Ventura Social Services Task Force

Minutes October 7, 2026
3:15pm via Zoom

Present: Judy Alexandre (today's chair, with John Jones on Jury duty), Sue Brinkmeyer (Ventura Homeless Prevention), Christina Cabral, Kyler Carlson(People Self Help Housing), Jim Duran (City Center & City Council), Edwin Marinez TPF, Alicia Morales (COC), Andrea Palmer, Juan Torres (Salvation Army), Anna Varela (Mercy House/The Arch)

1. The minutes of 9/2/2026 were approved MSC
2. The agenda was approved MSC
3. Updates from COC - Alicia Morales - COC has submitted our grant request and is hoping for good news. Received notice from State of California that we will receive our allocation soon. COC Board meeting October 14; October 15 open meeting with presentations - see website for details. Point in Time count data was approved. Save Jan 27, 2027 for next year's count; sign ups for volunteers will start in November. Fewer units coming online this year, so providers should look at all options in and out of MIS system. New units will come online in 2027.

4.Update on The City Center joining the Rescue Mission Alliance family

4.1. Jim Duran reported that City Center merged with Rescue Mission Alliance to expand and put a City Center in every city in our county. Rescue Mission Alliance wanted to come to Ventura and approached Jim. Todd White, CEO, suggested partnering and providing their much larger organization to support the vision to expand. Signed merger papers July 1, 2026. Now the whole organization has an HR Dept., and other capabilities that RMA can provide.

4.2.A new house project with 50 rooms for women and children who are victims of human trafficking is opening in Oxnard. RMA already has such homes and ones like City Center in other cities, so all of these places will be open to people who need space if City Center is full.

4.3.City Center was doing well financially; that was not the reason for the merger. The opportunity to expand was the motivation. Golf Tournament just netted $40,000. A government relations team and also an expansion team are already working, as is the group planning for the gala.

4.4.In answering a question, Jim said that the new house dedicated to victims of trafficking in Oxnard will be available to COC members. It will be open to

people from out of state, as well, and to anyone anywhere who has been a victim of human trafficking. The collaboration with RMA should enable more people to get the help they need. Gala will be March 6, 2027. Tender Life is working to break ground on an ADU in Filmore.

5.Update on Mercy Center – including results of Pints for a Purpose event and share our plans for the upcoming holidays

5.1. Anna Varela reported that in early September Mercy House created 198 hygiene kits in partnership with Topa Topa. They are hoping for more events that will involve the community in their mission.

5.2.The Arch would love support for its residents for Thanksgiving and Christmas.

5.3.The Arch is at capacity, with just limited police department referral beds available.

6.Updates from City of Ventura: (City Council and committee up and coming agenda items, El Niño Winter Shelter updates, and City programs statuses)

6.1. Andrea Palmer reported that two items went to City Council. Housing Rights Center helped 269 residents. It was the first year of a five-year agreement. Maruja presented design standards for streamlining processes for new projects.

6.2.Future meetings: no HHS meeting in October; El Nino winter shelter is on agenda for next Tuesday.

6.3.Jen has been meeting weekly with a team preparing for El Nino including shelter support, developing contracts and bids for food for shelter participants. Jenn is in talks with Oxnard about partnering with them. We are looking at the old armory site. COC encampment guide is being followed for the shelter policy.

6.4.October 8 Housing Element going to Planning Commission.

6.5.Tax Crdit allocation letter will be presented on Nov 17. HHS

6.6.Nov. 18. Planning Commission report on tiny homes housing element item will go to HHS.

6.7.Housing Element plan submitted to state last week, but have not heard yet if it has been accepted.

7.Housing updates, bond measures

7.1., Kyler Carlson reported bonds are not polling well. Prop. 1 is a housing bond that will make building affordable housing easier. He urges support.

7.2.Project Pasture Court got tax reservation yesterday. Seems to be going well.

7.3.Community College Courts, a farmworker housing project, is going well.

7.4.Judy asked about a newspaper editorial that claimed that an affordable housing project that had been approved with low-income housing had changed to include moderate income housing instead. Andrea investigated and confirmed that the report in the editorial is correct.

8.City Council Candidate forum report

8.1. Kyler reported that the Homes for All and Ventura Social Services Task Force Candidate Forum on Housing and Homelessness held last week went well. Candidates were asked both yes/no questions and sustantive questions. All candidates present supported Ventura being a pro-housing city. All but 3 candidates supported an RV program for people living in vehicles No - Bill McReynolds, Lowry and ___. Increasing year-round beds in city was supported by all but Aguilar. Support bonds for affordable housing - Yes, except for Lowry.

9.Report from agencies

9.1.Juan Torres reported the Salvation Army is working on their program to support children with toys for Christmas with the City of Filmore and Piru. Main location will remain in Ventura.

9.2. Edwin Marinez reported that the Turning Point Foundation project started in Filmore on encampments in cooperation with city and and Spirit of Santa Paula to provide transitional placements for people and to work toward housing. Outreach team takes services to people in encampments. All residents of encampments have been contacted. Successful project. Edgar de la Cruz is new member has joined the team. Turning Point continues with efforts at the shelter. There are four programs out of Our Safe Haven. They have 14 beds and 4 Behavioral Health bridge beds and rapid rehousing services. People can be referred or walk in and get on waiting list

9.3.Christina Cabral for County Homeless Prevention and Rapid Rehousing Program - referrals through HMIS 805-385-1800

9.4.Sue Brinkmeyer reported that Ventura Homeless Prevention continues to serve 9-10 families each month and has provided some $110,000 in

rental assistance, which has kept 89 families so far this year free from eviction and homelessness. These families consisted of 224 people with 19 seniors and 92 children among them. They currently have about $8,000 in the bank, which means they will be out of funds soon, so Sue asked any who could donate to please go to their website, venturahomelessprevention.org, and give whatever they can. The average cost to keep a family housed so far this year has been $1,222, and less than $450 per person.

9.5.Andrea Palmer reported she still has $21,000 for homeless prevention for residents county-wide who are age 18-24.

10.Upcoming meetings

10.1. 10/23/26 VSSTF: Faith Subcommittee Faith Subcommittee Meeting by Zoom - Judy Alexandre is contact

11. 11/04/2026 next Ventura Social Services Task Force meeting via Zoom at 3:15 pm

The meeting was adjourned at 4:04 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Sue Brinkmeyer