

Meeting Minutes VSSTF 4/2/2025

- I. Meeting Began at 3:30 Called to order by Judy Alexandre.
 - a. Introductions: Deborah Schriber – Advocate, John Sanders Jones – VSSTF Co Chair, Faith subcommittee & H4All, Kevin Clerici- Downtown Ventura Partners, Kristian Nunez – CAUSE, Anna Varela-Mercy House, Mike Johnson gadfly & advocate, Miguel Marquez-VC Behavioral Health, Leona Rollins – City of Ventura Housing Services Manager, Javier V Solis-VC Homeless Services Program, Jenn Harkey-VC CoC, Edwin Martinez -Turning Point; Judy Alexandre – VSSTF Co-Chair, H4All & others, Jeff Lambert – City of Ventura Housing Authority, Cathi Nye - VC Office of Education; Kappy Paulson – LUYV, H4All & Faith Subcommittee
- II. Approval of the Agenda (adding July 4th Street Fair) Motion-John Jones; Second-Mike Johnson
- III. Approval of Minutes Motion-Jenn Harkey; Second-Mike Johnson
- IV. Finances – No Spending or
- V. Kristian provided an update on **tenant protection recommendations** going to the City Council on April 8th, emphasizing the importance of attendance and advocacy at the meeting. Key recommendations include ***enforcement of state housing laws, expanding Housing Rights Center services, and implementing a rental registry***. Leona added that the City Council will be asked to provide direction on various initiatives, with no immediate ordinances being passed. Judy urges attendees to be present at the meeting or write letters of support.
 - a. Housing Rights Center update from the 4/8/2025 City Council Agenda Item # 3, Link [03](#)
 - b. Community Engagement Update on Tenant & Providers Rights 4/8/2025 Agenda, Item # 12, Link [12](#)
 - c. Leona confirmed that these recommendations include apartments, condos & stand-alone housing. Leona also mentioned AB 1482
 - d. VSSTF is recommending \$100/year (or is it per tenant or rent change) for the registry. Funds to pay for operating the registry and remaining to help enforcement. Mike commented this \$8/month pales compared to amount water bill will increase
 - e. Judy mentioned other names for the same concept: Housing Stability, Homelessness Prevention, Eviction Prevention
- VI. **Point in Time Count Ventura County (Jenn Harkey)** Jenn reported an 18.5% decrease in homelessness countywide since the 2023 count, with a significant 22.8% decrease in sheltered individuals due to the COVID response funding. The city of Ventura has successfully utilized local and state dollars, including the Homeless Housing Assistance and Prevention program, to prevent homelessness. There is a continued need for safe

sleep and safe parking locations, with 32% of the homeless population living in vehicles or RVs countywide. The county has seen progress in housing veterans and chronically homeless individuals, but there is a growing need for affordable housing for seniors. Jenn highlights the importance of prevention efforts, with \$2.6 million invested in prevention programs through United Way and the Human Services Agency.

a. Jenn presented a positive update about a 20% decrease in people experiencing homelessness in the city of Ventura. The success was attributed to partnerships with the county of Ventura and community-based nonprofit organizations. However, there was a lack of information about families experiencing homelessness. Jenn also mentioned that she would be sending out a presentation for the Board of Supervisors and that the final report with detailed demographic information would be available in May. We got a sneak peek at the preliminary numbers are here [Meetings3524Revision Packet No. 1 20250404235518994.pdf](#) presented to the Board of Supervisors on 4/8/2025. Most notable:

- i. Ventura City – 19% decrease over 2 years to 522 people (241 unsheltered and 281 sheltered)
- ii. Countywide – 2 year - Veterans reduction 53%
- iii. Countywide TAY /Youth 2023/52 => 2024/55 => 2025/38
- iv. Countywide – Adults (24-54) 2023/1025 =>2024/864 =2025/765
- v. Countywide – Seniors (55+) 2023/438, =>2024/493 => 2025/453, There is a gap in housing for Seniors low incomes and without disabilities
- vi. Count includes partners not receiving federal & stat funds, e.g. City Center, Gabriel House, Rescue Mission, etc.
- vii. Very few families were reported as unhoused.
- viii. Cathi Nye mentioned that there are 8,900 identified school aged children in Ventura County considered homeless by Board of Education. Most are not in the PIT count. Most (90%) are in doubled-up situations. or in hotels and are not counted as homeless.

b. The county is moving to a preference for homelessness prevention & permanent housing vs. interim sheltering

c. Jenn covers funding and grants related to homelessness and housing assistance. Jenn reports that current continuum of care grant funding is congressionally approved, but there are concerns about potential cuts next year.

VII. Jeffrey Lambert provides an update on federal funding for the housing authority, noting they are currently in a good position but anticipate challenges in the future.

/III. Leona Rollins mentions that the City of Ventura was awarded a \$9.8 million grant to help individuals experiencing chronic homelessness in the Santa Clara River bottom.

- IX. Judy Alexander announces that her congregation will be donating money for bus passes and seeks suggestions on where to distribute them. Suggestions include: YMCA, libraries, Mercy House, Turning Point, County/ One Stop, Family Justice Center (DV cases)
- X. July 4th Street Fair Booth and Give Away
 - a. Downtown Partners donating a booth at the Street Fair. Debora, and John discussed the environmental impact of balloons at their 4th of July event. They decided to move away from balloons and explore other environmentally friendly alternatives. Debora shared her past experiences with the event, including hosting people who were homeless or previously homeless. She suggested inviting such individuals to the event to foster conversations and understanding. Judy encouraged volunteers to join the event, emphasizing the importance of their presence. To Volunteer contact DeboraSchreiber0@gmail.com
- XI. VSSTF Priorities they discussed their priorities, with a focus on starred items.
 - a. Homelessness Prevention funds as used more funds in the first 3 months of 2025 that it did in all of 2024.
 - b. Judy mentioned that One Stop had 15 brand new clients in the first week of April. The client load was over 100 people which is unusual because most people have first-of-the-month funds.
 - c. John discussed the challenges of handling storage barrels due to state mandates and the need for a recycling company. He mentioned that Brian Brennan would follow up with a company involved in recycling to see if they could provide barrels.
 - d. Kappy shared is encouraging having a local recycling station once or twice a month vs a permanent free location. Mike offered to create a map of areas for counting RVs. Jenn highlighted the difficulty in providing a point-in-time count report for RVs due to the need to visually see individuals.
 - e. There is a 3rd Laundry Love Facility in Ventura and groups are working on a 4th Please use the Laundry Love logo when advertising. Need flyers with all three current locations.
- XII. Reports
 - a. Jeff Lambert reported on the pursuit of four surplus school district properties for housing, including a potential site near Ralston for 90-95 single-family homes for school employees. Another is at the Washington School site while preserving the school building and repurposing it for community use. Judy emphasized the need for more housing advocacy
 - b. Jeff reported on Valentine Road
 - i. Most of the original 40 rooms in Building B house people moved from Project Room Key. While C & D are renovated into studio apartments which is now complete.

- ii. Soon the 40 Bldg. B residents will lease & move into apartments in Bldgs. C&D, along with another 23 residents. The 23 apartments will be leased via the Coordinated Entry system with preference for Ventura folks without homes and who have behavioral health challenges. By June, there should be 63 households in C&D.
- iii. Renovations are starting on Bldgs. A & B and are expected to be completed in January, with a total of 134 units that included 2 units for on-site manages.
- iv. HA purchased the lot next door and intends to build additional ground-up units there
- c. Jenn provided an update on the Vagabond project, Project Room Key vacated 12/30/2024. Behavioral Health took a 2-year lease on 80 rooms. Clients will have security, housekeeping, and case management.
- d. Anna reported that Mercy House remains at capacity and is open for police referrals.
- e. The meeting also touched on grant information and upcoming events, including a county-wide housing conference.
- f. The Faith Subcommittee did not meet last month,

<III. Motion to Adjourn Motion until 5/17/2025 @ 3:15 – Cathi; Second - Mike

Meetings

4/08/2025 - 5:30 PM - City Council – Chambers

4/16/2025 – 3:00 PM – City Hall Community Room

4/18/2025 – 4:00 PM – VSSTF Faith Subcommittee

5/29/2025 - 1:00 PM – CAUSE Planning Meeting Affordable Housing Coalition

Submitted by Kappy Paulson, using Zoom AI Notes, recording and personal Notes

Links provided in Chat

Mike Johnson - <https://www.cityofventura.ca.gov/DocumentCenter/View/44112/12>

Tenant and Property Owner Workshop and Options for Tenant Protection Measures

Jeff Lambert - we are getting our first round of Foster Youth to Independence (FYI) vouchers from HUD shortly and have received our first referrals from HAS