-12
 1. Safety, acceptance, inclusion
 - E. Cultural competency training
 - F. Homeless LGBTQ people at are increased risk for physical abuse, sexual assault.
 1. Can be turned away from shelters for religious freedom reasons.
 2. Youth are often kicked out of homes by parents/caregivers.
 3. Shelters often lack cultural competency to handle LGBTQ people.
 - G. What can we do?
 1. Ask pronouns!
 2. Let people self identify (gender identification & sexual orientation)
 3. Become culturally competent.
 4. Elect LGBTQ leaders.
 5. Hold non-LGBTQ leaders accountable on LGBTQ issues.
 6. R.I.S.E. - Recognize. Intervene. Support. Empower.
- VII. Update on General Plan and Housing Element meetings - Kyler Carlson
 - A. Homes For All and VSSTF provided recommendations related to affordable housing development in Ventura.

- B. Last 2 General Plan meetings focused on housing
 - 1. Got info from staff & consultants.
 - 2. GPAC (General Plan Advisory Committee) meetings recorded on YouTube.
 - 3. Discussed shortage of affordable housing in Ventura.
 - a) VSSTF/HFA have 11 recommendations.
 - (1) This is our chance to sell ideas to the public.
- C. Waiting to see draft Housing Element (expected by end of July)
 - 1. Will discuss at 8/2/21 VSSTF meeting.
- D. Judy Alexandre - VSSTF, HFA and CAUSE meeting regularly with every city council member and the CEO of the Chamber of Commerce (Stephanie Caldwell)
 - 1. Want to meet with County Supervisor LaVere, the chief of police, the local DA.
 - 2. Presenting and looking for possible ideas & solutions for affordable housing shortage.
 - 3. All but 1 council member have been supportive.
- E. Final recommendation from HOPES meeting - city council directed Meredith Hart to relay 3 of the recommendations to Ventura Community Development Department.
 - 1. Affordable Housing Zoning Overlay
 - 2. Inclusionary Housing Ordinance Update
 - 3. Identify Sites Located In Ventura's High Or Highest Resource Areas And Include These Sites Within The Ahzo Program
- F. City Council and Planning Commission will receive a draft Housing Element from city staff on 8/2
 - 1. VSSTF response will be driven by which of our recommendations are present.
 - 2. ACTION: Write letters to Peter Gilli (Community Development Director) and each city council member individually.
 - a) Ask for support for some or all of the HFA/VSTTF recommendations.
 - b) Especially thank Mike Johnson, Doug Halter and Lorrie Brown for their support!
 - c) Attend the 8/2 meeting on the General Plan.
 - (1) It's a big chance to influence the Housing Element, which lasts for 8-10 years.

VIII. Legislative Update - Pam Marshall

- A. Multiple housing/homelessness bills moving through the statehouse.
- B. Looking at our role working with Ventura.
- C. Housing, Community and Economic Development Legislative Bill Tracking
<https://ctweb.capitoltrack.com/public/publish.aspx?session=21&id=4545b551-c0b3-44c7-bb36-6f444b7d135e>
- D. Housing, Community and Economical Development Bills with Positions
<https://ctweb.capitoltrack.com/public/publish.aspx?session=21&id=55380ca4-db57-4888-8d35-88eed2d1b1c7>
- E. California YIMBY <https://cayimby.org/policy/>

IX. VSSTF Faith Subcommittee - Pam Kelley

- A. Everyone Needs Housing Workshop on 9/30/21 5:30pm-8pm - O'Brian Hall at Mission Basilica Catholic Church
 - 1. Working on:
 - a) Flyers
 - b) Publicity - Let Kappy Paulson know of any ideas.
 - c) Insurance - Still need a sponsor for liability insurance.

- X. Reports
 - A. City Council update - Mike Johnson
 - 1. Meredith Hart is working half-time in the community development department
 - 2. Council passed the fiscal year budget.
 - a) Similar to last year's re: addressing homelessness.
 - b) More funding for River Haven and for monthly river bottom cleanup.
 - c) City received \$24 million of funding, but none used for housing.
 - 3. Draft housing element coming to the council on 8/2.
 - 4. HOPE & Solutions subcommittee (previously Safe & Clean, Affordable Housing and Homelessness Committee) unanimously voted to recommend all 11 HFA recommendations to the council.
 - B. Continuum Of Care - Jennifer Harkey
 - 1. Project Roomkey is at full capacity
 - a) ~300 people in program
 - b) Prioritizing vulnerable individuals as space opens.
 - c) Have had recent placements at El Portal and Willett Ranch.
 - 2. Partnering with Mercy House to expand capacity again.
 - 3. Project Homekey
 - a) Will have 70 transitional units next year.
 - b) VC Behavioral Health Board - emergency housing vouchers.
 - (1) Working with local housing authorities about how to prioritize use.
 - 4. Eviction moratorium extended through 9/30/21
 - C. Vulnerable Populations Housing Advocacy Network - Clyde Reynolds
 - 1. VPHN has been involved in the Housing Elements recommendations.
 - a) Have government advocacy committee
 - (1) Compiling recommendations to send to advocates in each city in Ventura County
 - (a) Some Housing Element updates are just beginning.
 - b) General membership meeting on 7/30.

- XI. Agency Updates.
 - A. Cathi Nye - Stuff the Bus Campaign
 - 1. Goal is 1500 backpacks.
 - 2. <https://vcunitedway.org/education/stuff-the-bus/>
 - B. Step Up Ventura - Judy Alexandre
 - 1. Every child and family received books.

C. Jim Duran

1. Tenderlife - 1 open bed.
2. City Center - 1 open room.
3. Entered agreement with Ventura County on emergency family shelter.
 - a) For families with children 13+
 - b) Need any livable 2BR space in Ventura or adjacent.
 - (1) \$2500/month rent.

D. Mercy House - Staci Mallett

1. Vaccinated people can move into the shelter immediately.

XII. Adjourn meeting.

Next meeting is 4 August, 3:15PM on Zoom. Our September meeting will be in person