

Ventura Social Services Task Force

May 4, 2011

Self introductions were performed (34 present - Neal Andrews, Jean Ard, Jerry Breiner, Peter Brown, Cathy Brudnicki, Cindy Cantle, Michael Darden, David Deutsch, Bill Finley, Jill Forman, Mary Haffner, Katy Hoover, Frances Innocenti, Keri Jaeger, John Jones, Shelli Locklear, Amy Louma, John Luttrull, Jill Martinez, Donna Mason, Mike Merewether, Kate Mills, Rob Orth, Ken Porter, Amanda Pyper, Clyde Reynolds, Peggy Rivera, John E. Saltee, Debora Schreiber, Karol Schulkin, Beth Sutherland, Casey Sutherland, Kristen Tippelt, Carroll Dean Williams)

The Oxnard Task Force's second annual Black and White Dinner Dance will be held October 15, 6 PM-12 at the Oxnard Performing Arts Building. VSSTF agreed to become a 3rd sponsor for the event, along with the City of Oxnard and St Vincent de Paul. \$25,000 was raised last year. All money is for the Winter Warming Shelter expenses. Save the date cards are available. Their next meeting is May 18, 10 AM, 1258 Saviers Rd, contact Peggy Rivera 890-7414. They need a secretary for their meetings, need donations from businesses for auction, and help the day of event.

Minutes. Carroll Dean Williams requested that April's minutes reflect an issue at last meeting when he perceives he was unfairly treated. He was instructed to submit his amendment in writing so it could be voted on.

I. Committee and City Reports

A. City Report by Peter Brown

1. It has been 10 years with St Vincent De Paul running Winter Warming Shelter. Tom McLaughlin, who has been running the shelter, is not expected to survive due to cancer. He has done an amazing job of using funds effectively. Without him, money will be needed even more acutely than usual. Shelter is shared between Oxnard and Ventura residents.
2. Council Committee on Homelessness usually meets first Thursday of the month in Santa Cruz Room, 4 PM, City Hall. Housing Trust Fund only item on agenda. It is a recommendation of 10 year strategy; Decision to be made May whether to participate in leveraging state funds in Housing trust fund program. Conversation about chronic vagrancy offenders on next meeting agenda, May 23.
3. Homeless and Housing Board. Cathy will not be on staff after this year. Meetings on how to move forward and how to manage HEARTH dollars taking place.
4. Police and sheriff CIT training class just completed. VSSTF strongly supports this program.
5. 100K Homes effort being rolled out in Los Olivos next week

B. Homeless Count

Ventura: 5% decrease from last year. Ventura is the highest % per capita city. 1% considered “normal”, Ventura at 2%. Increase in families, probably due to (Genesis House) Kingdom Center. 30% decrease in Latino pop. The report with breakdown of specific populations is due soon. 570 total count of homeless. Note that in previous four count years was done, the Shelter was in Ventura. See VCHHC.org for the reports

C. Steering Committee John Jones

1. Granting Funds have been announced. Process much clearer and ran more smoothly this year. Some excellent proposals. Each agency funded to needs to write scope of service including outcomes. We are happy to connect with school district. Homeless 2 Home is a virtual gateway using ACT case management going out to streets. Using pre existing housing, working one to one, exploring options to house persons. Also funded was a Lincoln School position filled by Amy Luoma, Homeless Liaison. She works with children and families on daily basis. Lincoln has a high homeless pop...10% on average is homeless in school. Catchment area for Salvation Army, Kingdom Center, and motels. Attendance of children goes up when this population is interfaced with. Karol Schulkin pointed out that 1/3 of adults in homeless shelter remembered being homeless as children when surveyed a few years back.
2. Met with Ron Harrington for 501(C)3. Moving forward with that. Past retreat of VSSTF discussed pros and cons. Basic decision was to move forward. Best reason is applying for grant moneys. Will need bylaws, treasurer, and a Board of Directors.

Speaker: John Saltee VC Rescue Mission. He comes from a Retired Fire captain and ministry background. Wants the Mission to be more public and involved with other city and county agencies. 150 men women and children including Lighthouse for women. Not full. Residential program 10-12 months. Not only providing food and housing but helping with addiction if necessary, helping with job skills or GED. They have a Culinary School, looking into developing other apprentice training skill programs. Rescue Mission Alliance covers large geographic area. Partners with Goodwill. Approx 15-25 % from Ventura; estimate the residential program might be as high as 50%.

D. Faith Based Bill Finley

1. Discussion on involving volunteers in Homeless2Home Program
2. Rob chairing committee for the one night weather related shelter if winter shelter not open.

3. Thanksgiving. Ventura Rotary stepping up in a big way to support Homeless Issues in next few years, next 2 presidents support. Rotary will be major sponsor of Thanksgiving with personal financial back-up by MJP Computers Indy Batra.

E. VHPF Cindy Cantle

1. Salvation Army had the fund in April. 3 households were helped, \$602 average per household, total of 4 adults, 2 children. 181 households helped total to date. Project Understanding has the fund in May. *Like us on Facebook!!!*
2. Cindy applying for foundation money. This is her goal for this year.
3. New poster with pull off info shown. Made with the assistance of Priscilla Holmes, City printing and Beth Sutherland.
4. Remember 654-7701 message line for VHPF and www.VHPF.net.

F. Housing Options Frances Inassenti

Home Share has 22 requesting housing ; 15 providers. Coming up on the one year anniversary for one match.

5. Gateway Clyde Reynolds and Bill Finley

Working on how organizations can work together, preliminary MOU done, also working on physical lay out and planning. Nuts and bolts of facility site and design being looked at. Homeless2Home is a preliminary model of cooperation and outreach. Next steps involve how to raise funds to build the building. Presentation made to two County Departments re how OneStop will integrate and Mental Health and Behavioral Health in a Public Private partnership. Starting out field based and eventually will be facility based. Cole Smothers film maker focuses on homeless issues, recent MIMBY event, talked about using film documentary to tell the story.

II. Other Reports

A. OneStop Kate Mills

Would like to encourage participation from non profits to be at OneStop to meet with potential clients and/or on going clients. Excellent opportunity for collaboration, OneStop in the 4th year of operations. Tuesday 10-1PM

Beth Torah and UU Church donating generously. Always need socks, mens are fine, visors, sunscreen, not (large tubes). Prepared hot food served if donated.

III. Announcements

1. May is Mental Health Month. Turning Point Gala on June 5, Champions of Mental Health. Crowne Plaza. Honoring NAMI, Dr Joan Blacher, Anthony Marron and Pam Roach. \$75. Call 653-5045 for info and to buy tickets
2. Salvation Army summer camp sliding scale. email rashidawilliams@usw.salvationarmy.org, Minimum pay \$10
3. Committee created to determine role of library in community. They are going to speak with community councils. There is a poll online. John Jones for info
4. 3 shelter+ care vouchers. Oxnard programs funded and shelter+ care vouchers given.

Deadline for scholarship for NAEH July 12-14 in DC May 11. Free for Homeless or formerly homeless including plane flight.
5. El Patio has a few openings. Remember and celebrate our successes: Shore, El Patio, River Haven, etc.

Adjourned in memory of Les Goldberg

Respectfully submitted,

Debora Schreiber

Committee times and places for meetings:

VSSTF.org