

Ventura Social Services Task Force
Gateway Committee Minutes
October 16, 2009 Meeting

Persons attending: Bill Finley, Kate Mills, Jerry Breiner, Nicholas Deitch, Clyde Reynolds, Jill Martinez, Karol Schulkin, Sherry Cash, and John Jones,

1. Introductions and Announcements

- a. Clyde Reynolds announced that there will be a City of Ventura Community Meeting on River Haven on Tuesday, Oct 27th from 6:00PM to 7:30 PM in the City Hall Community Room. The purpose of the meeting is to address community concerns about River Haven.

2. Committee Reports

a. Governance Committee

Bill Finley announced that The Salvation Army is in the beginning stages of exploring the possibility to relocating its Corps location at 650 Petit for the purposes of becoming the lead agency for Gateway a Multi Agency Service Center and Permanent Emergency Shelter. This exploration process will take some time and we are currently seeking input on what role other agencies could play in such an operation. The Salvation Army will also be meeting with various stakeholders to determine what funding level are needed and possible funding sources for both capital and operational costs. Based on the discussion the committee members expressed support for the Salvation Army's proposal to serve as a lead agency.

b. Site Selection and Acquisition Committee

Since the process described above will take some time it was decided to put the site selection process on hold until it becomes clearer about the feasibility of the offer from the Salvation Army to become the lead agency. In their role as a lead agency they would have responsibility for securing the new location for the Corps and the Gateway and Shelter. The committee discussed potential areas and would continue to note potential sites. Questions were asked regarding the possibility of surplus City property.

c. Program Design Committee

The program committee continues to discuss the elements of the Gateway which include multiple services delivered in one location by multiple agencies, coordinated case management, computerized tracking system, anchor services including healthcare, mental health, substance abuse, employment and benefit assistance, user friendly environment, located near public transportation and emergency shelter. A distinction is being made between basic services provided 7 days a week and enhanced services provided 5 days a week. The subcommittee recommended that a meeting be held in which all possible private and public agencies that potentially provide services at the Gateway would be invited to determine their level of involvement and the services they would provide.

3. VSSTF Funding Proposal suggestions
 - a. Meeting expenses to conduct a community meeting for all stakeholders in the Spring to present and discuss the Gateway model.
 - b. Expenses to cover the cost of sending a person from Ventura to the Bridges Out of Poverty Train the Trainer Training
 - c. Expenses to send a representative from the Social Services Task Force to the National Alliance to End Family Homelessness on February 11-12, 2010
4. Next Gateway Meeting: November 20, 2009 at 2:00 PM at the Salvation Army, 155 S. Oak St., Ventura