

Ventura Social Services Task Force - Minutes June 3, 2026 -Note) minutes are incomplete Secty's internet was unstable & dropped. Began: 3:20PM via Zooml

- I. Welcome and Introductions -John Jones, Judy Alexandre, Ruby Avila – VC Behav Health; Javier Solis- VC Homeless Services; Anna Varella – Hercy House; Kyler Carlson - Ventura Housing; Emily Bridges – Access Centra Coast, Jenn Harkey, CoC; Brenda - Cao School on Wheels (Note: Behav. Health has a new housing prog 805-973-2243); Andrea Palmer – City of Vta Housing
- II. Approval of or changes to the minutes of 5/6/2026 – M /Alexandre; S/Solis
- III. Approval of or changes to the agenda of 6/3/2026. – M/?, S/ Solis
- IV. Remaining AI Derived minutes are edited by Sect'y & summarized below
- V. **Quick recap**

The Social Services Task Force meeting focused on updates from various agencies and organizations working on housing and homelessness issues in Ventura.

John provided updates on pro-housing designations, tenant protections, and upcoming housing-related meetings and workshops.

Ruby from Behavioral Health presented on their programs including RISE, Bridge to Wellness, and Wellness on Wheels, which provide services to unhoused individuals with mental health and substance use challenges.

The group discussed concerns about severely mentally ill individuals who frequent One Stop but don't receive adequate treatment or housing support.

Judy reported on the Faith Committee's activities, including a quarterly newsletter to congregations and efforts to establish a third Laundry Love program.

Kyler from Ventura Housing updated the group on Valentine Road remaining fully leased and their pipeline of approximately 300 affordable housing units.

The conversation ended with a discussion about the upcoming candidate forum scheduled for September 30th at Church of the Foothills, focusing on council districts up for re-election.

Next steps

- **John** - Bring HUD tenant protection updates to the July meeting; Send out call for volunteers for the 4th of July Street Fair (Cornhole Game).
- **Judy**
 - Send out information about the CARE Act and RISE referral process to relevant attendees.
 - Continue exploratory discussions with St. Vincent de Paul groups (and Kate Mills) about co-sponsoring a new Laundry Love site; report back when there is more concrete information.
 - Meet with Jen Harkey to discuss potential collaboration with City of Oxnard on expanded winter shelter options, especially in light of El Nino, and report back when more information is available.
- **Kappy**
 - Email Kevin to resolve Zoom video and login issues, especially regarding passcodes for future meetings.
- **Kyler**
 - Share more details about Ventura Housing's pipeline projects at future meetings as updates become available.
- **Ruby**

- Send PDF slides (and referral form) to John for distribution and inclusion in the minutes.
- **Collaboration**
 - John and Judy: Ensure updated pro-housing designation dates and related city updates are sent to all committee members.
 - Judy, Kyler, John, Anna, Karen (and others interested): Organize and recruit volunteers for the ***September 30th candidate forum at Church of the Foothills***; reach out to broader group for additional helpers.
- **Summary**

Housing Program Updates Discussion

The group discussed updates on housing and community programs.

Judy informed John about a HUD update on tenant protections that she had sent to him, and the team agreed to add this as an agenda item.

Kappy shared positive news about two individuals from Laundry Love and One Stop programs getting housed at Mercy House, though she expressed concern about the pipeline for future housing placements due to limited available housing options in both the city and county.

Safe Sleep Project Funding Discussion

Anna reported that she had not received an update from the city regarding temporary safe sleep initiatives, with Kappy and John suggesting funding issues were likely stalls. The group discussed that the funding for the safe sleep project was either not coming or more expensive than anticipated.

Ventura Housing Designation Updates

John provided updates on the City of Ventura's pro-housing designation process, explaining that it would make the city more competitive for state housing funding and would go through several public meetings between July and August.

The group also discussed upcoming housing-related events, including inclusionary housing fees, Housing Element SB35 Program 19 updates, and a Fair Housing Workshop scheduled for June 29th. Ruby was invited to present on behalf of Ventura County Behavioral Health, though the presentation portion was cut off at the end of the transcript.

Behavioral Health Services Overview

- Care act flyer- <https://venturacounty.gov/care-act/#docaccess-503cc03ee5e4caacf90c24ff77afe4c6e18c30d681b51e7aca0d7e67bb85e3c2>
- Care Act Brochure - <https://venturacounty.gov/care-act/#docaccess-bb7bc0386c7c9d1c547b8e3e9c9068b38761e7dd80d9e7ae75034ca3796a19e1>
- Care Act Overview - <https://ventura.courts.ca.gov/self-help/care-act-program>
- RISE Referral form - <https://staging.venturacounty.gov/human-services-agency/blog/2025/04/01/rapid-integrated-support-engagement/>

Ruby Avilla presented an overview of behavioral health services provided by the organization, including the access and crisis line, the RISE (Rapid Integrated Support and Engagement) program, and the Bridge to Wellness program. She explained how the RISE team, composed of intensive services coordinators, works in the field to support unhoused individuals and connect them to appropriate services, including partnering with law enforcement when needed. Ruby

also mentioned that a referral form is available online for community members to request support for individuals in need, though there are currently issues with the online link that the team is working to resolve.

- **Behavioral Health Programs for Unhoused**

Ruby described two programs serving unhoused individuals with behavioral health needs. The ***Bridge to Wellness program*** provides comprehensive services including mental health support, housing resources, and access to psychiatrists through telehealth or clinic visits, while ***Wellness on Wheels*** offers mobile clinic services in a van equipped for telehealth appointments and brief therapy sessions. Both programs work in rural and underserved areas, helping clients navigate access to services like Medi-Cal and connecting them to longer-term care when appropriate.

- **Behavioral Health Services and Housing**

Ruby discussed Behavioral Health Services Act (BHSA) initiatives and housing resources available to people receiving services in traditional settings. Judy raised concerns about severely mentally ill individuals who frequent One Stop but cannot consent to services or housing, and Ruby explained the challenges in helping these individuals while emphasizing the RISE team as a resource. The meeting covered updates on housing projects, including Valentine Road's 60 units through the Behavioral Health ***Bridge Housing Program***, and discussed upcoming HUD funding priorities favoring transitional housing over permanent supportive housing.

The group also planned for an upcoming candidate forum on September 30th and received updates on faith-based initiatives including a quarterly newsletter and potential Laundry Love program coordination.

VI. Upcoming meetings

June 2nd - City Council - Agenda_Item: Downtown Ventura Partners Social Worker Contract Location: Ventura City Hall, City Council Chambers

June 9th - City Council - Agenda_Items: Inclusionary Housing Fees (w/City Budget), Item: Pasteur Court Apartments Preliminary Award Letter; Location: Ventura City Hall, City Council Chambers

June 17th - Housing and Homelessness Subcommittee - Agenda Items: Pro-housing Designation, Housing Element SB 35 Program 19, Ventura Task Force Update. Location: Ventura City Hall, Community Meeting Room

June 23rd - City Council - Item: Housing Element SB 35 Program 19
Item: Annual Report for Mobile Home Parks. Location: Ventura City Hall, City Council Chambers

June 24th - Planning Commission Item: Housing Element Annual Report
Item: Pro-housing Designation, Location: Ventura City Hall, City Council Chambers

Fair Housing Workshops

- May 28th from 5:30pm-9:00pm -Ventura County Coastal Association of Realtors, VCCAR Ventura Housing Connections Series - Rent and Security Deposits, Location: Ventura City Hall Community Meeting Room
- June 29th from 5:30pm-9:00pm - VCCAR Ventura Housing Connections Series - Communication Skills, Location: Ventura City Hall Community Meeting Room

June 26 VSSTF: Faith Subcommittee 4:00PM Zoom - Judy Alexandre is contact.

VII. Motion to adjourn until 7/1/20226 at 3:15 via zoom A/Paulson, S/Solis

Chat Notes 2026-06-03

Apologies for the hiccup with the link

Emily Bridges, MPH, CHES

Housing & Supports Specialist

Access Central Coast

702 County Square Dr., Suite 105, Ventura, CA 93003

Phone: (805) 650-5993 x203

Text: (805) 290-4251

Fax: (805) 650-9278

ebridges@accesscentralcoast.org

Please note: I am out of the office every other Friday