

Ventura Social Services Task Force

Minutes of Meeting September 1, 2010

Attending - (21 present - Paul Bramson, Jerry Breiner, Carolyn Briggs, Peter Brown, Brenda Byers, Cindy Cattle, Harold Cartlidge, David Deutsch, Bill Finley, Ken Finning, Jill Forman, Tim Hawkins, John Jones, Jill Martinez, Donna Mason, Mike Merewether, Kate Mills, Debora Schreiber, Karol Schulkin, Mary Stewart, Beth Sutherland)

Meeting called to order by chair John Jones

Self-introductions performed.

I. Report on City Activity by Peter Brown

A. On 8/31 over 625 Cal Lutheran students and >50 City staff helped to clean up the river bottom. This is the 3rd year of the event. 11.95 tons of trash were removed, 25 camps/areas were cleaned.

B. Kingdom Center neighbors met with City staff about concerns. Staff met with Kingdom Center representatives. Later this month there will be a meeting with both groups together. 11 rooms are occupied and there are 24 children, more than expected. Neighbor concerns focus on noise, smoking, and parking.

C. Ventura emergency shelter forum to be held 9/28, 6:30-8 PM; City Hall – Community Meeting room. this meeting on issues regarding the Housing Element and reaching out to a broad section of the community was requested by Council. Please attend if you can.

D. Possibility of Patagonia taking a major role in housing chronic homeless in Ventura. Although headquartered here, they have not made major contributions to social issues as they have in other regions. There are 50 working models using the approach they propose. See www.100Khomes.org and www.commonground.org

E. City Council Homeless Committee usually meets first Thursday of each month at 4PM in Council office. In Sept the meeting will be 9/10 at 3 PM.

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

A. Faith Communities by Bill Finley

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. Hope to improve over last year. Probably will have set seating in one hour slots with assigned table hosts who contribute money as well as facilitate the table. Traditional family style serving. Salvation Army will coordinate volunteers.

3. Safe Sleep: a 3rd location is being added. There are 9 vehicles in the program.

B. Homeless Prevention by Cindy Cattle

There was no August meeting

1. Project Understanding helped 2 households (one family of 5 persons) with their mortgage payment. It is great that our money can go for mortgage help because no other funding provides for this. Since inception in June 2007, 145 households have been helped, over 300 people. No money in the fund at this time. A request letter was sent out. Catholic Charities has the fund in September.

2. Karol Schulkin reported that 73 Ventura households were assisted with HPRP funds (Federal rental stimulus money), 209 persons. A total of 692 in the County. She appreciates the good referrals from Ventura, which allowed this to be so successful here.

B. Gateway by Bill Finley

1. Site location is the most difficult part. There are a few potential sites. Most promising is on Peking Street. Ongoing negotiations.

C. Housing Options by Loretta McCarthy

1. Home Share: 2 successful matches and 3 more in progress. Brochures were distributed at West Side Community Council. Muriel Steiger, Ken Finning, and Patricia Hamilton are attending the Housing Conference on 9/15.

E. Community Education by John Jones

1 Jill Martinez reported on the Community Action proposal for 946 E Thompson (Les Goldberg House). It would provide 12-14 shelter beds, SRO's, height of 3 stories, transitional housing, not tax credit funded, for persons married with children and emancipated youth ages 17-24. Hoped for date July 2012. The 3 men living there now would move to El Patio.

2. Plan to wrap at least one car with VSSTF info and also have 601 cutouts of people to represent the 601 homeless persons counted in Ventura.

F. Steering Committee by John Jones

3 proposals received to redo and maintain the website. Hope to spend <\$2,000

V. Old Business

A. One Stop by Kate Mills

1. 30-40 individuals seen in Ventura weekly. An increase seen in at-risk but not homeless (yet) persons. Will be setting up mechanism to apply for unemployment. The pilot benefits calculator is being used with good

success. Looking for data entry volunteers, times to be arranged as well as for Tuesday volunteers.

VI. New Business

Paul Bramson proposes that we recite the pledge of allegiance at each meeting. He will bring a flag. No objections voiced. He further proposes the creation of a new committee on Veterans' Concerns. Steering Committee will consider the suggestion and report back.

VII Announcements

1. Family to Family Fundraiser October 2, 5-7 PM Italian food prepared by Watermark chefs. Call 654-8151 for tickets. \$25 each. Money will be used for repairs to the room where meals are served.
2. Hearth Act: Impact on Ventura County meeting Sept 21, 1-3 at United Way building in Camarillo. Call Cathy Brudnicki for info 485-6288 x273
3. Mary Stewart announced that training to help library personnel serve homeless and needy persons is coming up.
4. DVD on Project Understanding is available, as well as on line on their web site.
5. Flag Retirement Ceremony 9/11 at noon at the Veterans Home. 647-FLAG (3524) for info

Respectfully submitted,
Debora Schreiber
Secretary

Next VSSTF Meeting October 6, 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, Oct 5 3

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. October 13

Housing Options Subcommittee meets every 2nd Wednesday, 4:30 PM, Housing Authority, Snapdragon Lane, Saticoy. October 13.

Gateway meets third Friday at Salvation Army on Oak Street, at 2 PM, Oct 15

Contact John Jones for Education committee information

Other Events

- 9/11 at noon, Flag Retirement Ceremony at the Veterans Home. 647-FLAG (3524) for info
- 9/ 21, 1-3 PM, Hearth Act: Impact on Ventura County. United Way building in Camarillo. Call Cathy Brudnicki for info 485-6288 x273
- 9/28, 6:30-8 PM Ventura emergency shelter forum at City Hall on issues regarding the Housing Element **Please attend if you can.**
- October 2, 5-7 PM, Family to Family Fundraiser. Italian food prepared by Watermark chefs. Call 654-8151 for tickets. \$25 each.

<http://www.onecityventura.org>