

## Monthly Meeting Minutes 3/1/2023

3:15 pm, via Zoom video chat

### Ventura Social Services Task Force

Attendees: Judy Alexandre, Christina Cabral, Liz Campos, Kyler Carlson, Juliana Cervantes, Kevin Clerici, Jim Duran, Sonja Flores, Jennifer Harkey, Mariah Lopez, Robert March, Judy Morelli, Kristian Nunez, Kappy Paulson, Clyde Reynolds, Leona Rollins, Debora Schreiber, Aaron Smith, Elizabeth R. Stone

- I. Call to order - Judy Alexandre
- II. Introductions - Judy Alexandre
- III. Approval of the minutes for 2/1/23 - MSC
- IV. Approval of the agenda for 3/1/23 - MSC
- V. Treasurer's Report - Judy Alexandre - \$2,009.53 - No change.
- VI. Advocacy Action Update:
  - A. Inclusionary Housing - Sonja Flores, Kyler Carlson
    1. Ventura approved the updated ordinance (Bill McReynolds' motion).
      - a) Sales - 10% must be for moderate income.
      - b) Rentals - 10% for low income / 5% for very low income.
      - c) To be income restricted for 55 years.
      - d) Mix and match allowed.
      - e) Revisit in 3 years to see how it's going.
        - (1) Also to add in green incentives.
    2. Mike Johnson moved to keep at 15% low income / 20% moderate income for sale and other.
      - a) Only 2 votes in favor of this motion.
    3. Wanted deeper affordability levels, but it is still a win!
      - a) Affects the entire city.
      - b) In-lieu fees are substantial.
      - c) Better than the initial proposal from February 2022.
    4. Kyler Carlons - 26 public comments, with none in opposition to the ordinance.
      - a) 3 commenters recommended the Planning Commission recommendations. The remainder supported the VSSTF/Homes For All (HFA) recommendations.
      - b) Judy Alexandre feels grateful and disappointed.
        - (1) The final ordinance didn't match what we were told in meetings beforehand.
      - c) Debora Schreiber - also disappointed and grateful
        - (1) City council refused to be bold.
          - (a) Fearing the possibility of a lawsuit?
      - d) Jim Duran - excited for any progress.
        - (1) A good first step.

- e) Sonja Flores - With no opposition to our recommendations, City Council could have been more courageous.
- B. Housing Element - Sonja Flores
  - 1. Submitted a letter to California Department of Housing and Community (HCD).
    - a) Asked for expedited review and approval with one change (moving the tenant protection program back to 2023 from 2024).
      - (1) Need the Housing Element approved quickly so as to not lose funding.
- C. Encampment Resolution Funding Program, Round 2 (ERF-2 Grant) - Leona Rollins / Jennifer Harkey
  - 1. Leona Rollins
    - a) Opportunity for Ventura to work with CalTrans to address encampments on state right-of-ways and the river bottoms.
    - b) Partnering with the Continuum Of Care (COC) on the application.
    - c) Working on increasing the number of shelter beds at The ARCH.
      - (1) Coordinating with County, COC and operator.
  - 2. Jennifer Harkey
    - a) There must be a pathway to housing for this grant.
      - (1) It's a good thing!
    - b) Working with the Housing Authority on Permanent Supportive Housing projects.
    - c) Wraparound services need to be included.
    - d) Submitted 3 applications - for Thousand Oaks, Santa Paula and Oxnard.
      - (1) Including projects with tiny homes and motel conversions.
    - e) Want to have opportunities for people, and to partner with people who have lived experience.
      - (1) People coming from the encampments want non-congregant sheltering.
  - 3. Clyde Reynolds - Is there any consideration for tiny homes?
    - a) Leona Rollins - Looking at increasing the number of shelter beds at The ARCH, and adding motel rooms for non-congregant sheltering.
- D. General Plan - Kyler Carlson
  - 1. Project Homekey - Housing Authority has been talking to the La Quinta Inn on Victoria Ave (142 rooms).
    - a) Project Homekey is a permanent supportive housing capital program to convert hotels.
    - b) Need to perform a physical needs assessment and an environmental review.
    - c) Starting to look feasible.
    - d) Expect some of the rooms to be converted to supportive services.
      - (1) Targeting 136 housing units.
        - (a) Some supported by project-based vouchers

- e) Staffing - Will be challenging, considering the number of rooms.
  - (1) Would include 4 supportive services case managers and a supervisor.
- f) Jennifer Harkey - Worried about public perception.
  - (1) When can outreach start?
    - (a) Kyler Carlson - Will start educating people after signing the purchase document.
      - (i) Currently have a signed letter of intent.
      - (ii) Outreach - will reach out to:
        - (a) Elected officials.
        - (b) General public.
        - (c) Supportive services providers.
- g) Judy Alexandre - This will be covered in more detail next month.
  - (1) Will have a pathway to permanent supportive housing.
  - (2) Housing Authority has been talking with local law enforcement, who have expressed support for the project.
- 2. General plan still in process.
  - a) Deep dive into each area for land use designation changes.
    - (1) Meeting on 3/6, 3/7 and 3/21.
      - (a) Looking at impacts of each change.
      - (b) Soliciting public comments.
- E. Planning Commission Density meeting on 3/33/23 at 6pm
  - 1. Sonja Flores - Asking for people to attend and to thank the Planning Commission for having the meeting.
- VII. Faith Subcommittee Gap Needs gathering on 3/30 at 630pm - Judy Alexandre
  - A. Meeting will be at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Ventura.
  - B. Storage - at One Stop
    - 1. County staff will not permit it.
      - a) James Boyd will ask again, but the County doesn't want the legal obligation.
      - b) Leona Rollins reached out to Think Dignity and a part of San Diego's Department of Behavioral Health Service.
        - (1) Meeting next week to talk about storage options..
      - c) Elizabeth R. Stone - There are 8 lockers in Montalvo.
  - C. Solar Chargers
    - 1. Looking for a faith community to buy 100 chargers to provide to ambassadors.
      - a) Will let ambassadors engage with the community and try to connect them to resources.
  - D. Laundry Love
    - 1. Hoping to set up a second site.
    - 2. Hoping to get One Stop to participate.
  - E. Dump Stations - Kappy Paulson

1. Stalled right now.
  2. Don't know where to get funds.
    - a) Will likely need to be from the county.
    - b) A station will likely cost \$500K.
  3. Need a concrete project in order to solicit funds.
  4. Judy Alexandre - this is a public health issue.
  5. Kappy Paulson - we want a free place to drop black water and gray water.
    - a) A dump station will also require an attendant to keep it functioning correctly.
- F. Phone distribution - Judy Alexandre
1. Available to unhoused people.
  2. Problem with distribution.
    - a) Need a distribution center for people to receive their phones.
- G. Portland Loos - Kevin Clerici
1. Additional funding was allocated.
  2. Location chosen for a second unit - C Street & Santa Clara Ave.
  3. Judy Alexandre - We still need one on the east side of Ventura.
- VIII. Update on Foul Weather Shelter (FWS) program -
- A. Jim Duran
1. Housed 25 people last night (2/28/23)
    - a) Ages ranged from 52 to 65+
      - (1) Helping everyone 65+ or with health issues.
- B. Leona Rollins
1. Still using the HUD Community Development Block Grant (CDBG)
    - a) Should have enough funds to cover through 3/31/23 when the program ends for the season.
- IX. Mercy House Update - The ARCH - Mariah Lopez
- A. 50 of 55 beds are in use
1. Free beds: 4 for males / 1 for female
    - a) Top bunks only.
    - b) For use by law enforcement.
- B. Since 1/1/23, have housed 5 individuals
1. Elizabeth R. Stone - What kind of housing did they get? What kind of follow-up?
    - a) Mariah Lopez:
      - (1) Many Mansions in Thousand Oaks
      - (2) Sycamore Senior Apartments in Oxnard
      - (3) Westview
      - (4) Heritage Senior Apartments in Oxnard
      - (5) Case management provided for 3 months following placement.
- C. Donations needed
1. Welcome home baskets (see last page of minutes for more info)
    - a) Anything for when people move into housing

b) Currently cooperating with the Moving In Project

- D. Volunteers are needed
  - 1. To clean up the basement (donation storage)
  - 2. Email [volunteer@mercyhouse.net](mailto:volunteer@mercyhouse.net)
- E. Currently have a waiting list at the ARCH.
- X. Reports
  - A. Continuum of Care - Jennifer Harkey
    - 1. Homeless Housing, Assistance, and Prevention Program (HHAP) - Round 4
      - a) Can be used for various projects
        - (1) Operational subsidies
        - (2) Shelters
        - (3) Supportive housing
        - (4) Permanent housing
        - (5) Rapid rehousing
        - (6) Rental assistance
        - (7) Homeless prevention
        - (8) Street outreach
      - b) \$5.8 million received in the latest round.
      - c) Received \$13 million in requests for this funding.
        - (1) Prioritizing that the 2 permanent housing proposals go into round 5
          - (a) Anticipate about the same amount of funding in round 5
      - d) Aligning housing and healthcare
      - e) For round 5, data committee recommendations will go to the COC board on 3/8/23
    - 2. Point In Time Count - Still processing the data
      - a) Expecting a slight increase across the county.
  - B. City of Ventura and HOPES Subcommittee - Jim Duran and Liz Campos
    - 1. Liz Campos
      - a) HOPES met yesterday
        - (1) Discussed change from 55 to 110 beds for the ARCH
        - (2) Financing past the grant.
        - (3) 17 emails from the faith community about inclusionary housing
        - (4) Doug Halter is the new chair, Liz Campos is the new vice chair.
        - (5) New meeting is more formal than before.
- XI. Agencies
  - A. City Center - Jim Duran
    - 1. Has a new room open.
    - 2. 6 months of sobriety required.
    - 3. For children 12 and under with their parents.
    - 4. Fundraiser on 4/22/23
      - a) Jim Duran gets no support from Ventura for his work.

- B. Tenderlife - Jim Duran
  - 1. Currently full.
  - 2. Technically requires 90 days sober, but can be flexible.
  - 3. Looking at possibly getting a house in Fillmore with a few more rooms.
- C. River Community Food Pantry - Jim Duran
  - 1. Every Monday from 11am to 1pm.
  - 2. Handing out food to ~700 people.
  - 3. Need volunteers.
- D. A Friend In Deed - Elizabeth R. Stone
  - 1. Getting \$95K grant from the COC to incorporate people with lived experience at the planning table.
  - 2. Outreach and on-the-job training.
  - 3. Expecting more funds from Department of Healthcare Services.
- E. Ventura Homeless Prevention Fund (VHPF) - Debora Schreiber
  - 1. Raised over \$10K at the fundraiser in February.
    - a) Sue Brinkmeyer did a great job!
    - b) Temple Beth Torah provided food.
    - c) Unitarian Universalist Church of Ventura provided the space.
  - 2. Judy Alexandre - the need for VHPF has grown, both the numbers and the amount required.
  - 3. VHPF has zero overhead costs. All money raised goes to direct services.
- F. Step Up Ventura
  - 1. Fundraiser on 4/15/23
  - 2. Aspire to Inspire
    - a) Ventura Unified School District providing food and music.

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



# WELCOME HOME BASKETS

FOR OXNARD AND VENTURA SHELTERS

## WHAT'S A WELCOME HOME BASKET?

**ESSENTIAL HOUSEHOLD ITEMS GIVEN TO INDIVIDUALS  
MOVING FROM THE SHELTER INTO THEIR OWN HOME**

### CAN INCLUDE:

- Dish set
- Silverware
- Pots & pans, other cooking essentials
- Trash can
- Shower towel (unused)
- Shower curtain
- Bath mat
- Pillows & blankets
- Laundry basket & more!



**GIFT CARDS TO AMAZON, TARGET,  
WALMART, DOLLAR TREE & 99 CENTS  
STORE ARE ALSO WELCOMED!**



SCAN QR CODE TO CHECK OUT  
OUR TARGET WISH LIST

Questions or need to schedule a  
drop off? Contact Community  
Engagement Specialist, Mariah  
Lopez, at  
MariahL@mercyhouse.net  
714-836-7188 x385