

Monthly Meeting Minutes 3/2/2022

3:15 pm, via Zoom video chat

Ventura Social Services Task Force

Attendees: Judy Alexandre, Marta Brown, Stephanie Caldwell, Michael Dunn, Jim Duran, Sonja Flores, Jennifer Harkey, Mike Johnson, John Jones, Pam Kelley, Rebecca Kofman, Robert March, Edwin Martinez, Pam Marshall, Carl Morehouse, Maria Navarro, Cathi Nye, Shannon Oliver, Kappy Paulson, Clyde Reynolds, Jan Schmutte, Debra Schreiber, Sandy Smith, Summer Ward, Susan White Wood

- I. Call to order - Judy Alexandre
- II. Introductions - Judy Alexandre
- III. Approval of the agenda for 4/6/22 - MSC
- IV. Approval of the minutes for 3/2/22 - MSC
- V. Treasurer's Report - Jan Schmutte - no change - \$2,316.46
- VI. Announcement and request for volunteers for 4th of July Booth - John Jones
 - A. VSSTF will share a booth with Downtown Ventura Organization (DVO) & the Ventura Homeless Prevention Fund (VHPF) at the 4th of July Street Fair in Ventura
 1. Kevin Clerici of DVO has paid for the table.
 - B. Debora Schreiber shared her experience at past events.
 1. Mostly networking and information sharing.
 - C. Deadline for table signup is very soon.
- VII. Action Items
 - A. New Urgent Needs (gap needs) Subcommittee in VSSTF - Kappy Paulson
 1. Laundry, showers, bathrooms, RV dump stations, electronics charging stations
 2. Laundry - John Jones
 - a) Laundry Love launched on Saturday 4/9 on Olive Street (Westside)
 - b) Volunteers and funding are needed.
 - (1) Currently no coordinated organized effort.
 - (2) Judy Alexandre - Is there a group (congregations? Community organizations?) that wants to take on running a Laundry Love operation?
 - (a) Also need someone to organize volunteers.
 - (3) Debora Schreiber - What is required?
 - (a) Judy Alexandre - Volunteers, supplies, coordination with laundromats, money to run washers/dryers.
 - (4) Pam Kelley - Could add Laundry Love involvement to the faith subcommittee questionnaire that is sent to local congregations.
 - (a) Judy Alexandre - multiple congregations could team up
 - c) MSC - Ask the faith community to be actively involved in Laundry Love.

3. Showers - Judy Alexandre
 - a) Whole Person Care, the Soap Box
 - b) There is funding to develop a West Ventura site and possible one in East Ventura.
 - (1) Action: Need to lobby city council.
 - (a) Westside - Sofia Rubalcava
 - (b) Eastside - Lorrie Brown, Jim Friedman
 - (2) Jennifer Harkey - talked with Elizabeth R. Stone (from DVO)
 - (a) Ms. Stone does outreach with people in the community.
 - (b) Could use planning grant funds for a pilot project starting in July.
 - (i) Planning grants could support all gap needs.
 - (ii) Ms. Stone may be able to help prepare grant applications.
 - (iii) Judy Alexandre - what is the application timeline?
 - (a) Jennifer Harkey - Submit proposals in May/June for pilot programs.
 - (iv) Pilot funds would only cover 1 year, so other funding sources would be required afterwards.
 - (v) DVO or another organization would need to submit any grant applications.
 - (3) Clyde Reynolds - Help Of Ojai may a mobile shower unit that could use funding.
4. Judy Alexandre - Suggested Pilot Grant items:
 - a) Cost of Shower van
 - b) Storage (particularly for documents)
 - (1) Also more general storage (clothing and effects)
 - (2) How many lockers do we need?
 - (a) Ms. Stone already acquired an 18 unit locker.
 - (b) Need a number of storage units by next month, and a plan.
 - c) Bathrooms
 - (1) Kappy Paulson - Need longer hours in Plaza Park.
 - (a) Need to ask City Council.
 - (b) Rebecca Kofman suggests reaching out to the Parks Department.
 - (c) Mike Johnson - Plaza Park bathrooms are only open with ambassadors are present.
 - (2) Judy Alexandre - Could provide portapotties.
 - (a) However, we have seen issues with vandalism.
 - d) Dump Stations - Judy Alexandre

- (1) Still need to collect more information.
 - e) Charging Stations - Judy Alexandre
 - (1) Still need to collect more information.
 - (2) Need to develop a plan for charging stations.
 - (a) Kappy Paulson - Ms. Stone has a suggestion.
 - (i) Use volunteers to help.
 - (ii) Can distribute chargers to social services.
 - (a) It becomes an opportunity to make contact with the homeless population & to link them to service providers.
 - f) MSC - Proposes that the subcommittee prepare a detail specific proposal for what to add to a grant.
 - (1) Kappy Paulson - We need people with grant writing experience.
 - (2) Judy Alexandre - We still need to gather information.
 - (a) Kappy Paulson - What are the best sources of information?
 - (i) Judy Alexandre - Jennifer Harkey, Kevin Clerici (DVO), Supervisor Matt LaVere's office.
 - (3) Please contact Kappy Paulson if you want to help.
 - B. Inclusionary Housing Update - Sonja Flores
 - 1. No update.
 - 2. Meeting with City Council members.
- VIII. Ventura County Office of Education (VCOE) Homeless Services Presentation - Cathi Nye
 - A. <https://www.vcoe.org/Special-Populations/Homeless-Education-Program>
 - B. Homelessness is defined differently for students (children) as per the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act.
 - 1. Kids who are doubled up (i.e. multiple families in a single family dwelling) count as homeless.
 - C. VCOE works to help identify homeless kids locally.
 - 1. To help guide people to local social services.
 - D. Ventura Unified School District (VUSD) - 535 students considered homeless by McKinney-Vento criteria.
 - 1. 29 unsheltered (RV or car)
 - 2. 19 sheltered (City Center, RAIN, etc.)
 - 3. 19 in hotels/motels
 - 4. 458 doubled up.
 - E. Interested in possibly doing a family night for Laundry Love.
 - F. American Rescue Plan and HYC Grants
 - 1. Get funding and send it directly into the community.

IX. Legislation Review - Pam Marshall

- A. An updated legislation summary document was sent out via email on 4/4/22
- B. Legislature still working on addressing the problems with parking mandates.
- C. Additional legislative actions on homelessness
 - 1. Joe Colletti helped compile the information.
 - 2. New bills about homeless and mental health courts, and transitioning into housing from prison or homelessness.
- D. Jennifer Harkey - AB 2179 - Eviction Moratorium extended to June 30.

X. Reports

- A. City of Ventura - Rebecca Kofman
 - 1. Foul Weather Shelter - activated on 3/27 and 3/28.
 - a) Provided 20 rooms for 23 people.
 - b) Handed out 17 stay warm packs.
 - c) Provided 120 meals.
 - d) Thanks to the River Church and all volunteers.
 - 2. HOPES Subcommittee - in-person meetings (only)
 - a) 2nd Tuesday of each month at 1500, starting on 4/12
 - b) Mike Johnson is chair, Doug Halter is vice-chair.
 - 3. Safe & Clean Manager position is opening soon.
- B. Ventura City Council - Mike Johnson
 - 1. HOPES Subcommittee needs an additional council member to support.
 - 2. Foul Weather Shelter - want to consider options for extreme heat events.
- C. Continuum Of Care - Jennifer Harkey
 - 1. Board meeting on 4/13; can join via Zoom
 - 2. Report on the state of homelessness in the county coming out in May.
 - 3. Point In Time Count (PITC) data
 - a) Increase in numbers across the board
 - b) Need to embrace creative housing solutions
 - (1) Beyond vouchers and hoping that landlords step up.
 - 4. Project Room Key - Still at full capacity
 - a) FEMA funded through 6/30.
 - b) In July, expect to switch to state funding.
- D. VSSTF Faith Subcommittee
 - 1. Calling churches to gather information.
- E. Vulnerable Populations Housing Advocacy Network - Clyde Reynolds
 - 1. Efficiency Housing
 - a) Habitat For Humanity and Mercy House are interested in tiny homes in Ventura County.
 - b) Looking in how to create tiny home communities in Ventura.
 - 2. Government Task Force
 - a) Work on the Housing Elements for cities that haven't completed theirs.
 - (1) 3 cities in Ventura County aren't done.

- b) Input into the annual Housing Element progress report.
 - (1) No update from Ventura on the status.
 - c) Oxnard and Ventura are revising their inclusionary housing ordinances.
 - (1) Task Force wants to work with the cities to provide recommendations that could be shared broadly.
 - d) Advocating for tenant protections and rent control.
 - e) Advocating for jurisdictions to adopt a pro-housing designation.
 - (1) Gives access to many more state resources.
3. Maria Navarro
- a) Still working on tenant protections.
 - b) Bringing attention to local eviction cases.

XI. Agencies

- A. Jim Duran - River Community Church set up a cooling center from 9am - 5p on 4/7
 - 1. Salvation Army is setting up a cooling center on 4/8 in East Ventura.

Meetings:

HOPES Committee (addressing issues regarding homelessness) 4//12/22, 3pm; Community Meeting room in City Hall. Now scheduled for the 2nd Tuesday of every month at 3pm. Chair is Mike Johnson

Faith sub committee 4/22/22, 3pm Pam Kelley (pamjk3@msn.com) patio of Judy Alexandre

Continuum of Care 4/21/22, 10am (Jenn.Harkey@ventura.org)