

## Ventura Social Services Task Force

Minutes 11/6/24 3:15pm via Zoom. Note: This meeting was the day after the election AND the first day of the Mountain Fire. Everyone who attended was unsettled. Judy led the meeting until her power and/or internet failed.

- I. Call to order at 3:20PM and introductions (Judy Alexandre)
  - a. Attending: Judy Alexandre - VSSTF Chair, John Sanders Jones - VSSTF/FS & H4All; Anna Varella - Mercy House; Mike Johnson – Vta City Council; Leona Rollins Housing Services Mgr, City of Vta; Melanie Shankle – City Center Site Mgr; Amanda Cruz – Mercy House – Vta Program Mgr; Jeff Lambert – CEO Vta Housing Authority; Marissa Rosales - Vta County Homeless Services; Zack Brook-Miller – Program Director US Vets/Ventura, Mary Jordan – VSSTF/FS
- II. Approval of or changes to the agenda for 11/6/24 Move to Approve – Jones
  - a. Move Zack US Vets to after Leona
- III. Approval of or changes to the minutes from 10/2/24 Move to Approve – Jones; Thank you Mary Jordon for the minutes
- IV. Financial update (Judy Alexandre) - \$205 spent on the Elections Forum; Current Balance \$1805.53
- V. City Council –
  - a. Foul Weather Shelter delayed
  - b. 11/19/2024 Farmworker housing report due to be presented
  - c. Tenant & Property Collaborative Workshops – 3 more to be presented in Eng & Spanish
  - d. Homeless Prevention & Diversion Program - began 2/2024 - 130 households, \$450K rental & utility; Avg - \$3500; 5 Transitional Youth
- VI. Presentation from US Vets, Ventura Springs; Slide deck included as appendix. Mission, Vision, Hx, & Values; operation sites, Core services
  - a. Judge Harry Pregerson founder 1993
  - b. Operate on CA, NV AZ TX & DC
  - c. Housing, Employment, Mental Health, Homeless Prevention & Supportive Partnerships with non-residential programs
  - d. Ventura Springs – Telephone & Wells - 122 Units on 9.68 acres (120 units for homeless vets & Families & 2 for property managers) Partnership with A Community of Friends (ACOF)
  - e. 1 BR – 78 units, 2 BR – 32 units & 3 BR -12 units for single & Families
  - f. 24 families w kids 47 children under 18
  - g. ACOF will handle construction, maintenance, leasing; US Vets – will provide & coordinate services. Rentals paid by - VASH, Affirmative Supportive housing, Low-income housing for those who are working
  - h. 11 units still available – looking for Vets if not, units will go to widows.

- i. Opening in 2 phases – Ph 1 & 2 = 42 units soon, received temp cert of occupancy; hope to start filling week of 18 November; Phase 3 - soon
- j. Encourage - Can stop by and see the facility /several agencies asked for tours  
Judy's lost computer access here

VII. VSSTF Priorities

- a) Winter shelter – Leona Rollins (on Council agenda for 12/?/2024) need a plan...follow up from H and H committee. We still encourage the city to 1) increase services from 20 to 40 rooms and 2) increase temperature trigger from 40F to 45F and reduce predicted rainfall from ½” to ¼ “ of predicted rain; Activating 12/1/24 – 3/20/2025
- b) RV dumping (Kappy Paulson) – More complicated than originally thought. Concentrated RV waste makes it hard for the Sanitary Waste Treatment Plant (SWTP) to meet the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) requirements. Looking at other ideas such as pumper trucks.
- c) Storage (John Jones) Harrison Waste is required to replace the green colored barrels with black barrels. Exploring if we can get 250 and sanitize them to store people's belongings. Next steps: Find a site to store, Staff the site, Set hours of operation, Rules for storage, etc.
- d) RV parking/park – Difficulty getting a site. Need to find a way to Not get tickets
- e) Question...what is happening with the Portland Loos – It is on the Measure O Capital Improvement Plan for 2025; still would have to be approved by Council & May get push back from beautification people. “It is right at the entrance to the city. “ Parks & Recreation site planned at the mini Park on California & Santa Clara

VIII. Updates:

- a) Housing and Homeless Subcommittee (Leona Rollins, attendees)
- b) City of Ventura (City Council member, Leona Rollins)
  - a. 1 reelected Member & 2 new Members – Review the Forum Recording to get a sense of their positions
- c) Valentine Road Project (Jeff Lambert),
  - a. Village B – Moving 24 of 40 home key folks into hotel rooms w/microwave & refrigerators; should be full by end of calendar year. Signed 12 leases last week, going well
  - b. Village C – Construction Contract to be signed soon; start in the spring
  - c. Village D – Under Construction 64 studio apts, when finished 40 from Bldg B & 24 March April
  - d. Bldg B – Start after move the
  - e. Village A – Lobby & offices for Behav Health
  - f. Behavioral Health staff person - Martha has office - Difficulty to provide entertainment they are used to TV's in old hotel; Food donations doesn't

seem to be being used. Social action to make gatherings. Hard training will  
Dec 5 Holiday dinner

- d) College area development /PSHH (Leona) – Construction Bond for Tax Credits approved; Construction starts 2/2025; Some farm worker & families set asides
- IX. Agency updates and information:
- a. ARCH – Amanda - has VPD one male bottom bunk bed;
  - b. Anna - Lost their Thanksgiving breakfast sponsor. Ventura HS students under 18 are not allowed to serve. Need about 55 meals. Please call your contacts to step in. Christmas will be looking groups to for meals.
- X. Officers for next year...nominations: Chair/Co-Chair, Judy has stated she will NOT be the Chair in 2025; Secretary – Not done
- XI. Motion to Adjourn. Leona/John
- XII. Next meeting is 12/4/24 via zoom
- XIII. Meetings:
- Faith sub-Committee Nov 15, 4pm via zoom ([johnsandersjones@gmail.com](mailto:johnsandersjones@gmail.com))
  - City Council 11/12 6pm
  - Housing and Homeless Subcommittee, Nov. 18; 3pm City Hall, Community room
  - Update on Foul Weather Shelter at City Council 11/19 City Council Chambers