

Monthly Meeting Minutes 6/7/2023

3:15 pm, via Zoom video chat

Ventura Social Services Task Force

Attendees: Katherine Aguilar, Judy Alexandre, Kevin Clerici, Leah Coming, Jim Duran, Karen Flock, Sonja Flores, Juliana Gallardo, Jennifer Harkey, Shelley Harrison, John Sanders Jones, Jacob Lesner-Buxton, Robert March, Edwin Marinez, Judy Morelli, Maria Navarro, Kristian Nunez, Clyde Reynolds, Leona Rollins, Karol Schulkin, Elizabeth R. Stone, Javier Villa, Susan White Wood

- I. Call to order - Judy Alexandre
- II. Introductions - Judy Alexandre
- III. Approval of the minutes for 5/3/23 - MSC
 - A. Jennifer Harkey - noted a correction regarding Encampment Resolution Funding
 1. Intended for encampments only, not campsites.
- IV. Approval of the agenda for 6/7/23 - MSC
 - A. Adding discussion of the 4th of July Ventura Street Fair
- V. Treasurer's Report - Judy Alexandre - \$2,009.53 - No change.
- VI. 4th of July Ventura Street Fair - Judy Alexandre
 - A. Kevin Clerici reserved a table for Downtown Ventura Organization, VSSTF, Ventura Homeless Prevention Fund.
 1. Judy Alexandre - Do we want a VSSTF presence? If yes, we need volunteers.
 - a) John Jones - we will need volunteers on 7/3 (prep) & 7/4 (actual event)
 - (1) We have had a prize/question wheel for visitors to spin.
 - (2) We give out water balloon yo-yos
 - (3) Contact johnsandersjones@gmail.com
 2. Event is on Main Street in downtown Ventura from 10am - 4pm on 7/4/23
- VII. Strategic Plan on homelessness - Leona Rollins / Jennifer Harkey
 - A. Jennifer Harkey - Ventura County Board of Supervisors approved a deep dive into addressing homelessness countywide.
 1. Partnering with Oxnard, Ventura and Thousand Oaks to look at planning efforts
 2. LeSar Development Consultants are performing a quantitative and qualitative analysis.
 - a) Who is homeless?
 - b) How long have people been homeless?
 - c) What is the cost of housing?
 - d) What are the benefits of having permanent supportive housing?
 3. Need to ensure that we treat people with dignity while we help them.
 4. Reaching out to each community to identify gaps.
 5. Will wrap up draft of strategic plan by end of June and distribute for comment.
 6. We need people's voices to be heard.

7. The Continuum of Care currently has a plan to address homelessness, but we need more focused outcome goals.
 - a) Hope to get these from the coming report.
 - B. Leona Rollins - Happy that Ventura is partnering with the county.
 1. Hopeful that the plan will identify the needs and gaps.
 - C. Q&A
 1. Elizabeth R. Stone - After talking with the consultants, it appears that they are afraid to talk to unhoused people.
 - a) How do we engage with people who have been refusing to engage with the available services?
 - (1) The plan should make sure that we are engaging with this people.
 2. Clyde Reynolds - homelessness is a multi-faceted issue
 - a) Is the plan looking at the overriding barriers/issues lie:
 - (1) Lack of affordable housing
 - (2) Mental health issues
 - (3) Substance abuse issues
 - (4) Lack of sufficient income
- VIII. Eviction Protections Beginning Plan - Maria Navarro / Kristian Nunez (CAUSE)
- A. Judy Alexandre - How do we support tenants while still allowing landlords to do appropriate evictions?
 1. Nothing on any eviction protections has been finalized.
 - B. Kristian Nunez gave a presentation on eviction protections.
 1. The presentation is still being finalized and will be distributed by Judy Alexandre when it is completed and ready for public discussion.
 - C. Maria Navarro - SB 567 - provides the enforcement mechanism for AB 1482.
 - D. Q&A
 1. Elizabeth R. Stone - are there mediation services?
 - a) Maria Navarro - No, CAUSE does not offer them.
 2. Sonja Flores - Why can't we add single-family homes to rent control?
 - a) Maria Navarro - because of Costa-Hawkins Rental Housing Act California state law (1995).
 3. Elizabeth R. Stone - is the rent registry mandatory or voluntary?
 - a) Kristian Nunez - it would be mandatory
 4. Clyde Reynolds - Where is Ventura on goals to address this issue?
 - a) Leona Rollins - Will start working on tenant protections as soon as the homelessness plan is completed.
 - (1) Protections: rent stabilization, acceptable living conditions, building inspections.
 5. Elizabeth R. Stone - Do we anticipate a shift towards more AirBnBs to avoid this regulation/oversight?
 - a) Maria Navarro - In general, don't expect this to be an issue in Oxnard.

- (1) We could compare Oxnard & Ojai to see if there is an impact.
 - b) Leona Rollinis - When Pasadena strengthened tenant protections, they set up a temporary pause on evictions.
 - c) Maria Navarro - While tenants have state protections, CAUSE feels that Ventura should have more specific protections.
 - 6. Judy Alexandre - Do we want VSSTF to participate in the development of tenant protection plans? **MSC - YES**
 - a) Sonja Flores - There is some concern that a rent registry will make landlords vulnerable to being hit with code violations.
 - (1) Leona Rollins - In LA, code compliance checks were performed periodically, but not with systematic regularity.
- IX. Presentation on College Courts Community development - People's Self Help Housing
 - A. Katherine Aguilar gave the presentation.
 - 1. The presentation is still being finalized and will be distributed by Judy Alexandre when it is completed and ready for public discussion.
 - B. 57 low-income units proposed.
 - C. Judy Alexandre - A group expressed concerns at a recent planning commission hearing.
 - 1. Katherine Aguilar - submitted plan under SB 330.
 - a) Don't expect any issues re: zoning.
 - b) Looking to do community outreach regarding parking and the expected population.
 - D. Ventura wouldn't allow for submission of environmental review prior to submission of entitlement application.
 - E. Homes For All wants to support this project.
 - F. Judy Alexandre - Does VSSTF want to back Homes For All and write a letter in support of this project? - **MSC - YES**
 - G. Elizabeth R. Stone - what percentage will be permanent supportive housing?
 - 1. Katherine Aguilar - Still working it out.
- X. Grant Proposals and Updates - Leona Rollins / Jennifer Harkey
 - A. Leona Rollins - Encampment Resolution funding
 - 1. Still waiting for a response to the application.
 - B. Jennifer Harkey - Continuum Of Care
 - 1. Only open grant right now
 - a) Request for Quote (RFQ) for supportive services plans countywide.
 - (1) https://s33020.pcdn.co/wp-content/uploads/2023/06/RFQ-for-VC-CoC-Housing-and-Supportive-Services-Plan_Fillable.pdf
 - 2. Emergency Solutions Grants Program (state) - announcement by the state is pending.
- XI. Gap needs updates - Leona Rollins / John Sanders Jones
 - A. Leona Rollins
 - 1. Working with the Armory on the Foul Weather Shelter for next winter.

2. Dump Stations - a voucher program is under consideration for people at-risk of becoming homeless.
- B. John Jones
1. Laundry Love
 - a) Looking for possible 2nd and 3rd locations.
 - b) Currently operating on 2nd Saturday of each month on 110 N. Olive Street at Mission Plaza.
 - c) Judy Alexandre - One Stop Ventura is starting a laundry service soon and looking for volunteers.
 - (1) Reach out to James Boyd for more info.
- XII. Updates and reports.
- A. General Plan - Karen Flock
 1. Close to developing the proposed scenario.
 - a) Not seeing much increase in the potential for new housing.
 - B. Housing Element - Sonja Flores / Leona Rollins
 1. Leona Rollins - Resubmitted to the California Department of Housing & Community Development (HCD) with revisions on 5/11/23
 - a) Hoping that this latest version will be accepted and certified.
 - C. Homekey Application - La Quinta Inn conversion - Karen Flock
 1. Homekey application was submitted early, so we are hopefully early in line for funding.
 2. Planning to have case managers and property managers on site.
 - D. City Council and HOPES Subcommittee report - Jim Duran
 1. Looking to enhance the Foul Weather Shelter this year.
 2. Side notes:
 - a) City Center has 2 open rooms.
 - b) Tenderlife has 3 open bedrooms.
- XIII. Agency Updates
- A. Judy Morelli - recently housed a family that had been living in an RV for 5 years.
 - B. Elizabeth R. Stone
 1. FIND (A Friend In Deed) got \$165K for peer support services from the state.
 2. Approved through the public defender's office and homeless court for people to qualify to work through fines with FIND (community service, etc.).
- XIV. Meeting adjourned until 8/2/2023.

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