

Ventura Social Services Task Force

Minutes of Meeting September 2, 2009

Attending - total of 25 (Neal Andrews, Paul Bramson, Carolyn Briggs, Peter Brown, Cathy Brudnicki, Brenda Byers, Cindy Cattle, Sherry Cash, Kevin Clerici, David Deutsch, Priscilla Drew, Bill Finley, Todd L. Goehner, John Jones, Karl Keller, Shelli Locklear, Donna Mason, Mike Merewether, Kate Mills, Ken Porter, Clyde Reynolds, Debora Schreiber, Mark Stadler, Mary Stewart, Daniel Zapata)

Meeting called to order by chair John Jones

Self-introductions performed.

I. Report on City Funding by Peter Brown

- A. Last year grants were awarded to VSSTF and \$50,000 was renewed for this year. \$15000 went to River Haven Project, \$35,000 was administered by Housing Authority. \$24,954 is carried over from the Landlord Development project. \$2,000 is left from Bridges workshops, which could reasonably be used for the third workshop on Oct 13. Some went to fund the Community Ed Coordinator (event planner). A lot of that money is left. In October the Committee Chairs are asked to submit funding proposals. A guidance template will go out to assist preparation. Proposals should have performance based outcomes and be tied to the objectives of the 10 year strategy.
- B. Safe Sleep community Meeting Sept 3. Some negative phone calls have come in. City is stressing that the proposal adopted included the words "or some other alternative" which is being interpreted to mean something that is not the Safe Sleep program. Several people who had been at the Council Meeting including Councilman Neal Andrews clarified that to their mind, "other alternative" meant the Room at the Inn concept, where churches opened their doors to allow persons to sleep inside. Hopefully Safe Sleep will start in October or November.

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

A. Faith Communities by Bill Finlay

- 1. 5-6 churches have volunteered lots for the Safe Sleep program. Public meeting to be held September 3. The criteria for site selection include dignity and privacy for the participants, that the site not be isolated, and that members of the church or agency have involvement in support of the project. It was also agreed to exclude the downtown PBID from the pilot program. In selecting the management agency, preference to be given to someone with local presence and a good track record in previous experience.
- 2. A photo of clergy members was taken to use in August for an End Homelessness campaign. Clergy of all faiths participated.

3. Candidates' Forum will be held October 1 at Ventura Church of Christ on Telegraph Road. The goal is to have at least 100 persons in the audience. Room capacity is 200. The subjects will be homelessness and poverty. Questions will be chosen in advance. An open ended question will be along the lines of "How would you further the 10 year plan?" Candidates will be asked if they have signed the pledge. The Star will run that information. Anyone wanting to submit a suggestion for a question should email Bill at William.Finley@usw.salvationarmy.org or send it to Salvation Army 155 S Oak Ventura, 93001
4. 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 or Jesse Giglio to volunteer (Jesse 642-0550 x376). To apply to live at River Haven contact Michael Cornelius 652-2151. Sea Bees are helping also and Sept 26 is the United Way Day of Caring which will also bring in volunteers.
5. Plans for Thanksgiving Dinner proceeding. Action is coordinating volunteers on line. Kate Mills raised question as to whether another site should be considered because of the possibility of flu.

B. Homeless Prevention by Cindy Cattle

1. Project Understanding had the Fund in August. Eight households were helped; given an average of \$746 each. Current totals are 96 households and 210 people. Salvation Army to administer in Sept.
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.

C. Housing Options by Carolyn Briggs

1. Home Share program moving through County approval system.
2. Next meeting Jeff Lambert, new Director of Community Development will discuss the Housing Element which will be before Council on September 28.

D. Gateway Report by Clyde Reynolds

1. Site search ongoing for location and means of acquisition. The Program design group met. Plan is to bring in as many services as possible and coordinate case management. Basic services would be provided 7 days a week and more specialized services such as assessments and signing up for programs on a M-F basis. They are looking at gaps in current services available. Not known yet if one organization will be the lead agency or if model will be collaboration.

E. Community Education by John Jones

1. Working with The Star on a pledge for all City Council candidates to sign and cover letter with web site reference for more info.

2. Next issue of the street paper will likely include articles on WAV, Kingdom Center, and registering to vote.

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.
2. A Thursday nurse-run clinic is being added to coordinate patient education, hypertension and diabetes management, and med refills. Referral is through MD's only.
3. Volunteers are being trained as case managers. First priority for case management and goal setting is high users.

B. Kingdom Center

City allowing renovation of 6 units to proceed. Painting and roof work being done. CUP app being submitted the week of Sept 5. City has 30 days to respond.

III. New Business

- A. There is much frustration about the groups of young persons aggressively panhandling downtown. Peter is calling them the "defiantly homeless" population. They prey on the impaired homeless persons and their presence negatively impacts the experience of all who visit Downtown. **It was moved by Kate Mills and seconded by Paul Bramson that the VSSTF state that we do not condone thuggery, lawlessness or criminal activity. Motion agreed to. Then moved by Bill Finlay and seconded by Kate that the steering committee write and submit an op ed piece to the Star.** Article to focus on the positive accomplishments of the 10 year plan, and make the distinction between different groups of homeless persons, as well as decrying the thuggery and law breaking. **Motion passed.**

IV. Announcements

- A. NAMI (National Alliance for Mental Illness) formed several committees, one of which is a Community Action Committee. John Jones, Neal Andrews and Debora Schreiber are involved from the SS Task Force on the NAMI committee. NAMI continues to stress the need for more low cost housing. The overlap between the MI and homeless populations makes this a natural alliance.
- B. Mary Stewart, Librarian at EP Foster Library, spoke up to say how empowering she finds the Task Force meetings, and that she values the energy and resources being focused on the problem. She reports at least 8 persons are sleeping at night on library property. She has seen an increase in unacceptable behavior in the library and has had to call VPD more often. Mary recommends the book Breakfast at

Sally's: One Homeless Man's Inspirational Journey by Richard LeMieux. Sally's is the Salvation Army.

- C. Cal Lutheran students picked up 7.7 tons of trash on August 31. John Jones was a crew captain.
- D. The UN Diplomatic Tour on Adequate Housing is coming to LA. They will be in the US in Oct and Nov. Danny Huerta Zapata is the contact on this tour by the UN Special Rapporteur.
- E. 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 for information. It would be great if VSSTF were represented there.
- F. 8th annual Housing conference in Camarillo September 30. http://www.vchome.org/Housing_Conference.php some scholarships will probably be available. Contact Cathy

Respectfully submitted,
Debora Schreiber
secretary

Next VSSTF Meeting October 7, 3-5 PM

Upcoming events:

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.

October 6,

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. October 7, 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. October

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. October 14

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. **September 23 October 28**

Special party to stuff envelopes on Wednesday, September 16, 5:15 PM at Peet's Coffehouse on Victoria.

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

<http://www.onecityventura.org>