

# Ventura Social Services Task Force

## Minutes of Meeting August 5, 2009

### Attending - total 24

Neal Andrews, Jeff Argend, Paul Bramson, Jerry Breiner, Peter Brown, Cathy Brudnicki, Cindy Cantle, Bill Finley, Ken Finning, John Jones, Karl Keller, Shelli Locklear, Donna Mason, Loretta McCarty, Kate Mills, RoseAnn Morrissey, Michael Perry, Clyde Reynolds, Debora Schreiber, Karol Schulkin, Marilyn Scott, Mark Stadler, Terrt Tarr, Daniel Zapata

Meeting called to order by chair John Jones

Self-introductions performed.

### **I. Report on Resolutions Submitted to City Council by Peter Brown**

On May 4, VSSTF resolutions were presented to City Council. On July 13, items were discussed. Council already voted to pass Safe Sleep Program and allocate \$22,000. Request for Proposals (RFP's) are being prepared. It is hoped one agency will step forward. The pilot program will be evaluated in one year. There will be a community meeting in September.

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

#### **A. Faith Communities by Bill Finlay**

1. Plans for Thanksgiving Dinner proceeding
2. 5-6 lots have been volunteered for the Safe Sleep program
3. A photo of clergy members was taken to use in August for an End Homelessness campaign. Clergy of all faiths participated.
4. Candidates' Forum will be held October 1 at Ventura Church of Christ on Telegraph Road. The goal is to have 100 persons in the audience. Room capacity is 200. The subjects will be homelessness and poverty.
5. SHORE, the subsidized component of the WAV Project is having an open house November 7. Project Understanding is taking aps.
6. Turning Point is moving ahead with installation of U-Domes. Work is scheduled for weekends starting September 19. There will be 13 single and 6 double (200 square feet). Contact David Deutsch for more info.

#### **B. Homeless Prevention**

1. Catholic Charities had the fund in July. Project Understanding has it in August. Four households were helped. Current totals are 88 households and over 180 people. There is \$3500 in the Fund. An increased need and more requests are being noted.
2. Greeting cards being sold as fundraiser for VHPF. A grant was applied for from the Social Justice Fund for seed money for the card project. The Housing Authority agreed to be fiduciary agent.
3. A Veterans Home is being considered for Ventura County within the next 2 years. The county is highly supportive. Money coming

from Washington, DC for job training, college, and some housing. No current entities in VC can qualify...must have service component for Vets to get VASH vouchers.

4. There will not be an August meeting

### **C. Housing Options by Loretta McCarty**

1. Home Share program moving through County approval system. Affinity Bank granted \$1000 for phones and computers. Looking for further funding.
2. Presentation heard about prototype fiberglass units which can be erected on dirt or concrete, the cost is \$2500 each. They are 250 square feet or 320. Max Ware has the business
3. Committee is looking into Harm Reduction/Housing First model. Being done in Vancouver, Venice Beach, L.A., and elsewhere. Possibly Shelter and Care vouchers can be used. These are available to those with prior felonies. Housing Authority will apply for super NOFA. Only 3 vouchers would be available but still worth applying.

### **D. Gateway Report by Clyde Reynolds**

1. Site search ongoing for location. Criteria being further looked at.
2. Next steps are to plan strategy and governance model for the new organization. Not known yet if one organization will be the lead agency or if model will be collaboration. Plan is to focus on working groups: a) programmatic parts b) strategy c) funding d) governance, identifying partners and entering into MOU.
3. Looking to identify what exists now, where there is overlap and where there are gaps.

### **E. Community Education by John Jones**

1. Working with The Star on a pledge for all (15) City Council candidates to sign. Copies of the bullet points of 10 year strategy to be given to candidates with letter about forum and pledge.
2. No July meeting was held; resume in August

### **F. Steering Committee by John Jones**

1. Discussion on expectations of Steering Committee members put off until November or December
2. The July 4 booth made \$153 in donations to VHPF and \$150 in note card sales.

## **III. Other Reports**

### **A. One Stop by Kate Mills**

1. Operations being revised to serve more people. Repeat medical clients should come at 8:30 AM. There is a maximum number that can be seen in the clinic, on a first come first serve basis. Medical is one of the most popular programs and a good hook to get people connected to other benefits.
2. 287 persons in July, 166 male, 121 female, 65 less than age 35.

3. Donna Mason has been approaching churches for donations. St Jude from Westlake donated items. Dr Fish (dentist) donated toothbrushes and toothpaste.
4. There is an ongoing need for new socks and personal hygiene articles such as sun screen, deodorant, tooth paste, etc.

#### **B. Veterans Stand Down July 24-26**

121 total persons served, 32 from Ventura County. Court services were available on Friday. People received medical care, eye glasses, haircuts, clothes etc and referrals for other services.

#### **C. Kingdom Center**

City allowing renovation of six units to proceed. Painting and roof work being done. Waiting for topographic survey and working toward CUP.

#### **D. Police report by Mark Stadler**

1. Clean up of City property at Santa Clara River next to Treatment Plant being done. Has been posted. There have been complaints from workers there re theft and trash.
2. Monday August 31, will be next Cal Lutheran clean up of the Ventura River Bottom. Grabbers, draggers, and baggers are needed as well as group leaders from the community. Training for leaders on Aug 27<sup>th</sup> in morning. Last time 5 tons of trash was removed. Contact Peter if you can help.

#### **E. Homeless and Housing Coalition by Cathy Brudnicki**

1. Cathy reports that 3 populations are considered "solvable" e.g. they can realistically be housed: a)Vets b)TAY (transitional aged youth 18-24) c) families.
2. Meeting Tuesday September 15, on 2010 Census 1-3 PM in Camarillo, Crossroads Community Church. Contact Cathy 48 5-6288 x273 or [cathy@vchhc.org](mailto:cathy@vchhc.org) for information. It would be great if VSSTF were represented there.
3. 8<sup>th</sup> annual Housing conference in Camarillo September 30.  
[www.vchome.org/Housing\\_Conference.php](http://www.vchome.org/Housing_Conference.php)  
some scholarships will probably be available. Contact Cathy

4. Ventura, Simi, and TO applied jointly for 1.2 million dollars. Oxnard gets its own money but has agreed to the same model so it will be seamless County wide. The homeless prevention model is based on VHPF. Homeless prevention and rapid re-housing of the recently homeless are priorities, partnering with NFP's, faith based, other agencies and including case management component. This money cannot be used for mortgages, which VHPF does allow. Cathy commends us for being far ahead of other areas on awareness and what is being done.

**IV.** The elevator speech suggestions were looked at. There is general agreement that we are a group of social service organizations, faith based leaders, business persons, volunteers, and City and County representatives working to implement the 10 year strategy to end homelessness in Ventura through education and linking up resources.

**V. Announcements**

Respectfully submitted,  
Deborra Schreiber  
secretary

Next VSSTF Meeting September 2, 3-5 PM

**Upcoming events:**

**Regular Meeting Schedules** September

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

**September 1**

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.

**September 2**

The **Community Education** Subcommittee meets every 2nd Tuesday, 3:00-5:00 PM, at the Unitarian Universalist Church, 5654 Ralston, Ventura 93003. **September 8**

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. **September 9**

The **Homeless Prevention** Subcommittee meets every 4th Wednesday, 4:00-5:00 PM, at Super September visor Bennett's offices, Government Center 4<sup>th</sup> Floor, Ventura 93003. **September 23**

**Gateway** meets third Friday at Salvation Army on Oak Street, at 2 PM. Contact Nick Deitch to confirm before attending: 652-2115 or [nick@mainstreetarchitects.com](mailto:nick@mainstreetarchitects.com)