

Ventura Social Services Task Force

Minutes of Meeting June 3, 2009

Attending - total of 29

Ken Finning, Neal Andrews, Rick Pearson, Paul Bramson, Jerry Breiner, Ken Porter, Peter Brown, Lynn Bullock, Harold Cartlidge, Clyde Reynolds, Sherry Cash, John Jones, Kevin Clerici, Debora Schreiber, Karol Schulkin, Shelli Locklear, Marilyn Scott, David Deutsch, Mark Stadler, Mary Stewart, Donna Mason, Loretta McCarty, Mike Merewether, Kate Mills, Rose Ann Morrissey, Adele Fergusson, Bill Finley, Cathy Brudnicki, Sister Shelley

Meeting called to order by chair John Jones

Self-introductions performed.

I. Report on Homeless Count Numbers by Cathy Brudnicki

623 persons counted in Ventura. 585 slept the previous night in Ventura; 505 call Ventura home. 40 of those people were children, 155 women. A 5.9% increase since 2007 was seen in Ventura, and 12% countywide. The number of people who are homeless sometime within the year is believed to be 4x that number. In the future, the count will be done every year. The entire report is posted on http://vchhc.org/2007_homeless_count.php

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

A. Faith Communities by Bill Finley

1. Harbor Church: process is underway to create residential sober living. Work crews will be at property next two Saturdays. Neighborhood meetings are being planned.
2. UU Church is having booths at July 4 street fair, VIMA (Ventura Interfaith Ministerial Association) and YIMBY are 2 groups working to build leadership capacity. Plan is to have an event each month, currently working on voter registration. They have a grant from McCune Foundation. In June a photo of clergy members will be taken to use in August for an End Homelessness campaign. Clergy of all faiths invited and encouraged to stand up for photo.
3. Safe Sleep Program committee will meet with City in June Ongoing...how to get more faith communities involved. Will be drawing up a pledge for pastors and heads of communities to make a commitment.
4. Motion came out of the committee, made by Bill and seconded by Debora Schreiber, for candidates to Ventura City Council to be asked to sign a pledge:

AS A CANDIDATE FOR THE VENTURA CITY COUNCIL, I PLEDGE TO THE

RESIDENTS OF THIS COMMUNITY:

1) I WILL SEEK OUT OPPORTUNITIES AND TAKE ACTIONS THAT WILL WORK TOWARDS ENDING HOMELESSNESS IN THE CITY OF VENTURA.

2) I WILL STRIVE TO SEE THE CITY OF VENTURA IMPLEMENT THE 10 YEAR STRATEGY TO END HOMELESSNESS.

3) I WILL WORK TO ENCOURAGE OTHER CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS TO DO THE SAME.

Abstentions : Neal Andrews, Peter Brown, Mark Stadler, and Jerry Breiner. Motion passed unanimously. Neal, as a candidate, made a commitment to sign the pledge.

B. Homeless Prevention by Adele Ferguson

1. Grant given for \$10,000 from Borchard Foundation. Another \$1000 will be coming in from Rotary.
2. Work ongoing on the greeting card project. Hope to have cards for sale at July 4 street fair.
3. Committee talked about increasing fundraising efforts. One idea was a Healing Field concept possibly around January remembrance of homeless who have died. This is a project where flags are sold and then set up in a space.
4. There are some gaps that the Federal stimulus funds do not address. VHPF looking at focusing on using the funds to concentrate there.

C. Housing Options by Loretta McCarty

1. Funds for River Haven being administered. This weekend project to do prep work to convert to U Domes. River Haven is moving toward housing persons with a stable recovery program and income source.
2. Home Share program progressing well. Muriel Steiger will coordinate the program with support from Area Agency on Aging. They will provide office space on County Square Drive consisting of an office and an interview room. Housing Authority will administer the program and is looking for grant funding.

D. Gateway Report

1. Gateway was described as a 24/7 One Stop.
Meetings first and third Friday at Salvation Army on Oak Street, at 2 PM.
Next meeting June 19.

E. Community Education by John Jones

1. John and Jeffrey Howard have spoke to Rotary together.
2. We will have a booth at the July 4 fair, We need volunteers: contact John or Debora. The booth is down toward the Mission this year.
3. A program for job skills and trades is being looked into. CAP was given over a million dollars for a green jobs initiative. The proposed purpose of such a committee was discussed.

III. Other Reports

A. One Stop by Kate Mills

There is an ongoing need for new socks and personal hygiene articles such as sun screen, deodorant, etc.

IV. Announcements

- A. Rooms are available in sober living house on a sliding fee scale through Soul Harvest Christian Ministry. Lark House near Government Center and one in Port Hueneme. Call 642-2115 Reverend Patricia Holloway.
- B. Federal Stimulus Funds available in Ventura County report from Lois Capps office (Vanessa Hernandez). Tuesday June 16, 1-3 PM, United Way, 1317 Del Norte Road, Camarillo.

Respectfully submitted,
Debora Schreiber
secretary

Next VSSTF Meeting July 1, 3-5 PM

Upcoming events:

Regular Meeting Schedules

The **Faith Community** Subcommittee meets every 1st Tuesday, 4:00-5:00 PM, at the Unitarian Universalist Church, 5654 Ralston, Ventura 93003.

!!! NO JULY MEETING !!!

The **Ventura Social Services Task Force** meets every 1st Wednesday, 3:00-5:00 PM, at Family to Family, 303 N Ventura Ave # E, Ventura 93001. July 1

The **Community Education** Subcommittee meets every 2nd Tuesday, 3:00-5:00 PM, at the Unitarian Universalist Church, 5654 Ralston, Ventura 93003. !!! NO JULY MEETING !!!!

The **Housing Options** Subcommittee meets every 2nd Wednesday, 6:00-8:00PM, in the Topping Room, immediately left of E.P. Foster Library, 651 East Main Street, Ventura 93001. July 8

The **Homeless Prevention** Subcommittee meets every 4th Wednesday, 4:00-5:00 PM, at Supervisor Bennett's offices, Government Center 4th Floor, Ventura 93003. May 27, June 24 and July 22

Gateway meets first and third Friday at Salvation Army on Oak Street, at 2 PM. June 19. Contact Nick Deitch nick@mainstreetarchitects.com
652-2115

July 4, VSSTF booth at July 4 Street Fair. Volunteers needed

<http://www.onecityventura.org>