

## Monthly Meeting Minutes 2/1/2023

3:15 pm, via Zoom video chat

### Ventura Social Services Task Force

Attendees: Judy Alexandre, Brandi Brown, Kyler Carlson, Sonja Flores, Stephany Gonzalez, Jennifer Harkey, Mike Johnson, John Sanders Jones, Pam Kelley, Jacob Lesner-Buxton, Robert March, Edwin Marinez, Pam Marshall, Carl Morehouse, Kappy Paulson, Leona Rollins, Chris Russell, Debora Schreiber, Elizabeth R. Stone, Javier Villa, Susan White Wood

- I. Call to order - Judy Alexandre
- II. Introductions - Judy Alexandre
- III. Approval of the minutes for 1/4/24 - MSC
- IV. Approval of the agenda for 2/1/23 - MSC
- V. Treasurer's Report - Judy Alexandre - \$2,009.53 - No change.
- VI. Advocacy:
  - A. Inclusionary Housing - Sonja Flores, Kyler Carlson
    1. Kyler Carlson - Please attend the Ventura City Council meeting on 2/27/23.
      - a) We need people to show up to provide support for inclusionary housing.
    2. Sonja Flores - We decided to stick with the original recommendations:
      - a) 15% very low income - rentals
      - b) 15% low income or 20% moderate income - sale properties
      - c) Sent a letter to the planning commission.
        - (1) Will forward the original letter to the Ventura City Council.
          - (a) Judy Alexandre - Will share the letter prior to the meeting for people to use to develop their own messages of support for inclusionary housing.
          - (b) We want more than the planning commission is proposing, and will continue to advocate for the original recommendation.
      - d) Will be meeting with city council members, as well.
  - B. Housing Element - Sonja Flores
    1. Ventura submitted an updated housing element to the California Department of Housing and Community (HCD) on 1/17
      - a) HCD is currently reviewing the latest submission.
    2. VSSTF / Homes For All (HFA) will submit their own letter to HCD.
      - a) Overall, we agree with everything in the new housing element, except for the timing of certain programs.
        - (1) For example, tenant protections were pushed to 2024, instead of 2023.
    3. Judy Alexandre - Federal government has proposed guidelines for renters.

a) Finally recognized renters' need for support.

C. Gap Needs

1. Judy Alexandre - Looking for a place, agency, organization where we can set up a storage program

a) To reduce theft, especially of important papers.

2. Judy Alexandre - Looking at using hand warmers, charging stations as a way to interface with the homeless population.

3. Dump Stations - Kappy Paulson

a) Talked with agencies and people.

(1) Willing to sign a letter in support of dump stations.

b) Would like to talk with local RV clubs as another potential partner.

c) Pam Marshall - Would the county have jurisdiction?

(1) Kappy Paulson - Yes.

(2) Judy Alexandre - We have already reached out to Supervisor Matt LaVere and the Continuum of Care (COC)

d) A correctly built dump station is \$500K.

(1) How do we confirm that it will get enough use to justify the initial funding?

e) Jennifer Harkey - One issue is the logistics of getting to a dump station.

(1) Might be a good option to have a mobile service.

(a) Judy Alexandre - may need to rotate locations.

(2) Could reach out to state reps for support.

(3) Kappy Paulson - This could be a Clean Water Act issue.

(a) Many people live in RVs, because it's what they can afford.

f) Judy Alexandre - Please contact Kappy Paulson and Jennifer Harkey if you want to help on this issue.

(1) Matt LaVere supports the effort, but needs to balance all the various factors.

VII. Follow Up Discussion re: Homeless Strategies - Leona Rollins, Jennifer Harkey

A. Jennifer Harkey

1. On the day of the Point In Time Count, Ventura County Board Of Supervisors received the LeSar presentation on the strategic plan for addressing homelessness.

a) We need the strategic plan for Ventura County and several cities (including Ventura).

2. Thank you to all Point In Time Count volunteers.

a) Nearly 400 volunteers countywide, including county staff, police and other service providers.

b) The data will be available by the end of March 2023.

B. Leona Rollins

1. Ventura also thanks the Point In Time Count volunteers.

2. Ventura is happy to partner with the county on the homelessness strategy plan.
  - a) Hope to find and eliminate gaps in services.
3. Judy Alexandre - The Foul Weather Shelter (FWS) has been very busy this season.
  - a) Leona Rollins - yes, it is opening often.
    - (1) On low temperature nights (<45°F), there is less interest in the FWS than on rainy nights.
  - b) Chris Russell
    - (1) The local unhoused population seems to figure out cold better than wet.
    - (2) During the heavy rains (1/10-1/11), a larger shelter was opened (also for La Conchita evacuees)
    - (3) Over the 4 days of MLK weekend:
      - (a) 190 different people showed up for some help, even if they didn't stay overnight.
      - (b) Most in one night was 107 people.
  - c) Kappy Paulson - The last FWL day wasn't well advertised.
    - (1) Has suggested (to One Stop clients) that they should sign up for the volunteer email list to stay informed.
  - d) Leona Rollins - FWS has been open for 12 days so far.
    - (1) Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) already expended (\$25K to cover 10 days).
    - (2) Got another \$60K to keep the FWS going through March 2023.
    - (3) Hoping to get even more funding for next season (2023-2024).
      - (a) Looking to improve communications as well.
4. Elizabeth R. Stone - People are discouraged from coming to the FWS because they are getting turned away.
  - a) Leona Rollins - Would like to contact people who have been turned away to try and help them.

VIII. General Plan Update - Kyler Carlson

- A. Moving towards additional engagement over the next month.
  1. Individual meetings on specific areas of the plan being updated.

IX. Legislative Update - Pam Marshall - more detail provided in recently emailed document

- A. Recently passed:
  1. SB 6 – Allows residential development on property zoned for retail and office space, without needing a re-zoning.
  2. AB2011 – The Affordable Housing & High Road Jobs Act.
  3. SB 897 – Accessory Dwelling Units & Jr. Accessory Dwelling Units (ADU/JADU).
  4. AB 2221 – Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUs).
  5. AB 2097 – Parking Mandates.
  6. AB 2339 – Housing Element: Emergency Shelters: Regional Housing Need.

B. Not yet passed:

1. SB 4

- a) Mike Johnson - this is good, but not yet passed.
  - (1) The new budget is cutting funding from services like transportation.
  - (2) SB 4 could help churches turn unused properties into income generating housing units, which could be helpful.
- b) Pam Marshall - knows of a small church in Bakersfield that successfully built 30-40 units of senior housing.
- c) Judy Alexandre - Can someone reach out to the Salvation Army about the unused property on Petit Ave?

X. Agency Updates

A. Elizabeth R. Stone - FIND (A Freind INDeed)

- 1. 2 sources of funding for peer support.
- 2. Getting help with starting peer support relationships with people in jail.

B. Ventura Homeless Prevention Fund - Judy Alexandre

- 1. Fundraiser on 2/11/23 at Unitarian Universalist Church of Ventura
  - a) Debora Schreiber - sold out 90 tickets.
    - (1) Need more food and wine.
    - (2) Need volunteers still.

C. Step Up Ventura - Judy Alexandre

- 1. 4/15/23 Fundraiser at Bell Arts Center
  - a) Aspire To Inspire
  - b) Ventura Unified School District (VUSD) providing dessert and music.

XI. Reports

A. City of Ventura - Leona Rollins

- 1. Applications for 2 grants
  - a) Encampment Resolution Funding - partner with CalTrans to help people camping on right of ways.
  - b) Homeless Housing, Assistance and Prevention (HHAP) Grant (round 4)
    - (1) Focusing on at-risk people.
      - (a) Rental assistance
      - (b) Keeping people from becoming homeless.
- 2. Mike Johnson
  - a) No longer on the HOPE subcommittee, may not be able to continue interfacing with VSSTF
    - (1) New members of the subcommittee - Doug Halter, Jim Duran, Liz Campos.
  - b) Goal setting meeting on Saturday.
    - (1) Not much talk of homelessness.
    - (2) Really need to rebuild the relationship between Ventura and Ventura County.

(3) Housing element - don't assume that it will be approved.

c) Hoping to set up a Rental Registry.

B. Continuum of Care - Jennifer Harkey

1. Grants - 2 coordinated

a) Encampment Resolution Funding

(1) Very flexible to use.

2. COC board meeting on 2/8/23 at 3:30pm

a) There will be HHAP funding updates.

C. VSSTF Faith Subcommittee - Pamela Kelley

1. Continuing to gather gap needs information.

a) Storage space

b) Charging stations - preferably linked to service providers.

c) Laundry service.

d) RV dump stations.

e) FWS / Winter Warming Shelter needs.

f) Shower Pods.

2. Gap Needs Forum - 3/30/23, 6:30pm-8:30pm at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Ventura.

3. Regular meeting on 2/17 this month.

XII. Meeting adjourned until 3/1/2023.

Meetings:

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

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