

Ventura Social Services Task Force
VSSTF Gateway Committee
Minutes for June 19, 2009 Meeting

Members Present: Bill Finley, Salvation Army; Kate Mills, Healthcare for the Homeless/One Stop; Jerry Breiner, Downtown Ventura Organization; Nicholas Deitch, Turning Point Foundation and Clyde Reynolds, Turning Point Foundation

The group reviewed the minutes from the previous meeting which included the following list of future tasks: 1.) Educate the Task Force on the Gateway Plan; 2.) Coordinate Services and implement primary case management model; 3.) Create a Mission Plan (Kate M.); 4.) Create Guiding Principles; 5.) Look for a location for the shelter and the Multi-Agency Resource Center (Rick P and Jerry B); 6.) Identify existing Providers who will make up the Multi-Agency group and 7.) Refine the Gateway model listing existing services within each component (Clyde R).

Kate Mills presented a draft of a document which included a Gateway Goal/Vision Statement, Mission Statement and Beliefs/Values Statements. The group offered suggestions which are reflected in the attachment to the minutes. It was decided to e-mail each of the members of the VSSTF Gateway Committee the draft Gateway Goal/Vision, Mission Statement, Value Statement and Guiding Principals for Gateway Partners seeking suggestions prior to our next Gateway Committee meeting.

The next item of business focused on the description of the Gateway model. The group proposed that the population to be served were those persons who were either at risk of becoming homeless or currently homeless. There appeared to be a consensus that the Gateway is meant to be a virtual multi agency model with no wrong door to enter that coordinates the services to all persons identified above as the target population to be served. At the same time the Gateway Plan seeks to create a place in the City of Ventura, ideally linked to a homeless shelter, which serves as the hub for the continuum of homeless services. This would be a one stop, multi-service, multi agency, center providing assessment, triage, information and referral, and case management services. The Gateway would consist of a partnership of faith-based, non-profit, government, private, and community organizations; professionals and individuals who agree to work together. The Gateway Multi-Agency Center would bring all service providers together to coordinate the case management services being provided to persons who were homeless or at risk of becoming homeless.

Bill Finley reported on a meeting with Jan Christianson from the Ventura Universalist Unitarian Church. She has offered some financial resources from her current grants dealing with homelessness to help fund a professionally facilitated Strategic Planning Workshop to focus on the implementation of the Gateway model. The group decided that they would like to explore the possibility of scheduling this meeting in September. It was suggested that a call be made to Joe Colletti to see if he could recommend a Strategic Planning Consultant who could facilitate this meeting. In preparation for this Strategic Planning Workshop the next three Gateway meetings will each focus on refining the Mission Statement, Values and Guiding Principles as well as defining the Gateway model. **The next Gateway Meeting will be on July 17, 2009 at 2 PM at the Salvation Army office at 155 S. Oak Street in Ventura.**

