

Monthly Meeting Minutes 4/5/2023

3:15 pm, via Zoom video chat

Ventura Social Services Task Force

Attendees: Judy Alexandre, James Boyd, Brandi Brown, Christina Cabral, Liz Campos, Kyler Carlson, Kevin Clerici, Karen Flock, Sonja Flores, Staci Hall, John Sanders Jones, Pamela Kelley, Jacob Lesner-Buxton, Robert March, Judy Morelli, Kristian Nunez, Kappy Paulson, Leona Rollins, Melanie Shankle, Aaron Smith,

- I. Call to order - Judy Alexandre
- II. Introductions - Judy Alexandre
- III. Approval of the minutes for 3/1/23 - MSC
- IV. Approval of the agenda for 4/5/23 - MSC
- V. Treasurer's Report - Judy Alexandre - \$2,009.53 - No change.
- VI. Information on Care Court - Judy Alexandre
 - A. Planned speaker (Dr. Jeff Hayden) unable to make it.
 - B. Due to come to Ventura in 2024.
 - C. One way to address mental illness.
- VII. Presentation on the Homekey-La Quinta Inn conversion - Kyler Carlson
 - A. Presentation will be provided in a separate email.
 - B. This is a Housing Authority project.
 1. Housing Authority currently has site control of the La Quinta Inn on Valentine/Victoria Ave in Ventura.
 2. Will create 136 studio apartments.
 - a) For homeless people or those at risk of becoming homeless.
 - b) 31 for chronically homeless people.
 - c) 37 for homeless people.
 - d) 68 for people at-risk of becoming homeless.
 3. Advantages:
 - a) It is right next to a bus stop!
 - b) It is within ½ mile of many basic amenities (grocery stores, pharmacies)
 - c) In great condition already.
 4. 4 buildings with 142 rooms.
 5. Funded by Project Homekey.
 6. Currently not directly focused on seniors, but expect that many seniors will be eligible for these units.
 7. Brandi Brown - Will these units be open to families?
 - a) Karen Flock - These are studios, so really intended for 1 or 2 people.
 - (1) Could be couples or parent/child.
 8. Expecting 31 section 8 vouchers for chronically homeless people.
 - a) Still developing the referral process.

- b) Liz Campos - Are these project-based vouchers?
 - (1) Kyler Carlson - Yes. Section 8 can attach the vouchers to specific properties/projects so that the vouchers stay with a project and are guaranteed to the developers.
 - 9. Kappy Paulson - How much will this cost tenants?
 - a) Karen Flock - Project-based vouchers recipients will pay 30% of income as rent.
 - (1) Those without vouchers will pay rents based on about 20% of area median income.
 - (2) Kyler Carlson - Those on fixed income would be about 30% of SSI (14% of area median income).
 - b) Kyler Carlson - typically \$200-300/month.
 - 10. Case managers offices would be on site.
 - 11. Asking the state for \$30 million to fund the acquisition.
 - a) Only \$68 million available in our region from Project Homekey.
 - b) Will submit the application on day 1, as the process is extremely competitive.
 - 12. Karen Flock - Looking for the site to have some preference for Ventura residents, but not be limited to them.
 - 13. Kappy Paulson - Is there any resistance from the Montalvo community?
 - a) Karen Flock - Recently met with the Montalvo Community Council
 - (1) Got many questions, but no apparent opposition.
 - 14. Getting funding commitments from the city and county
 - a) City - \$1.5 million Permanent Local Housing Allocation (PLHA) funds
 - b) County - \$5.5 million of funds
 - c) Will help with getting Homekey matching funds.
 - 15. Judy Alexandre - this is one of the first local projects targeting the unhoused in our community.
 - 16. Karen Flock - We are looking for community partners.
 - 17. Kevin Clerici - Thanks to the Housing Authority and all who helped to get this project moving.
 - 18. Judy Alexandre - Consider writing thank you letters to the city manager, community development manager, individual city councilors and to the housing authority.
- VIII. Executive Summary of 2023 Point In Time Count - Judy Alexandre
- A. This document has been sent out in a previous email.
 - B. [2023 State of Homelessness in Ventura County](#)
 - C. Jennifer Harkey will present on this topic in detail next month.
 - 1. Presenting findings to the Ventura County Board Of Supervisors on 4/23/23.
 - D. Total numbers countywide:
 - 1. Sheltered - decreased from 882 (2022) to 808 (2023).
 - 2. Unsheltered - increased from 1356 (2022) to 1663 (2023)

- 3. Male = 46.2% / Female = 53.8%
 - 4. First time homeless increased by 39%.
 - E. Total numbers in Ventura:
 - 1. Unsheltered - decreased from 713 (2022) to 644 (2023)
- IX. Upcoming grants for the City of Ventura - Leona Rollins
 - A. Submitted the HOME Investment Partnerships American Rescue Plan Program (Home-ARP) draft allocation plan to the Department of Housing & Urban Development (HUD).
 - 1. Expect a response by 5/5/23
 - 2. Will release a notice of funding availability once the plan is approved.
 - B. Encampment Resolution Funding
 - 1. Submitted application last week.
 - a) Expect a decision between 5/1/23 & 6/30/23.
 - C. Homeless Housing, Assistance and Prevention (HHAP) Grant
 - 1. Focused on rental assistance and rapid rehousing.
 - 2. Issued the Request for Proposals (RFP) on 3/31/23.
 - a) Responses due by 4/21/23.
- X. Advocacy Action Update:
 - A. Housing Element - Sonja Flores
 - 1. No update - Ventura is still talking to the California Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD)
 - a) Leona Rollins - there are active discussions with the HCD
 - (1) Hoping for more info for the next VSSTF meeting.
 - (2) Funding will be impacted.
 - (a) Including the PLHA funding, intended for the La Quinta Inn conversion.
 - 2. City is hosting a workshop on density bonus state regulations.
 - a) With the Planning Commission on 4/12.
 - b) Incentives for developers to create more affordable housing in their projects.
 - (1) E.g. reduced parking standards, setbacks.
 - 3. Judy Alexandre - the Inclusionary Housing ordinance doesn't go into effect until 7/1/23.
 - a) Currently approved projects are not affected by this ordinance.
 - (1) Therefore, these don't include affordable housing.
 - (2) Karen Flock - Vista Del Mar project will be coming back in front of the city council.
 - (a) We can push the council to not approve any more housing projects until the ordinance is in effect.
- XI. Information Updates
 - A. VSSTF Faith Subcommittee - Pamela Kelley
 - 1. Gap Needs meeting on 3/30/23
 - a) 20 attendees

- b) Discussed the needs in the first half of the meeting.
- c) Broke into small groups for the second half of the meeting to talk about possible solutions.

B. HOPES and City of Ventura

- 1. Liz Campos - When writing to the city council, also send copies to the interim city manager.
- 2. Leona Rollins - next HOPES meeting on 4/25 at City Hall.
 - a) Ventura will host a housing forum on 4/19/23 at Montalvo Elementary School at 6:30pm.
- 3. Judy Alexandre - Foul Weather Shelter
 - a) A big thank you to the River Community Church and to Leona Rollins for their efforts.
 - b) Leona Rollins - 22 nights total
 - (1) Over 3000 meals were provided.

XII. Agency Reports

A. One Stop - James Boyd

- 1. The showers are running again.

B. Step Up Ventura - Judy Alexandre

- 1. Inspire To Aspire fundraiser at the Bell Arts Center on 4/15/23 at 7pm.
 - a) VUSD arts and culinary programs are providing food and entertainment.
 - b) Tickets are \$25.

XIII. Meeting adjourned until 5/3/2023.

Meetings:

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

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