

## Monthly Meeting Minutes 11/2/2022

3:15 pm, via Zoom video chat

### Ventura Social Services Task Force

Attendees: Judy Alexandre, Liz Campos, Kyler Carlson, Juliana Cervantes, Kevin Clerici, Jim Duran, Sonja Flores, Jennifer Harkey, Mike Johnson, John Sanders Jones, Megan Knight, Jacob Lesner-Buxton, Mariah Lopez, Robert March, Edwin Marinez, Pam Marshall, Kappy Paulson, Lauren Prater de Mex, Clyde Reynolds, Leona Rollins, Javier Villa, Susan White Wood

- I. Call to order - Judy Alexandre
- II. Introductions - Judy Alexandre
- III. Approval of the minutes for 10/57/22 - MSC
- IV. Approval of the agenda for 11/2/22 - MSC
  - A. Judy Alexandre - adding 2 announcements
  - B. Clyde Reynolds - will report on Vulnerable Populations Housing Advocacy Network (VPHN)
- V. Treasurer's Report - Judy Alexandre - \$2,009.53
  - A. No change.
- VI. Updates on Inclusionary Housing, General Plan, Housing Element - Kyler Carlon, Sonja Flores
  - A. Judy Alexandre - Peter Gilli is leaving his position as Community Development Director for Ventura.
    1. Partly due to the pressure from Livable Ventura against any efforts to build new housing.
    2. With Peter Gilli leaving, the anti-housing organization is trying to undo all progress made on affordable housing.
  - B. Sonja Flores - Inclusionary Housing updates
    1. Met with the consultant about the feasibility study on the rental portion of the ordinance.
      - a) Recommendation is for less than initially expected.
      - b) On 12/14, Inclusionary Housing will be brought before the Planning Commission.
      - c) Kyler Carlson - The consultant was asked to do a financial analysis.
        - (1) Found that the 15% requirement couldn't be met anywhere in the city (by developers).
          - (a) Clyde Reyonolds - Housing is currently being developed that meets the 15% requirement.
          - (2) Need to regroup when the final analysis results are available.
          - (3) The analysis isn't binding to the city council or the planning commission.
  - C. Kyler Carlson - The developer of the Kalorama Project (4-story building in downtown) required concessions which the planning commission denied.

1. Going to appeal the decision, and asking for Homes For All (HFA) / VSSTF feedback.
  2. How much affordable housing can be expected in this project?
    - a) Proposing 7 low income, and 7 very low income units.
  3. Judy Alexandre - We need to have a voice as individuals and as a group at the Planning Commission.
  4. Inclusionary Housing will be on the city council agenda on 11/14.
    - a) Judy Alexandre - moves that VSSTF join with HFA in supporting the Kalorama development to have 14 units of affordable housing. - **MSC**
  - D. Judy Alexandre - We need to have a stronger voice for advocacy.
  - E. Kyler Carlson - General Plan Advisory Committee (GPAC) meeting on Tuesday 11/15
    1. To review the survey results.
- VII. City of Ventura report - Leona Rollins
- A. HOPES subcommittee
    1. Committee members changed the Foul Weather Shelter requirements:
      - a) Activates for  $\leq 45^{\circ}\text{F}$  or  $\geq \frac{1}{4}''$  of rain forecast.
    2. Portland Loo
      - a) Coordinated for a location - California Street & Santa Clara Ave
    3. Housing Services Division
      - a) Has applied for a Homeless Housing, Assistance and Prevention (HHAP) Grant
      - b) Hosting a Westside Housing Forum on 11/16
  - B. Foul Weather Shelter
    1. Jennifer Harkey - Regarding logistics
      - a) What does the volunteer base look like?
        - (1) Leona Rollins - Mass email was sent to last year's volunteers.
          - (a) Also partnering with outreach workers.
        - b) What motel agreements are in place?
          - (1) Meeting with last year's FWS motel owners.
      - b) What motel agreements are in place?
        - (1) Meeting with last year's FWS motel owners.
    2. Jim Duran - the current forecast for December has the FWS activating possibly **10 times** (Leona Rollins confirms this expectation)
      - a) Kappy Paulson - Are we distributing Stay Dry Packs again?
        - (1) Jim Duran - yes
          - (a) Need larger sizes, less kids' stuff
            - (i) Sleeping bags
            - (ii) Donate new or barely used items (not trash!)
          - (b) Deliver any donations directly to the River Community Church.
- VIII. Discussion of Continuum Of Care (COC) Strategy Plan to address homelessness - Jennifer Harkey
- A. [https://s33020.pcdn.co/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/Final\\_VC\\_Homelessness\\_Plan\\_1.9.19-1.pdf](https://s33020.pcdn.co/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/Final_VC_Homelessness_Plan_1.9.19-1.pdf)
  - B. Jennifer Harkey is leading the Ventura County COC alliance

1. What are the gaps and needs in the community?
  - a) Where do we strategically place funds to do the most good?
    - (1) Homeless prevention and housing.
    - (2) Rapid rehousing.
    - (3) Very limited number of rentals for people on a fixed income.
  2. HHAP funding - another \$4.8 million is coming through for addressing homelessness.
    - a) There is a letter of intent and eligibility guide on the COC website.
- C. Strategy Plan (from 2019 - above link)
  1. 9 recommendations.
    - a) Implementing a homeless prevention approach that will help ensure that those individuals and families most at-risk do not become homeless.
    - b) Expanding street outreach and engagement
    - c) Promoting Housing Search
    - d) Homelessness Diversion
    - e) Augmenting housing navigation
    - f) Increasing the number of low barrier emergency shelter beds
      - (1) Huge need for low barrier shelter.
      - (2) Project Roomkey - rare opportunity to get people into a non-congregant shelter.
        - (a) Roomkey funding is likely done by Jan/Feb due to FEMA funding ending.
        - (b) Lots of people are still on the waitlist.
        - (c) Different implementation around the county
          - (i) Oxnard site - only one has an onsite case manager.
          - (ii) Ventura has visiting case managers and motel staff running the shelters.
        - (d) There will be a huge gap when this finally ends.
          - (i) Pushing local organizations to apply for funding to help develop supportive housing.
    - g) Augmenting Rapid Rehousing assistance
    - h) Increasing the number of permanent supportive housing units
      - (1) Motel conversion projects in the queue.
        - (a) To get more affordable housing units in Ventura.
    - i) Ensuring home-based case management
      - (1) Need for ongoing, comprehensive, supportive services.
        - (a) Once a person finds housing, this helps them stay in it (housing retention).
  2. Have a consultant coming to review the plan.
- D. The need for rental assistance has doubled during the pandemic.

1. HHAP funding can help here.
- E. State funding is flexible.
1. Landlord engagement.
  2. For local non-profits, cities, agency providers.
  3. Increased street outreach.
  4. Expanded backpack medicine.
- F. Where are we going from here?
1. We need to develop plans to have specific goals with respect to the strategic priorities.
  2. Another gap need.
    - a) Need trauma informed services when someone calls.
      - (1) 2-1-1 - Staff have training to make referrals.
        - (a) These can take time.
      - (2) Need a more responsive system.
        - (a) E.g. street outreach after hours.
- G. Comments/Questions
1. Judy Alexandre - Ventura also wants/needs to develop a strategy.
    - a) How will the city and the county coordinate?
      - (1) Leona Rollins - Once Ventura found out that the county was getting involved, the city moved to partner better.
        - (a) What are the gaps?
          - (i) E.g. more beds for the shelter.
  2. Clyde Reynolds - are there stakeholder meetings planned?
    - a) Jennifer Harkey - Once the consultant is brought on in early December, there will be stakeholder engagement.
      - (1) Will include people with lived experience participating.
  3. Judy Alexandre - At One Stop, now seeing a large increase in the number of seniors on the streets (many for the first time ever)
    - a) Also seeing an increase in the number of people with serious long-term mental illness.
    - b) How to address these 2 growing populations?
      - (1) Jennifer Harkey - Shared housing approach and affordable housing.
        - (a) Specifically for seniors who don't qualify for permanent supportive housing.
        - (b) For long-term illness, the need is to have documentation about their conditions.
        - (c) Judy Alexandre - At the ARCH, there are only so many beds that can be used by people with physical limitations.
  4. Liz Campos - 2-1-1 system
    - a) Is there quality control (QC) in the training?

- (1) Have experience with people getting numbers that are not useful.
- 5. Susan White Wood - Ventura County should fully fund supportive services.
  - a) Advocate for an increase in the monthly social security payment.
  - b) Advocate for developers of assisted living facilities to set aside a number of affordable housing units.
  - c) Advocate for board and care facilities.
  - d) Need a detox center.
- 6. Clyde Reynolds - Is funding available for alternative housing projects like tiny homes?
  - a) Jennifer Harkey - HHAP funds are not for acquisition of land/property.
    - (1) Could help with operational costs.
- 7. Kappy Paulson - RVs
  - a) Unitarian Universalist Church of Ventura (UUCV) has a Safe Sleep program with only 1 space of 5 filled.
    - (1) Ventura only permits local residents with proof of residences.
    - (2) Judy Alexandre - We should reach out to the city council about relaxing the requirements.
  - b) Judy Alexandre - we still have no dump stations for RVs.
  - c) Mike Johnson - Safe Sleep and RVs
    - (1) Lots of unregistered RVs aren't safe
      - (a) RV fires with fatalities have happened locally.
    - (2) Need to make sure that people in the program are using it.
      - (a) Same with booking motel rooms.
- 8. Judy Alexandre - Housing is essential if we are going to do anything about homelessness.

## IX. Reports

- A. HOPES Subcommittee - Mike Johnson
  - 1. Biggest news is Peter Gilli's departure.
- B. COC - Jennifer Harkey
  - 1. COC board meeting on 11/9 at 3:30pm.
- C. VSSTF Faith Subcommittee - Judy Alexandre
  - 1. Followup meeting to recent interfaith gathering to be held in February
    - a) About addressing gap needs and getting congregations involved.
- D. Other
  - 1. VPHN - Clyde Reynolds
    - a) Alternative housing models - Efficiency Housing Subcommittee
      - (1) Identified interested agencies/organizations
        - (a) Hoping to meet with them soon
          - (i) E.g. Habitat For Humanity
    - b) Government Advocacy Group
      - (1) Some groups (CAUSE, Ventura Farmworkers, etc.)

- (2) Trying to put together a model inclusionary housing document to help other groups advocate throughout the county.
  - 2. Ventura County Behavioral Health - Susan White Wood
    - a) Certified peer specialist program starting.
      - (1) People with lived experience.
      - (2) New and evolving program.
- X. Legislation Update - Pam Marshall
  - A. AB 2339 - Housing elements, emergency shelters.
  - B. AB 2097 - Parking mandate removal.
  - C. AB 1991 - Motel and hotel conversions.
  - D. AB 1766 - DMV - Homeless people will now get IDs for free.
  - E. AB 321 - Child care services enrollment priorities.
    - 1. Includes families with children who are homeless.
- XI. Other
  - A. The 2022 Memorial for Our Homeless Neighbors is on 12/17/22 at 3:30pm at Plaza Park in Ventura and Plaza Park in Oxnard.
- XII. IMPORTANT: VSSTF needs a new chairperson for next year. Please consider new candidates.**
- XIII. Meeting adjourned until 12/7/2022.

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