

# **Ventura Social Services Task Force**

## **Minutes of Meeting July 1, 2009**

### **Attending** - total 25

Neal Andrews, Paul Bramson, Jerry Breiner, Peter Brown, Cathy Brudnicki, Harold Cartlidge, Sherry Cash, Jan Christian, David Deutsch, Adele Fergusson, Ken Finning, Jill Forman, John Jones, Karl Keller, Shari Kempton, Wayne Kempton, Shelli Locklear, Donna Mason, Steven Myer, Kate Mills, Rose Ann Morrisey, Ken Porter, Clyde Reynolds, Debora Schreiber, 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.

Council had 90 days to consider, and on July 13 items will be discussed. The most important and controversial issue is the Safe Sleep Program. Meetings will be going on to create specifics of the program which will include VSSTF representatives, V.P.D., Andrew Stuffer (fire/code enforcement), and Community Development. A decision has not been reached on what entity will run the program.

The Task Force discussed the importance of having people at the July 13 meeting. Bill Finley, Jan Christian, John Jones, all will be out of town. There was discussion about having an open public meeting in August or September. It was again emphasized that Council already voted to pass this proposal, and allocate \$22,000.

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

#### **A. Faith Communities by Jan Christian**

1. UU Church is having booths at July 4 street fair.
2. A photo of clergy members was taken to use in August for an End Homelessness campaign. Clergy of all faiths participated.

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

1. Greeting cards are being printed and will be sold as fundraiser for VHPF. Thank you to Paul Bramson who was instrumental in pulling that project together and getting funding.

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

1. Home Share program progressing well. Muriel Steiger will coordinate the program with support from Area Agency on Aging. Office to be physically housed at AAA office. Housing Authority will administer the program and is looking for grant funding.
2. Committee is looking into Harm Reduction/Housing First model. Being done in Vancouver, Venice Beach, Minnesota, L.A., and elsewhere. Possibly Shelter and Care vouchers can be used. Housing Authority will pursue. It was stressed that support services are crucial to making such a plan work.

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

1. There were 2 meetings in June. Attempts made to reach out to providers who have been less involved. They are looking at a mission statement, vision, and guiding values with the idea to coordinate service needs and have agencies work together in a coordinated way. The Gateway itself could be physical or virtual (on line). Not determined yet. Next major step is a plan to have a professionally facilitated meeting to outline concrete steps. This is being funded through a grant obtained by the UU Church.

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

1. 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.

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

1. Discussions to follow up on the suggestions that membership be given advance notice of items coming up for a vote. This is not always possible. Attempts will be made to give notice when possible. A member can always move to have a vote put off until next meeting, if item is controversial.

2. There will be a vote at the August meeting to establish attendance requirements for steering committee members at steering committee meetings. A member not attending a predetermined number of meetings may be replaced.

3. Formulating "elevator talk" the brief answer to "what is the VSSTF?" that you can answer between floors. Exercise at end of meeting.

### **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. 1/3 of people who attend only pick-up a lunch and don't access any service.

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

### **IV. Announcements**

1. 8<sup>th</sup> annual Housing conference in Camarillo September 30.

[http://www.vchome.org/Housing\\_Conference.php](http://www.vchome.org/Housing_Conference.php) some scholarships will probably be available. Contact Cathy Brudnicki.

3. Paul Bramson has established the American Veterans Flagpole and Flag Co to assist vets. They are paid to raise and lower flags at specific sites. Donations are tax deductible or you can purchase a

flag and pole. Contact Paul 647-3524 (647-FLAG) or [paul@AmericanVetFlagpoles.com](mailto:paul@AmericanVetFlagpoles.com)

4. Stand Down July 24-25-26 at the Armory for all homeless Vets. If you want to volunteer, just show up. Info at:

[http://vcstanddown.com/VC\\_StandDown\\_2009.htm](http://vcstanddown.com/VC_StandDown_2009.htm)

**IV.**A brief exercise was done where everyone wrote up the “elevator speech” answering “what is the VSSTF?” These will be formulated separately. Feel free to email Debora at [KaloramaCo@hotmail.com](mailto:KaloramaCo@hotmail.com) if you have a version to submit. Extra credit was given for sound bites, such as “Housing First”

Respectfully submitted,  
Debora Schreiber  
secretary

Next VSSTF Meeting August 5, 3-5 PM

### **Upcoming events:**

**City Council Meeting, July 13, 501 Poli Street. Meeting starts at 6 PM but issue will come up sometime between 7 and 9 PM. It is important that we have a big turn out to support Task Force issues there.**

### **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.

August 4

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.

Next meeting: August 5

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

Next meeting: August 11

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

Next meeting: August 12

The **Homeless Prevention** Subcommittee meets every 4th Wednesday, 4:00-5:00 PM, at Supervisor Bennett's offices, Government Center 4<sup>th</sup> -

Floor, Ventura 93003.

Next meetings: July 22 and August 26

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

<http://www.onecityventura.org>