

Ventura Social Services Task Force

Minutes of Meeting November 4, 2009

Attending - total of 31 (Debra Abramowitz, Neal Andrews, Ken Bonner, Paul Bramson, Peter Brown, Cathy Brudnicki, Cindy Cantle, Sherry Cash, Jan Christian, David Deutsch, Michelle Dent, Ken Finning, Bobbi Jo Free, Jesse Giglio, John Jones, Shelli Locklear, Donna Mason, Loretta McCarty, Mike Merewether, Mark Micheals, Kate Mills, Rose Ann Morrissey, Rick Pearson, Clyde Reynolds, Revis Robinson, Debora Schreiber, Karol Schulkin, Mark Stadler, Mary Stewart, Beth Sutherland, Daniel Zapata)

Meeting called to order by chair John Jones

Self-introductions performed.

I. Report on City Activity by Peter Brown

On Oct 27 there was a public meeting at City Hall between Ventura Keys Homeowners Association and River Haven supporters. Hopefully some misunderstandings were cleared up and everyone was able to air their position. There will be another meeting in 30 days.

II. Proposal by Paul Bramson

Paul explained his flag business and that he would like to put plexiglass boxes in stores and banks to raise contributions for the Homeless Prevention Fund. His suggested language read "in association with VSSTF". Motion was made by Clyde Reynolds and seconded by Ken Finning to direct the Steering Committee to draft a written agreement. Language on boxes would read "proceeds to benefit the VHPF". Cathy Brudnicki made the point that if boxes are in Oxnard, they will not be happy to donate to Ventura. Motion passed David Deutsch abstaining.

III. Subcommittee reports (meeting times / locations at end)

A. Faith Communities by Jan Christian

1. Thanksgiving flyers available. Need pies (not homemade) and turkeys. Watermark coordinating all the food, and preparing most of it. Flyers will be in Spanish also. Money contributions still needed for costs...porta-potties, etc. Individual artists (homeless, previously homeless, connected to Social Service Agencies) are invited to sell jewelry art etc. Debora Schreiber is contact person.
2. Jan read the following motion: Realizing that a number of proposals have been submitted and the amount requested is more than the available funding the Faith Communities Subcommittee made the following proposal which was approved unanimously:

We propose that a funding panel be convened to score and recommend funding allocations. This panel will be comprised of ONE representative from each subcommittee and the steering committee. The purpose of the funding panel will be to recommend which projects will be funded this fiscal year. To be eligible for the funding panel the person must be involved in the committee that s/he is representing and CAN NOT have a vested interest in any of the

funding proposals being considered. Vested interest would include staff or board member of an organization requesting funding.

Ranking should be based on whether the proposal is compatible with the 10 year strategy to end homelessness. Particular emphasis would be placed on programs that will prevent homelessness or assist in moving people from homeless to permanent sustainable housing. The consensus was that funding should not be for programs that manage homelessness but for programs that work to end homelessness. Priority also given to programs which support or complement Task Force initiatives; which leverage other resources (human or financial); demonstrate creativity and new approaches; and involve those who are impacted in the planning and decision making.

This motion passed unanimously.

3. Dec 20 Sunday at 3PM in Plaza Park, Homeless Persons Memorial Service (UU) remembering people who died locally this year while homeless. Contact Jan minister@uuventura.org with names or memories.
4. Salvation Army making Christmas Plans and signing up people now to receive food and toys.
5. Safe Sleep: need more churches to sign up as sites. Because of change in make up of City Council and Homeless Subcommittee, slight delay in going forward. There will be a press release announcing the churches prior to a meeting.

B. Homeless Prevention by Cindy Cantle

1. New donations came in. Missionary Church \$341 and Center for Spiritual Living \$800. Catholic Charities helped one married couple with \$700. 103 households, 222 individuals so far.
2. Beth from Lift Up Your Voice spoke to the committee about a proposal to market the Prevention Fund and the cards. The committee will explore further.
3. The October meeting was a joint meeting with Education to discuss money requests. Proposals are on line.
4. The November meeting is the night before Thanksgiving. The committee will help with set up at K of C

C. Housing Options by Loretta McCarty

1. No October meeting. In November will move location to Housing Authority on Snapdragon Lane, 4:30-6PM, 11/11

D. Gateway Report by Clyde Reynolds

1. The Salvation Army is in the beginning stages of exploring the possibility of relocating its Corps location at 650 Petit for the purposes of becoming the lead agency for Gateway (a Multi Agency Service Center and Permanent Emergency Shelter). This exploration process will take some time and exploration of what role other agencies could play in such an operation is ongoing. Task force discussed whether a regional model should be followed, pros and cons.
2. Program Design committee continues to discuss the elements of the Gateway which include multiple services delivered in one location by multiple agencies, coordinated case management, computerized tracking system, anchor services including healthcare, mental health, substance abuse, employment and benefit assistance, user friendly environment, located near public transportation and emergency shelter. A distinction is being made between basic services provided 7 days a week and enhanced services provided 5 days a week. Contact: Kate.Mills@ventura.org
3. VSSTF Funding Proposal suggestions from Gateway:
 - a. Meeting expenses to conduct a community meeting for all stakeholders in the spring to present and discuss the Gateway model.
 - b. Expenses to cover the cost of sending a person to the Bridges Out of Poverty Train the Trainer Training
 - c. Expenses to send a representative from the Social Services Task Force to the National Alliance to End Family Homelessness on February 11-12,2010

E. Community Education by John Jones

1. Joint meeting was held and joint funding proposal with Homeless Prevention Committee. Possibly to send some Steering Committee members to Homeless Conference in LA.
2. Next issue of the street paper will likely include articles on WAV, Kingdom Center, photos of cards. It will be available at Thanksgiving OneCity event

F. Steering committee by John Jones

1. John met with Saima Khan about the Christmas proposal. Agreed that United Way will channel the money, still possible VHPF might get some.

2. John will represent VSSTF at Nov 19 Ventura County 10-year strategy update meeting
3. VSSTF outreach public meeting to update the community on progress with 10 year strategy on January 28, Thursday, at Methodist Church, 6-8:30 PM. Suggestion to ask CAPS to televise.

IV. New Business

V. Announcements

1. Winter Warming Shelter will open in **Ventura** in early Dec. Peter gave a report on the possible options for transportation.
2. VCTogether The Buck Starts Here campaign. Amgen has made a \$15000 matching grant, good until Dec 4.
3. Turning Point starting Family and Individual Counseling program, sliding scale, one night in Oxnard, one in Ventura. contact David Deutsch.
4. Families have moved into SHORE Housing...grand opening Saturday morning.
5. Rosanne Morrissey reported on Kingdom Center and Operation Embrace. Nov 17 the CUP application will come before Planning. So far, 38 families/individuals have been placed in housing, 72 people have been assisted to find full time jobs.
6. Karol Schulkin reported on Federal Stimulus Funds HPRP now available. Info on www.vchsa.org/hprp Each person must be a citizen or legal alien. May earn 50% of AMI. No mortgage assistance, but deposit, utility payment, rent, etc. For homeless persons or those about to be homeless.
7. Salvation Army Kettle Kick Off at TLC Saturday, Nov 14.

Respectfully submitted,
Debora Schreiber
secretary

Next VSSTF Meeting December 2, 3-5 PM

Upcoming events:

Thanksgiving ONECITY Nov 26

Nov 19 9AM-11 AM St Mary Magdalen Hall Las Posas at Crestview, Camarillo, Progress on 10Year Strategy, updates from City Task Forces. Speaker Joe Colletti. RSVP 485-6288 x273 or Cathy@vchhc.org

Regular Meeting Schedules October

The **Faith Community** Subcommittee meets every 1st Tuesday, 4:00-5:00 PM, at the Unitarian Universalist Church, 5654 Ralston, Ventura 93003.
Dec 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. Dec 2, 3-5 PM

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

The **Homeless Prevention** Subcommittee meets every 4th Wednesday,
4:00-5:00 PM, at Super September visor Bennett's offices, Government Center 4th
Floor, Ventura 93003. **Nov 25 at K of C to help set up for Thanksgiving**

The **Housing Options** Subcommittee meets every 2nd Wednesday, 4:30 PM,
Housing Authority, Snapdragon Lane, Saticoy. Nov 11

Gateway meets third Friday at Salvation Army on Oak Street, at 2 PM. Nov 20

<http://www.onecityventura.org>