

Ventura Social Services Task Force

Minutes 1 $\frac{2}{3}$ /2025

3:15pm via zoom: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81514995979>

Present:

- Judy Alexander - VSSTF Chair, Faith Subcommittee
- Natalie Allen ACC (Access Central Coast, VC, Affordable Housing Manager)
- Sue Brinkmeyer - Ventura Homeless Prevention
- Kevin Clerici, Director, Downtown Ventura Partners
- Michael Flores, Emergency Preparedness Manager, Center for Independent Living, Central Coast
- John Sanders Jones - VSSTF member, and VHP Board
- Jeff Lambert - CEO Ventura Housing
- Claudia Lozano - Community Action of Ventura County, Manager of Community Services
- Zuleth Lucero-VC Housing Coalition, Coordinator
- Edwin Martinez - Turning Point Foundation
- Leona Rollins - Housing Services Mgr City of Ventura
- Debora Schreiber - Ventura Homeless Prevention Board
- Javier Villa Solis - Human Services Agency of County

- I. The meeting was called to order and introductions were made at 3:18
- II. The minutes were approved with no changes (John Jones/Javier Villa Solis)
- III. The agenda was approved with no changes (John Jones/Javier Villa Solis)
- IV. Financial update - account has \$2,009. We will be spending some on upcoming candidate forum. We originally were funded by a grant from the City, and we have been using it for several years.

V. . Tenant Protections (Kristian Nunez, Leona Rollins)

- a) Anti-harassment ordinance went to Planning Commission in October. They wanted more information; it will be presented to Planning Commission for second time on Jan 14, then Housing and Homelessness subcommittee on Jan 21, then City Council on Feb. 3.
- b) Education outreach - Partnership with Housing Rights Center and with VC Association of Realtors approved by City Council in November. There will be a series of workshops throughout the year. Currently assembling materials, and confirming dates. First workshop will be January 20, 6-8 pm, Community Meeting Room at City Hall. It will be hybrid with translation services available.
- c) It is important that people attend Planning Commission, Housing and Homelessness Committee meetings, and City Council and speak.

IV. Presentation by Access Central Coast (Formerly Independent Living Resource Center) - Natalie Allen (Housing and Support Specialist for VC) and Michael Flores (Emergency Services Manager). About us on website lists all staff and areas of assistance (Aging and Disability Resource Center)

- a) Non-profit that serves disabled community through advocacy, education and action
- b) Mission: to promote independent living and full access for all individuals with disabilities
- c) 82% of staff and board are individuals with disabilities; staff has both book knowledge and lived experience
- d) serve Ventura, Santa Barbara and San Luis Obispo Counties
- e) core services: information and referrals; individual and systems advocacy (works with local law enforcement and law makers, e.g., get entrances accessible); independent living skills (budgeting, cooking, cleaning home); transition (hospital to home or skilled nursing facility etc); peer support (people with similar issues get together to talk and support one another)

- f) dismantling stereotypes: medical model (person is the problem) vs. social model (works to reduce barriers for the person)
- g) Person-Centered Care: each person aware of their options and can make their own choices as to how their needs are being met
- h) Eligibility - anyone with a disability, diagnosed or self-identified, or an older adult. No documentation needed.
- i) Services: Assistive technology, housing navigation, benefits counseling, personal assistance connection, emergency preparedness, interpreter registry, blind and low vision services, youth services (14-26), Cal-Aim. Housing specialist helps clients find and maintain housing; help find employment; holistic approach.
- j) Each caller is routed to appropriate person to be sure their needs are met.
- k) Aging and Disability Resource Center - enhanced information and referrals; Short-term service coordination; transition services.
- l) Peer support - fireside chat (activities and movies, etc); chat space (blind and low vision support); quick match with care giver;
- m) Voice options program - Dept of Rehabilitation program for people with disabilities that impact speech/communication capabilities
- n) California Advancing and Innovating Medi-Cal - services that go beyond the doctor's office - Gold Coast Health Plan
- o) Ventura office 702 County Square Drive #105
- p) Funding sources - federally, state and grant funded. Recently received grant from Fire Defense Association.
- q) Housing - navigation, diversion, and retention. Help clients with finding available housing and filling out applications; help them add themselves to waiting lists; help them get income to be able to pay for housing.

- r) Emails and Contacts on website Access Central Coast; About Us (Get to know our Staff)

V. Updates from the Continuum of Care (Jenn Harkey, County Exec. Office)

- a) Notice of funding availability currently available <https://coc.venturacounty.gov/> (Check news and announcements)
- b) State housing assistance and prevention program is open until December 5; application on website
- c) Housing and Urban Development Changes - Here is a link to the CoC Board presentation regarding the HUD CoC program changes: <https://s47585.pcdn.co/wp-content/uploads/2025/11/11-25-25-CoC-Board-Presentation-for-HUD-CoC-NOFO.pdf>
 - i. significant number of permanent supportive housing units are now at risk of losing funding because the administration is looking to move funding to transitional housing and street outreach projects - COC is working to preserve as much supportive and permanent housing as possible. COC is looking at other grant sources at state and local level and behavioral health services possibilities. Most of the residents that went into permanent supportive housing were chronically homeless.
 - ii. New notice of funding has an emphasis on transitional living and street outreach for treatment and recovery services. They are moving away from a housing first model, where someone could opt out of services, and moving to a required participation model.
 - iii. Notice of Funding workshop is Dec. 4 10:30-12. Will talk about what recipients can do to maintain funding or transition.
 - iv. Scoring will emphasize performance. Must have services agreement.
 - v. Have worked with law enforcement to help people move from encampments.

- vi. Amount of funding - increase nationwide to allow more projects for street outreach and transitional living. More for domestic violence. Rapid Re-housing will be limited, but transitional housing will be available. COC is seeking new applications for transitional living and street outreach.
 - vii. New funding has a 30% cap on permanent housing, so COC needs new projects that are not permanent housing
 - viii. Tight timeframe - all due Dec. 16; review and score and data committee and to Board on Dec. 19.
 - ix. What happens to those who don't get renewed? COC has been urging partners to apply for other funding, especially through state.
 - x. National Alliance has begun legal action as have 20 states to try to change this funding emphases. There is no information on the outcome of these lawsuits yet.
 - xi. Emergency Housing Vouchers were supposed to end in 2030, but are now ending in June 2026. There will be a lot of loss of housing.
 - xii. Motel leasing and other creative housing could qualify as transitional housing, which is usually for 24 months. Of course, there is a problem if there is no permanent housing to transition into, so state funding will be looked to in order to solve that problem.
- d) What can we do: advocacy through National Alliance to End Homelessness. They draft emails and letters and make it very easy for individuals to advocate with lawmakers and agencies.
 - e) COC is very much looking for new partners who will apply for these transitional living and street outreach funds.

VI. City of Ventura updates and important information regarding housing and homelessness (Leona Rollins)

- a) On an annual basis the City gets Home Funding and CBDG. A workshop on Nov. 11 is scheduled for 2026 funding, online. Applications through Jan 22, 2026.
- b) Foul weather shelter will open when temp is predicted to be 40 degrees or below or half an inch of rain or more, 40 rooms, priority 52 or older or disabled. River Community Church and social media will send out notice when it is activation with 48 hour notice. For more information about the Foul Weather Shelter Program, please visit cityofventura.ca.gov/FWS
- c) Housing and Homeless subcommittee Wed. Dec. 17, 3 pm Community Meeting Room. Recommendations for ADU unit design; funding recommendation for CBDG funding; midtown corridor; permanent housing program; homebuyer assistance program.
- d) Safe Sleep - request for proposal; due next week. Recommendations at January 24 meeting are hoped for.

VII. Housing updates - Zuleth Lucero. Ventura Housing submitted three proposals for sites at Washington School, Avenue site, and Jewel site. Dec. 16 school board meeting support is needed for these sites to be used for affordable housing.

There has been some opposition especially to affordable housing at the Washington School site. They want the site as a trade school for people with disabilities. Public comment can be made by email, but in person is better. The item is not on the agenda, but public comment can be made. The union is fully in support, but opposition has been strong. It may be that more information needs to be shared about what affordable housing is and who qualifies. Housing is planned for people who work for the school district.

VIII. Faith subcommittee of VSSTF re upcoming workshop (John Jones)

- a) Event is called Reimagining Home, Thursday, Feb 26 at 6:30 pm UU Church. A video "A Place to Call Home" and "No Place to Grow Old" (re need for senior housing) Leona will be moderator and Jenn as a speaker.

- b) Approval of Funds for refreshments - \$200 approve (MSC: John Sanders/Debra Schreiber)
- c) Many Mansions just opened Rancho Sierra, a new housing project for seniors, so Rick Schroeder would be a good person to contact about speaking at the event on the need for senior housing.
- d) Will be advertised to houses of faith and to agencies. Leona will share flyer through newsletter, and with the Chamber and through City partners.
- e) Send ideas on who should receive flyer to johnsandersjones@gmail.com
- f) It was suggested that it is important to get information out to the public throughout the year, perhaps setting up a table in a park with a sign "Ask me questions about affordable housing"

IX. ELECTION of Officers, chair, co-chair, secretary. Kappy is willing to continue as secretary if her minutes do not have to be as involved. The meeting is recorded and is sent to the Chair and the Secretary only. John Sanders Jones was nominated and seconded (Jenn Harkey/Leonara Rollins). He will be retiring April 1, and is willing to take over come May 1. Judy is willing to be co-chair then, and will to continue as chair until then. Kappy Paulson was nominated and seconded (John Sanders Jones/Leona Rollins) as secretary. The slate passed unanimously under the listed conditions.

X. Homeless Count is happening Wednesday early morning on Jan 28. Everyone is asked to register. 400 volunteers are needed countywide, and we are only ¼ of the way there. Sign up to volunteer at <https://www.facebook.com/CountyOfVentura/posts/-ventura-county-continuum-of-care-is-calling-on-community-volunteerson-wednesday/1331466719024537/>

XI. Housing Coalition - increase in people 60 and over needing assistance to pay bills and rent. The past two months it has been primarily people 60+ needing help.

XII. Motion to Adjourn until Jan. 7, 2026 at 3:15 via zoom carried

Housing and Homeless Committee Dec. 17, 3 pm, City Hall community room

Meeting was adjourned at 4:39.

Respectfully submitted, Sue Brinkmeyer