

November 11, 2009

Housing Options Meeting

Loretta McCarty, co-chair

Present: Ken Finning, Karol Schulkin and Clyde Reynolds

Carolyn Briggs absence was noted - but no one had an update on her condition.

I. Old Business

A. Task Force Fund Applications: Clyde R. brought copies of a renewal application for consideration. He is seeking renewal funding for the grant he received last year: case management support for RiverHaven clients. Loretta M. will forward a copy to John Jones.

B. RiverHaven: Clyde R. gave a RiverHaven update. After temporary closure in September, it re-opened in October. Over 400 community people were involved in construction of the domes. The Seabees were instrumental in helping the project get completed. They spread several loads of gravel, creating the pads the domes were placed on. On the United Way Day of Caring in September, 260 people were involved with the dome village.

There were unexpected design issues with the platforms not matching the domes. A few extra weeks were spent rebuilding the platforms.

Turning Point raised over \$40,000 to pay the domes.

Clyde explained that furnishing the domes was the responsibility of each household, however; some individuals or groups have provided assistance, including the Women of Jewelia.

The next phase would be to put some vinyl flooring inside each dome. They also need to be painted on the exterior to extend their longevity. Installation of solar equipment is another option. The residents are also looking at a Community Garden but need to address the rodent and rabbits population.

The cost of the domes was \$1600 for 120 sq. ft. and \$2100 for 200 sq. ft. This is for the basic units and does not include the platforms. All the labor was donated, saving in the overall construction cost.

One individual offered to buy a large dome for a community room (20 X40). The last large option is to provide showers at the site.

The current population at RiverHaven is now 20 people. By December it is expected to be at capacity, which is 25 people. The program is now considered to be transitional living with a 24 month stay. Karol S. asked whether the clients could transition to El Patio when it is renovated. Clyde responded that this is possible and Jill Martinez had already suggested this link. However, many of the RiverHaven clients have pets, which might be an issue at El Patio.

Clyde also reported that some video taping of the construction and interviews with the residents was filmed. The U-Tube link is:

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=k_PRZOclbXc

C: Year Round Shelter Options: After discussing the success of the domes, Karol suggested the use of the clamshell buildings be re-explored as an option to shelter at the Armories. A large, year-round shelter could be constructed in both Oxnard and Ventura as each community works on a long-term shelter solution.

II. New business.

A. Homeless Prevention and Rapid Re-Housing Program: Karol reported her staff has received over 400 calls to date. Calls are coming in from all over the County with all segments of the population in need (old, young, first time homeless and repeat homeless). Funds can only be used for serious and eminent eviction prevention. The HUD reporting process is more complex and cumbersome than for other programs.

\$1.2 Million is available countywide, which is expected to serve 500-600 households. Since Ventura, Simi, Thousand Oaks and Camarillo did not receive a direct allocation, and the County is sharing its formula grant, the funds are expected to be spent very quickly. The County anticipates requesting more funds when these are exhausted.

Ken Finning and Karol attended the SHORE Grand Opening on November 7th. Approximately 140 applicants applied for the 15 units. Thirty-five people have been housed. These 35 include 2 referrals from RAIN, 2 from the Salvation Army Transitional Living Center and 2 are emancipated foster youth.

B. Westview Charrette: Loretta M. shared the results of the community

design process regarding the renovation of the Housing Authority complex of Westview Village. These 180 units were built in the 1950s and are being considered for demolition. In their place will be built 300-400 new units of mixed income rental housing. The existing residents, city staff, Agency staff and Westside community members participated in the design process. All residents in good standing will come back to the new units. The rebuilding process is expected to take 3-10 years.

C. Soho Apartments: Loretta reported that final negotiations are occurring with the lenders and investors. The final documents are expected to close and record in February 2010 with construction beginning soon thereafter.

NEXT REGULAR MEETING WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 9, 2009

4:30-6:00 PM

NEW LOCATION

**CHAPEL LANE SENIOR APARTMENTS
11122 SNAPDRAGON STREET SUITE 100
VENTURA, CA 93004**