

Ventura Social Services Task Force

Minutes May 7, 2025 (Wed)

- Call to order and introductions (Judy Alexandre) 3:20PM

John Jones (VSSTF & H4All), Kevin Clerici (Downtown Partners), Mary Jordan (Faith Subcommittee), Leona Rollins Housing Services Mgr), Javier Villa (VC Homelessness Services), Jenn Harkey (COC Prog Director), Anna Varella (Mercy House), Liz Morales (WCPC), Edwin Martinez (Turning Point), Kristian Numez (CAUSE), Andrea Palmer (Housing Div), Kyler Carlson (VHA), Mike Johnson (gadfly), Kappy Paulson (LUYV)

- Approval of or changes to the agenda for 5/7/25 (Judy Alexandre) Approve/ John; Second/Kappy
- Approval of or changes to the minutes of 4/2/25 (Judy Alexandre) Approve/Jenn; Second/Leona
- Financial update (no change)
- Tenant Protections: where are we (Kristian Nunez, Leona Rollins)
 - a) What action steps do we need to take, when, where – 5/27/2025 5:00PM Council picking up from loooong (1:00AM) meeting on 3/23. No changes from Planning Commission & HandH Subcommittee. Need bodies there with reasonable sized signs. No public comments accepted but you can & should still write.
 - b) Loophole - Can make comments in general comments section at the beginning of the meeting since it's only deliberation on direction Housing should take. And not an agendized item open for comments
 - c) 8 protections bringing forward – council will investigate measures. Our focus is: Legal services for tenants & owners, maybe extend Housing Resource, Rental Registry, - need the data to assess needs & implement & Enforcement of current CA housing laws.
 - d) Anti-harassment, displacement, location assistance, rights to purchase,
 - e) Meeting is for Council to give direction to direction and no ordinances at this meeting
 - f) Ox approved legal fees assistance for tenants & landlord
- Report from City of Ventura (Leona Rollins)
 - How is the encampment grant being spent...what are some of the specifics
 - \$9.8M 2-year grant for Santa Clara River encampments (but not Ventura River). About 45 people in river bottom & get them document ready
 - Developing & Constructing property next to Valentine Rd for 30-60 units
 - Set aside units at interim shelter then into long term supportive housing
 - Looking for a sustainable non congregative model for interim shelter.
 - When will the Portland loo be open,
 - In Public Works now and Parks & Rec must sign off

- Lots of discussion around Bathrooms with Downtown moves
 - any plans for a second Portland loo. None yet but want to
- Direction of the city re Homelessness and Housing (priorities, funding, grants, coordination with other cities) Fed Govern incl CBGD feds want it back. City is trying to find other sources from funding not the feds.
 - Homeless prevention important to ensure that new people moving into homelessness.
 - Camarillo – is transitional housing & permanent supportive housing. Considering prefab & 3-D printed houses
 - Coordination with neighborhoods and the county w/o fed funds
- Next steps for Safe Sleep, what is being proposed
 - Planed for H&H Subcommittee (NOTE: Postponed), Plan to bring to subcommittee next meeting
 - 24-hour site at Mercy House – working out interaction details
 - RVs are getting tickets, cannot pay, now towed, home is gone
- Next steps for the winter shelter, what is being proposed
 - 40 Beds, Contract for an operator (not River Community) by 7/16, goal is saving lives, generally used 39-40 rooms each night. No change for trigger requirements to invoke. Deep dive into homelessness.
- Housing at Ralston Road. Occupant mist be a school district employee but that makes it hard to go after other low-income funding.
- Any action needed from VSSTF
 - Interim shelter will need support to counter some resistance from neighbors
 - Permanent supportive housing is essential for people moving from homelessness especially encampments, especially long-term people w/o housing
 - Mike recommended look at Resident satisfaction survey. Top 3 concerns Address homelessness, provide affordable housing & limit growth & preserve open spaces & farmland. See [Template.book](#)
- Next Housing and Homeless committee (May 23, 3pm City Hall)
- Report from the Continuum of Care (Jenn Harkey)
 - CoC - 6th round state funded HAP Grant to be released later this year. Apply through CoC by end of August. Working on Strategic planning, systems performance metrics, needs & gaps update regionally coordinated action plan
 - Asking for VSSTF for needs & Gaps
 - State prioritizing permanent housing & prevention
 - ~ \$5.8 M Grant to VC

- Concerned about HUD Funding ~ 44% reduction in safety net. Concern those already in on permanent supportive housing, subsidies & emerg housing vouchers,
 - Section 8 – intended to go to 2030 now only 2026 – 100 went to homelessness and others went to extremely low income
 - HAP round 5 just released contacts rolling out for 3 years.
 - Reach out local legislators/ NOT A TIME FOR SILENCE Our supportive reps need to hear our + resources
- Housing updates:
 - a) Ventura Housing Authority, Valentine Rd and new developments, plans to address voucher loss etc. (Kyler, Carlson, Karen Flock, Jeff Lambert) – No updates
 - b) Update on Maple Court, Ventura Springs, Farm worker housing, College Development, other (Leona Rollins, Karen Flock, PSHH, other) - No updates
- Faith subcommittee updates:
 - a) Storage (John Jones) – Can't use EJ Harrison bins which go to recycling Company. Btyan Brenan will work ion ideas Harrison can purchase new bins. Where to store, anchored, locked, who manages? Pilot with !50 bins? Find location/John. Grant funding? Not through federal grants, maybe foundations How to manage? Ask Harrison about transporting bins to storage site. Consider lobbying council to include in franchise agreement. Michael Tanner/Nervanica thinks a tally is a difficult process. Take pix only with Kappy & Mike ONLY. Come up with a way to link into Point in time count. People living in trucks do they need a dump station.
 - b) RV parking, dumping (Kappy Paulson) – nothing new. Mike has been gathering. Most are movable info
 - c) Laundry Love (John Jones) – Two trees found a nes site on Thomspson but it was sold before they started so they will be open 2nd & 4th Saturday at Mission Plaza. Plus, our site @ Harbor. **Need more volunteers** on 4th Sunday of Month. Updated LL website. Got operational advice from Two Trees, esp. around large loads & large # of loads.
- Next meeting is 5/16/25 4:pm via zoom Agency updates:
 - a) County housing coalition conference (Zuleth Lucero)
 - b) The ARCH-Mercy House (Anna Varela)
 - c) CAUSE (Kristian Nunez) Spoke already
 - d) Javier Villa VC - HAP 5 funding going to at risk help, RAIN, Outreach w Ventura
 - e) bus passes from Orchard church given to Believe, One Stop, WPHC & Turning Point and Mercy House.
- Other
 - Shared Link [CEO Corner: Week of May 5 - National Alliance to End Homelessness](#)

- Motion to adjourn: Mike & John
- 5/13.25 School District
- 5/21/2025 H&H Sub Committee
- 6/4/2025 3:15 Next Meeting via Zoom (Judy Alexandre)
- 6/11/2025 afternoon (moved from Late May) - Housing Coalition Conference. Register here [Save the Date: Community Lands for Affordable Housing Forum](#) Flyer included in minutes