

July 8, 2009

Housing Options Meeting

Carolyn Briggs and Loretta McCarty, co-chairs

Present: Neal Andrews, Adele Fergusson, Ken Finning, Jill Forman, Patricia Hamilton, Steven Meyer, Clyde Reynolds, Debora Schreiber, Muriel Steiger, Max Ware

I. Old Business

A. Gateway/Sobering Center: No new information

B. HomeShare Program: is making progress. Patricia Hamilton, the anticipated Area Agency on Aging Title V employee, introduced herself to the group. She will assist Muriel Steiger along with Ken Finning, a volunteer from the Task Force.

The City of Ventura has agreed to add the Home Share program to one of the Housing Authority's administrative contracts so that the program can be covered by the Authority's insurance. Forms have been created and a disclaimer template was drafted.

Affinity Bank donated \$1000 towards the annual cost of the phone and computer lines.

One of the final steps is for the Area Agency on Aging to let us know when the program can move into their office space.

C. Other: nothing new to report.

II. New business.

A. Max Ware, a manufacturing engineer who lives part time in Ventura, made a presentation regarding fiberglass shelters/homes:

- 260 sq. ft. or 320 sq. ft
- 1 or 2 bedrooms
- 1 bathroom
- kitchen
- living room

Cost is \$2500 which includes a roof, windows and doors

The foundation can be poured concrete slab, concrete blocks or placed on dirt with earth anchors

Surface mount conduit for the electrical

The are shipped flat and then put together on site

Has not been reviewed per California building codes
First manufacturing plant in Mississippi - has not pursued California for a plant since so hard to manufacture things in this state
Mr. Ware was encouraged by Neal Andrews to speak with City's Economic Development staff to explore the establishment of a manufacturing plant in Ventura.

Their website is: www.durasip.com

B. Year Round Shelter in Ventura

No new information was reported.

C. Housing First Model

Jill F. shared information about the Lamp Community and distributed some materials

They have a successful Housing First program and also have a Safe Haven model

Debora S. began her research on the Housing First model. She distributed two brochures from the National League of Cities: 1) *Linking Housing and Community Services*; 2) *Housing and Service Programs for the Homeless*

Loretta M. shared her research about the Venice, California Project 40 program.

The Housing Authority of the City of Los Angeles (HACLA) has 2300 Shelter Plus Care vouchers that are different than regular Section 8 vouchers - criminal background not a screening criterion - so can be used for most vulnerable street people

HACLA began with Project 50 in Downtown Skid Row -

Partnership with Skid Row Housing Trust thru the County Supervisors' Office

Multi-disciplinary approach

50 S+C vouchers - site based - (used at a property owned by Skid Row Housing Trust)

They used a Common Ground Vulnerability Index developed for NY Times Square intensive project

Common Ground came to Skid Row- administered Index - helped to identify 50 project candidates

City and County saw success and wanted to expand -

Now have Project 40 in Venice - in partnership with St. Joseph Center

40 S+C vouchers

County has a large contract with St. J. which is what makes the program successful

Difference with Project 40 is that it will be tenant - based

Need to have landlords willing to rent to these folks

But at least they come with a sponsor

Ventura County only has 13 S+C vouchers in Ventura - which are used by the Behavioral Health Department in partnership with the Housing Authority

The Subcommittee unanimously endorsed the Housing Authority to apply for S+C vouchers in the next SuperNOFA application and partner with a local service provider (such as Behavioral Health)

D. City Council consideration of Sleeping in Cars Program

Neal Andrews encouraged the group to attend the City Council meeting on July 13 when the City Council will discuss modification to current City law which is an absolute prohibition of people sleeping in their cars, whether on private or public property.

The City Council Subcommittee on Housing and Homelessness gave staff direction to return to the City Council with a recommendation to repeal the current ordinance.

The ordinance amendment was presented to the Downtown Ventura Organization whose members wrote a letter opposing the amendment and is circulating a petition as well. It is recognized there are individuals with behavioral issues that impact Downtown businesses, but this should be separated from those who are sleeping in their cars out of necessity.

Councilman Andrews encouraged the group to tell the other side of the story and send letters, e-mail and speak to the City Council.

The staff report will be available on Thursday July 9th and should address all 4 issues brought before the Social Service Task Force.

E. Other New Business

Clyde Reynolds gave a RiverHaven update. It will temporarily close on September 15th and will re-open in 2-3 weeks. Most likely by October 5th.

They need time to clear the site and build the platforms for the domes.

At that point they will have the current residents re-apply for residency.

The RiverHaven model has changed and is a place to end homelessness for these participants. Those that are allowed to re-occupy the site or become new participants must have a plan to end their homelessness and must be working the plan.

There will also be an on-site camp host who will be the property manager.

The Turning Point case managers can focus on case management and leave property management issue to the camp host.

NEXT REGULAR MEETING WEDNESDAY AUGUST 12, 2009 6:00 PM - 7:30 PM

