

# **Ventura Social Services Task Force**

## **Minutes of Meeting October 6, 2010**

**Attending** - (to be updated)

Meeting called to order by Vice Chair Bill Finley

Self-introductions performed.

### **I. Report on City Activity by Peter Brown**

A. Winter Warming Shelter to be in Oxnard this year.

B. City Council Homeless Committee usually meets first Thursday of each month at 4PM in Council office. In October the meeting will be 10/7/10 at 3 PM.

C. Temple Beth Torah pursued possibility of being a Safe Sleep lot. Three meetings with neighbors were held; opposition is such that it will not be a site

D. Meeting with Kingdom Center and neighbors hosted by the City to be 10/14. Announcement card passed out, also has contact info on it.

E. article by Steve Lopez passed out. To see on line:

[http://www.latimes.com/news/local/la-me-1006-lopezcolumn-](http://www.latimes.com/news/local/la-me-1006-lopezcolumn-20101006,0,5867155.column)

20101006,0,5867155.column There is also a new document from Santa Barbara on homeless issues there. Contact Peter if you want it.

F. 10/18 council meeting will be update on 10year plan. Peter plans to request guidance from Council on proceeding. 11/15 will deal with Housing Element Emergency Shelter siting.

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

#### **A. Faith Communities by Bill Finley (committee met x2)**

1. Homeless Awareness Month will be in November. Over 20 churches are now on board. Packet will be sent to them by email with info and ideas to get involved.

2. Thanksgiving plans. Different format this year with teams a) sponsoring a table either to decorate and host or b) volunteering to provide food. Traditional family style serving. Salvation Army will coordinate volunteers.

#### **B. Homeless Prevention by Cindy Cantle**

1. Sacred Heart contributed \$4800 and made a pledge of \$400/month. Unitarian Universalist has given an offering of >\$800. Church of Christ and Ventura Missionary are other consistent donors.

2. It is now possible to donate on line to VHPF through the United Way web site. [vcunitedway.org](http://vcunitedway.org)

3. Project Understanding has the fund in October. 145 households have been helped so far.

4. AB12 was signed by the Governor extending Foster Care coverage to those over 18. At the Shore (part of WAV) are units for ages 18-21. There is a program to adopt a youth for the holidays, young people ages 18-20.

### **B. Gateway by Bill Finley**

1. The downtown site is no longer in the running. 10 sites were identified as possible. Size is .6 to 2 acres. Must have site control by January to qualify for funding. Plan is to bring a set of services under one roof. Turning Point drop in center, Project Understanding, County One Stop, together to facilitate accessibility and communication. Meetings with City Staff ongoing. Need to keep combating NIMBY.

### **C. Housing Options by Loretta McCarthy**

1. HomeShare has made 4 successful matches.  
2. Encanto housing will start construction next month. 37 unit 1-3 bedroom building on Oak Street. Information: there are several kinds of public housing through Housing authority a) Section 8 (spread through the City) b) Public Housing units c) Shore at the WAV d) non-profit units  
3. Ken Finning, Peter Brown, Muriel Steiger, Patricia Hamilton, Ed Moses, and Loretta McCarty attended the regional Housing Conference on 9/15 and spread the news about HomeShare. There was a power point presentation on how jobs (unemployment) affect everything else including housing. All presentations are on line at the HOME website. [http://www.vchome.org/Housing\\_Conference.php](http://www.vchome.org/Housing_Conference.php)

### **D. Community Education (no meeting in Sept)**

1. Plans to have an event where folks stand at street corners with signs saying "I'm not homeless but 601 persons in Ventura are. Please help: OneCityVentura.org. Committee of Donna Mason, Cindy Cantle, Haroldale Cartlidge, Peter Brown, and Debora Schreiber doing the planning  
2. Event on Saturday morning Nov 13 put on by League of Women voters on Myths and solutions to Homelessness. Agenda planning by VSSTF.

### **F. Steering Committee by Bill Finley**

1. As requested by Paul Bramson, we will start with the pledge of allegiance (If Paul brings flag).  
2. request to form new committee for Veteran's Affairs. New committees requesting standing must establish that they have been

meeting regularly, have multiple members and have programs and projects underway.

3. Idea to wrap a car still in play. Seeking to get donation of funds for that purpose. Will not do 601 cardboard cutouts but will pursue "cardboard brigade" (see Education report)

4. VSSTF at beginning stage to adopt clearer guidelines for grant proposals. \$75,000 coming to us from the City.

## **V. Old Business/reports**

### **A. One Stop by Kate Mills**

1. The Oxnard One Stop is growing. There is a Goodwill sponsored job club there teaching job skills and providing some links to jobs. In Ventura, 75% of attendees are new; seeing more moms with young children. A pharmacist has been hired one day a week and a 1x month volunteer psychiatrist will oversee charts. Looking for interns to assist.

## **VI. New Business**

### **VII. Announcements**

1. St. Vincent DePaul of Oxnard had a "black and white" dinner to raise money for the Winter Warming Shelter. Over \$15,000 was raised

2. A trial of 2 lo-boy dumpsters will be tried at the River Bottom. Hoping to diminish trash left outside, some concern about fire danger in dumpsters. Signs will be posted threatening sanctions, hoping for some peer pressure. The idea of cameras or dummy cameras was suggested. Also to address the problem of trash, much of which are abandoned clothes, all clothes pantries in town are being encouraged to require persons to return clothing before they are given additional clothing.

3. Kingdom Center is having their Garden Party on 10/10 and a tour and meeting with the neighborhood 10/14. 5:30-6 PM tour 6-7:30 meeting at 859 E Santa Clara.

4. Janine Dykstra reports she was buying food at Smart and Final when an employee followed her to the parking lot and physically attacked her and said negative things about homeless persons. She complained to the management and he was fired. He is a Guardian Angels member.

5. January 29, 2011, Jody Farr will be in town to do a Bridges Out of Poverty workshop.

6. Paul Bramson has a business to pay homeless Vets to raise and lower flags. Contact him at 647-FLAG (3524).

7. Salvation Army hiring an experienced case worker and also another position. Openings are posted on the job and career website. <https://www.venturacountyjcc.org>
8. 10/23 Kinetic Sculpture Race to benefit Turning Point

Respectfully submitted,  
Debora Schreiber  
Secretary

## Next VSSTF Meeting November 3, 3 PM

### **Regular Meeting Schedules**

**Faith Community** Subcommittee meets every 1st Tuesday, 4:00-5:00 PM, at the Unitarian Universalist Church, 5654 Ralston, Ventura 93003, Nov 2

**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 Catholic Charities, 303 N Ventura Ave. November 10

**Housing Options** Subcommittee meets every 2nd Wednesday, 4:30 PM, Housing Authority, Snapdragon Lane, Saticoy. November 10.

**Gateway** meets third Friday at Salvation Army on Oak Street, at 2 PM, Nov 19

Contact John Jones for Education committee information

### **Other Events**

November events calendar will be out soon

<http://www.onecityventura.org>

<http://vsstf.org>