Draft Minutes for Ventura Social Service Task Force February 3, 2016

Present: Brian Brennan, Tara Carruth, Judy Alexander, Jerry Breiner, Harold Cartlidge, Kevin Clerici, David Deustch, Elizabeth Egelko, Lynn Geller, Mary Haffner, Tim Hawkins, Daniel Huerta, Tim Hockett, John Jones, Steve Karnazes, Camilla Lettini, Miguel Marquez, Pam Marshall, Manuel Minjares, Kathy Powell, Melissa Ramirez, Linda Rossi, Jan Schmutte, Deborah Schreiber, Karol Schulkin, Doug Stanton, Ben Unseth, Holly Whitmore, Cindy Cantu, Mark Stadler

1. Meeting Called to Order by Judy Alexandre
2. Introductions and named one positive thing they were anticipating in 2016.
3. Motion to and approval of the agenda
4. Motion, changes to and approval of the minutes
5. Treasurers report not available
6. Secretary Change- Monica Vergara from Interface Children & Family Services will share the secretary position with Melissa Perezchica-Ramirez.
7. Old Business:

* Laura’s Law update- Mary Haffner: Elaine Crandall, VCBH will be providing an update to the Board of Supervisors. Supporters were welcomed to the February 23rd presentation. Mary offered to speak with people individually regarding Laura’s Law. A link will also be emailed with further information.
* Winter Warming Shelter (WWS) update-Steve Karnazes: 447 unique users have come through the WWS, December 2345 stays, Jan 2992 stays, Feb 189 stays , 5526 indivduals stays, 11,500 meals served (number includes meal only with no shelter stay), good volunteer pool going on, Social Service and Behavioral Health providers providing linkage to services at WWS, 3 calls for police services , 3 medical aid calls. Will be making a decision regarding the need for more volunteers. Financial report provided by Kevin Clerici. Received private donations of 18,000, VCCU provided $2000, City of Camarillo $10,000. BOS has discussed allocating funds if additional monies are needed. Steven offered to provide presentations at local churches and organizations to increase donations.
* Follow up with request to the homeless subcommittee in regard to zoning changes and action on the ten year recalibrated plan. Neal Andrews, Deputy Mayor not present. Homeless Subcommittee will not be meeting as scheduled, next meeting will be Tuesday February 16th at 4pm.
* Web committee report-Stacie Galang, not present. Website is currently in the discussion phase. Discussion regarding seeking a volunteer to build the site or paying for the site to be built, Judy requested a recommendation from the Web committee.
* Homeless count, Peter Brown City of Ventura, not in attendance. Tara Carruth, Ventura County COC, discussed the PIT Count countywide, currently collecting data. Hopes to have the report out in early April. Would like to provide a more comprehensive report. Preliminary numbers look lower, there could be several factors to account for this due to change in methodology and count time changes. Would also like to add data from HMIS. Tara requested feedback regarding the count be sent to her.
* Request for information and follow up on the cost of homelessness-Doug Stanton, Jerry Breiner: Still working on gathering data. Doug, Jerry and Judy are collaborating on the data collection pieces, with assistance from others who have offered to research information. Goal is to have all the information in by March.
* Business Dialogue date March 1, at the WAVE-Judy Alexandre: Judy requested feedback from VSSTF members. Judy would like to provide a catered lunch for attendees. She also requested assistance on that day, 11:30-1:30. Planning for 60 attendees.

1. New Business

* 4th of July table, registration- VSSTF will share a booth with Downtown Ventura Partnership. Deborah discussed the logistics, and what takes place at the event. Balloon yoyos are made for the event. Public is engaged by playing a game where VSSTF members ask participants questions about homelessness and provide education. Volunteers needed, please contact Deborah.
* Discussion of the Jan. 14, 2016 A Roof for all Event-Judy Alexandre: approximately 90 attendees, goal was a call to action. This was a follow up to first meeting which was focused on what has been successful in other communities. All attendees expressed interest in attending the future City workshop on homelessness. Each table filled out a form expressing what their interest was. Many expressed not wanting to attend another meeting where they do not see any action. Attendees also wanted to know when was an appropriate time to attend council meetings and when should they send letters. Discussion around churches attending council meetings on a rotating basis to express support.
* Accessing Mental Health Beds- small discussion regarding how to access mental health funded beds for homeless clients, we will invite Behavioral Health to come to a meeting in the future to discuss this further.
* Volunteers to brig copies of agendas and minutes for March-Miguel , April-Doug S, May-Brian B

1. Oral Reports

* Continuum of Care-Tim Hawkins: Discussed the new CoC website. Also discussed the Coordinated Assessment Systems and how the Vulnerability Index will be applied to identify and house the most vulnerable persons. Tim Hawkins is moving to Northern CA, this was his last meeting.
* City of Ventura-Peter Brown, not in attendance. Next Homeless Subcommittee meeting February 16th.
* Update on Veterans Housing

1. Committee Reports

* VSSTF, Inc. Homeless Prevention Fund-Brian Brennan-Balance 743.00, with buffer brings total to 1243.00. Recently housed a family with 2 children. Have been able to keep 1007 people in housing since fund was started. This year 4 households, 7 people.
* Homes People Can Afford-Camilla Lettini: Next meeting Feb 22, putting together ideas on affordable housing here in Ventura. Discussed that it is income discrimination to turn away someone because of a Section 8 voucher. Discussed a presentation in April regarding housing rights.
* Crisis/Bridge Housing-Doug Stanton: Reported earlier
* Faith Subcommittee-Pam Marshall-Previously discussed
* Advocacy needs to set time to meet

1. Other reports:

* One Stop-Kate Mills-No Report
* H2H-No Report
* HSA -Karol Schulkin: provided reminder regarding homeless access to free ID’s
* Family Promise feedback (Sue Brinkmeyer)-No report

1. Any Agency Report
   1. Ben discussed Project Understanding TenderLife Walkathon
   2. Deborah Discussed NAMI Walk, VSSTF will have a team.
2. Upcoming Meetings

* Faith Sub Committee: Feb. 24, 2016, Church of Christ (Bryn Mawr), Ventura 3:00 pm.
* Housing People Can Afford: Feb. 22, 2016 Unitarian Church (Ralston) 3:00 pm.
* Crisis/Bridge Housing: Feb. 16, 2016 Orchard Community Church (Telephone Rd) 2:00 pm.
* Continuum of Care Housing and Services Committee Feb. 18,2016 ,VCCF 3001 Mission Oaks, Camarillo, 10-12 am
* Other

1. Future Topics for our meetings will include Youth homelessness, medical releases from hospitals and after care, updates on any new initiatives, legislative bills.

* Is anyone interested in being our legislative reporter?

1. Other
2. Adjourn Next meeting is March 2, 2016 Family to Family building 300 N. Ventura Ave #E, Ventura 93001

Ben Unseth is bring copies of the agenda and minutes for guests only.