

## Monthly Meeting Minutes 12/7/2022

3:15 pm, via Zoom video chat

### Ventura Social Services Task Force

Attendees: Judy Alexandre, Sue Brinkmeyer, Brandi Brown, Kyler Carlson, Kevin Clerici, Jim Duran, Jennifer Harkey, Pam Kelley, Robert March, Judy Morelli, Cathi Nye, Kappy Paulson, Clyde Reynolds, Leona Rollins, Debora Schreiber, Melanie Shankle, Javier Villa

- I. Call to order - Judy Alexandre
- II. Introductions - Judy Alexandre
- III. Approval of the minutes for 11/2/22 - MSC
- IV. Approval of the agenda for 12/7/22 - MSC
- V. Treasurer's Report - Judy Alexandre - \$2,009.53 - No change.
- VI. Updates on Inclusionary Housing, General Plan, Housing Element - Kyler Carlson
  - A. General Plan
    1. General Plan Advisory Committee (GPAC) meets monthly.
      - a) November meeting topic - better community engagement.
      - b) Need to analyze survey results.
        - (1) For targeted community outreach.
  - B. Housing Element
    1. Still waiting for the California Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) to certify.
      - a) Some funding for homelessness and housing is tied to certification.
    2. Leona Rollins - Trying to address HCD comments and resubmit.
      - a) Hope to get certification after the latest update.
  - C. Inclusionary Housing
    1. VSSTF and Homes For All (HFA) are partnering on advocacy.
    2. Hoped financial analysis would encourage stronger ordinance.
      - a) Analysis had the opposite effect.
      - b) Working on a joint VSSTF/HFA response.
    3. Judy Alexandre - We are sticking with our original request even though the Planning Commission and Ventura City Council may not support it.
    4. HFA will continue to advocate for original targets:
      - a) 15% very low income - rentals
      - b) 15% low income or 20% moderate income - sale properties
      - c) Strategy is to push for more, while expecting a compromise.
      - d) Judy Alexandre - A family of four (4) in Ventura earning \$100K annually currently qualifies for affordable housing.
      - e) Leona Rollins - this will be going to the Planning Commission on 12/14.
        - (1) Kyler Carlson - It is imperative that we move something forward.

- (a) Have already seen a 9 month delay.
  - (i) Therefore, we are seeing projects approved without any inclusionary housing.

(2) Judy Alexandre - talking points for next week's meeting:

- (a) 15% very low income - rentals
- (b) 15% low income or 20% moderate income - sale properties
- (c) Move forward with no more studies.
- (d) Strong in-lieu fees - to go into a fund that low-income housing developers can draw from.
- (e) Lower the threshold for requiring inclusionary housing to 7 units.

5. Kappy Paulson - can in-lieu fees be used to buy land?

- a) Kyler Carlson - Fees are city-controlled funds that can be used to support the development of affordable housing.
- b) Leona Rollins - Los Angeles has used in-lieu fees to acquire property.

VII. Advocacy Action Needs - Judy Alexandre

- A. On 12/7/22, the Design Review Committee will be looking at a proposed project.
  - 1. Livable Ventura will be there to oppose.
- B. Another big project is coming.
  - 1. Jennifer Harkey - we will need advocacy at the city council and the planning commission in the new year.
    - a) Pursuing a hotel conversion project through Project Home Key.
- C. VSSTF and HFA are meeting with every city council member and the planning commission about housing and homelessness.

VIII. Agency Updates

- A. Jim Duran
  - 1. The Foul Weather Shelter (FWS) is activating tonight (12/7)
  - 2. City Center has 2 available rooms.
- B. Salvation Army - Denise Adams is the new social services director.
- C. Moving In Project - Sue Brinkmeyer
  - 1. So far in 2022, Moving In has furnished 122 apartments, turning them into homes for 214 people, 65 of them children, and 19 of them veterans.
  - 2. In its 2-½ year history, Moving In has helped 234 households, or 373 people.
- D. Ventura Homeless Prevention Fund (VHPF) - Sue Brinkmeyer
  - 1. VHPF has provided \$92,126 in rental assistance so far this year — at least \$40,000 more than our average over the years.
    - a) Because of the eviction moratoriums that were in force in the last couple of years, we had some extra funds that allowed us to rise to the exceptional amount of need this year

- b) This year, we provided rental assistance to 71 households, or 172 people, 62 of them children at a cost of \$535 per person or approximately \$1,300 per household.
  - (1) We helped 9 families last month alone, 12 adults and 10 children.
- c) Twice during the year we totally ran out of funds. We sent out pleas to the houses of faith and individuals who have supported us over the years, and thank heavens, they came through for us. Each time, an additional \$8,000 or so came in.
  - (1) There are a number of people doing their paperwork now, VHPF expects to run out of funds again before long.
  - (2) VPHF is holding a fundraiser on Saturday, February 11, at 11 am at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Ventura.
    - (a) If you'd like to help, please let me know. You can easily reach me through our website <https://venturahomelessprevention.org/> or emailing directly to [venturahomelessprevention@gmail.com](mailto:venturahomelessprevention@gmail.com)

E. Tender Life - Brandi Brown

- 1. Currently 1 bed available.

F. Step Up Ventura - Judy Alexandre

- 1. Serving ~60 children through Easter Seals.
- 2. Finalizing memorandum with Simi Valley School District.
- 3. Collecting books for literacy programs.
  - a) Need volunteers to read to children every week.

G. Ventura County Human Services Agency - Homeless Program - Javier Villa

- 1. Helping families with:
  - a) CalWorks and Child Protective Services (CPS)
  - b) Applying for Social Security benefits.
  - c) Emergency housing vouchers.
- 2. Judy Morelli - It's good to partner with the county
  - a) Helps in a lot of ways:
    - (1) Groceries, grief counseling, etc.

H. Ventura Unified School District - Cathi Nye

- 1. Have 1000 coats for distribution to schools.
- 2. Gift Card Drive - will bring them to shelters during the holiday break for the kids living there.

I. One Stop - Judy Alexandre

- 1. Seeing an increase in seniors, families and people with severe mental illness.
- 2. Kappy Paulson - Men's pants for waist size 32 and up are needed.
- 3. Access to showers remains limited.

J. The ARCH - Judy Alexandre

- 1. Completely full except for the set-aside beds for Law Enforcement to fill.

2. There is a waitlist, especially for bottom bunks.
3. Current gift drive -  
[https://www.amazon.com/hz/charitylist/l/1BUKON2996699/ref=smi\\_ext\\_lnk\\_lcl?ref=smi\\_sel\\_u\\_rd\\_www](https://www.amazon.com/hz/charitylist/l/1BUKON2996699/ref=smi_ext_lnk_lcl?ref=smi_sel_u_rd_www)

K. Housing Developers - Kyler Carlson

1. Western Phase III development starting lease up next week.
2. Several projects in pre-development
3. Redeveloping a site close to downtown to add 34 units.

IX. Updates

A. City of Ventura - Leona Rollins

1. Many major initiatives are coming in 2023.
  - a) Before the Planning Commission and City Council.
    - (1) Affordable housing and homelessness.
2. FWS kicked off last Thursday (12/1/22)
  - a) Filled 20 motel rooms.
  - b) Activating tonight (12/7/22) through Friday morning.
  - c) Prioritizing 65+, and/or chronic medical conditions.
  - d) New single link set up by Jim Duran for volunteering.
    - (1) <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0d45a5af22a6fcc43-foul#/>
3. HOPES subcommittee meeting next Tuesday (12/13/22) at 3pm.
  - a) Agenda will include Point In Time Count and Mercy House

B. Continuum Of Care - Jennifer Harkey

1. Need Point In Time Count 2023 volunteers for Tuesday 1/24/23
  - a) [https://www.volunteerventuracounty.org/need/index?s=1&need\\_init\\_id=1355](https://www.volunteerventuracounty.org/need/index?s=1&need_init_id=1355)
  - b) Will continue surveying the community for about 7 days following the count.
2. COC Board meeting next Wednesday (12/14/22) at 330pm.
  - a) Still on Zoom.
  - b) New grant items:
    - (1) Encampment Resolution Funds
      - (a) Housing specific plans to get people off the streets.
3. Strategic planning - looking to hire a consultant to help with this.

C. Vulnerable Populations Housing Advocacy Network (VPHN) - Clyde Reynolds

1. Advocacy Areas
  - a) House Farm Workers! and CAUSE
  - b) Inclusionary Housing Ordinance
    - (1) Looking to help people with advocacy.
2. Looking to convene a group to look at housing alternatives in January.
  - a) Tiny homes, Habitat For Humanity

D. VSSTF Faith Subcommittee - Pam Kelley

1. Planning Interfaith Gathering on 2/23/23 from 630pm - 8pm at Unitarian Universalist Church Of Ventura (UUCV)
  - a) Action steps for addressing gap needs:
    - (1) Charging Stations.
    - (2) Dump Stations.
    - (3) Showers.
    - (4) Storage.
- X. Other
  - A. Judy Alexandre - Ventura Christmas Shoppe is looking for volunteers.
    1. <https://www.actionvc.org/events/community-christmas-shoppe/>
- XI. VSSTF Elections
  - A. Secretary - Rob March - nominated and elected.
  - B. Chairperson - Judy Alexandre - nominated and elected.
- XII. Meeting adjourned until 1/4/2022.

Meetings:

City Council HOPES & Solutions Subcommittee (addressing issues regarding homelessness).

VSSTF Faith Subcommittee 3rd Friday of each month, 3pm Pam Kelley ([pamjk3@msn.com](mailto:pamjk3@msn.com)), patio of Judy Alexandre