

Ventura Social Services Task Force

Minutes of Meeting July 7, 2010

Attending - total of 37 (Neal Andrews, Pat Beeson, Paul Bramson, Jerry Breiner, Peter Brown, Cathy Brudnicki, Cindy Cante, Sherry Cash, Casey Cronin, David Deutsch, Janine Dykstra, Bill Finley, Ken Finning, Jill Forman, Todd L. Goehner, Socorro Lopez Hanson, Deborah Hazen, John Jones, Clint Kneip, David Lantrip, Jill Martinez, Donna Mason, Loretta McCarty, Mike Merewether, Kate Mills, Rose Ann Morrissey, Ed Moses, Rob Orth, Ken Porter, Clyde Reynolds, Debora Schreiber, Karol Schulkin, Mark Stadler, Mary Stewart, Beth Sutherland, Kristen Tippelt, David Webb)

Meeting called to order by chair John Jones
Self-introductions performed.

I. Report on City Activity by Peter Brown

A.

1. City Council Homeless Committee will meet first Thursday of each month at 4PM in Council office. However, this month meeting was postponed to July 8, 3 PM. Agenda includes response to grand jury findings, update on Kingdom Center/Harbor; Gateway update and prep for Aug 2 Council meeting re homeless issues, SB2 and housing element. If there are not items on the agenda, meeting is cancelled so check before attending (with Debora Schreiber, Peter Brown, or Neal Andrews).

2. City response on SB2 goes beyond what is required. It is understood that running homes for homeless individuals is not a way to make money, but is done by groups with commitment; therefore Council accepts it is not necessary to make excessive regulatory rules.

3. Discussion on shopping carts ongoing. Legality of Santa Barbara pan handling ordinance is being looked into by ACLU.

4. In October, Safe Sleep 6 month follow up is on Council agenda, and other Homeless related issues

5. August 31, Cal Lu freshman working to clean river bottom. Team Captains needed to help.

B. CHP Lt Casey Cronin gave a report on plans to clear out three encampments near downtown. They will post notices and go in 72 hours later to clear out. They are willing to work with helpers and were happy to have Sherry Cash assist them. They expressed desire to help people get services and to be part of solving problems, and a sensitivity to not overwhelming available services and resources. They will work with

Caltrans and with sheriffs involving camps on state right of ways or in unincorporated areas. Union Pacific has their own police, Lt Cronin will pursue issue of how to work with them about encampments there.

II. Subcommittee reports (meeting times / locations at end)

A. Faith Communities by Bill Finley

1. Homeless Awareness Month will be in November. 10 churches are now on board. Hope to contact and invite seniors and mobile home park residents, would like to have transportation arranged.

B. Gateway by Bill Finley... “a gateway to help and hope”

Salvation Army is lead agency. Looking at what services are missing in town: detox, emergency shelter, single entry to service providers, and transitional SRO's. Will include some Veteran beds. Will be seeking county money...site ownership is key for this. Estimate 10 million to build not including acquisition costs or operation costs. Will be bringing idea out to community via community councils and through clergy. Idea is to sell people on concept without being attached to a site at first.

Motion made for VSSTF to support the Gateway Concept. Discussion. No one opposes the plan, and there is overwhelming support so this motion was supported by acclamation.

B. Homeless Prevention by Cindy Cantle

1. Catholic Charities helped 6 households using \$2,558 . In July, Salvation Army has fund and in August, Project Understanding. Since inception in June 2007, 141 households have been helped. Paul Bramson donated \$55 he collected and \$413.24 was collected on July 4.

2. Working with Beth so Lift Up Your Voice is a partner with VHPF, especially for outreach. She is working on materials for consistency and branding.

3. A direct donor letter will go out later this summer.

4 Karol Schulkin reported that 59 Ventura households were assisted with HPRP funds (Federal rental stimulus money). Using \$91,071. She appreciates the good referrals they got, which allowed this to be successful.

C. Housing Options by Loretta McCarthy

1. Home share 2 successful matches and 3 more in progress

E. Community Education by John Jones

1. No current meetings...website to be updated

F. Steering Committee by John Jones

1. Committee met together with Sharon Taylor, Beth Sutherland, and Phil Taggart about November planning. Phil will be working with the art community, Sharon and Beth coordinating outreach/ marketing/publicity.

2. November 10 we are scheduled to address Downtown Rotary about Gateway etc.

3. Following the meeting, there will be an information session with Dena Jenson from VCCF and Doug Green about 501(3)C formation.

4. Steering Committee meetings times need to be changed. Call John, Bill or Debora for date.

V. Old Business

A. One Stop by Kate Mills

1. Looking for data entry volunteers, both on Tuesday and at times to be arranged.

VI. New Business

VII Announcements

August 21, Saturday eve at WAV, Voices of the Homeless performance

Respectfully submitted,

Debora Schreiber

Secretary

Next VSSTF Meeting August 4, 3 PM

Upcoming events:

Regular Meeting Schedules

Faith Community Subcommittee meets every 1st Tuesday, 4:00-5:00 PM, at the Unitarian Universalist Church, 5654 Ralston, Ventura 93003, August 3

Ventura Social Services Task Force meets every 1st Wednesday, 3:00-5:00 PM, at Family to Family, 303 N Ventura Ave # E, Ventura

Homeless Prevention Subcommittee meets every 2nd Wednesday, **1PM** (note change), Catholic Charities, 303 N Ventura Ave August 11

Housing Options Subcommittee meets every 2nd Wednesday, 4:30 PM, Housing Authority, Snapdragon Lane, Saticoy. August 11

Gateway meets third Friday at Salvation Army on Oak Street, at 2 PM, August 20

Contact John Jones for Education committee information

Other Events

<http://www.onecityventura.org>