**Meeting Notes**

**Ventura County Continuum of Care Alliance**

**Thursday June 18th 2015**

**10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.**

Ventura County Community Foundation - Board Room

 4001 Mission Oaks Blvd, Camarillo

1. **Introductions and Announcements**

Attendance: Judy Alexandre, Linda Braunschweiger, Brian Brennan, Sue Brinkmeyer, Peter Brown, Tara Carruth, Silvia Chavez, David Courtland, Susan Englund, Betty Eskey, Rebecca Evans, Tim Hawkins, Larry Hurst, Caitlin Lebron, Amy Luoma, Marissa Mach, Christy Madden, Pam Marshall, Jason Meek, Ron Mulvihill, Alicia Morales, Michael Nigh, Melissa Perezchica-Ramirez, Clyde Reynolds, Asencion Romero, Carrie Sabatini, Jennifer Santos, Debora Schreiber, Karol Schulkin, Mike Taigman, Ashley Humes, Jason Louis, Harold Orr, Mark Gisler, Denise Cortes, Cali Hayes, Mary Kerrigan, Randy Brown

1. **Forever Found presentation**

Presentation on Forever Found services and issues of human trafficking with focus on runaway and homeless youth. Please see attached packet of handouts including an assessment and information on what you can do to fight human trafficking.

Upcoming trainings in July (see attached flyer)

1. **Coordinated Entry System (CES)update**

Presentation on update of Coordinated Entry System and discussion of Housing First and Supportive Services. The first 3 chronically homeless individuals have been matched through CES process with housing units in Ventura. Community Action is working to identify 5 more SRO units to master lease for this project. The CES system will begin to match individuals with CoC-funded units as vacancies become available. The Housing and Services committee of the CoC will begin working with other housing partners to advocate for units to be dedicated to the CES system. See attached PowerPoint for more information. Contact Tara Carruth with questions or if you would like be involved: [tara.carruth@ventura.org](mailto:tara.carruth@ventura.org)

Link to video shared on Housing First: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kFh52mcynlk>

1. **HMIS committee**

John Cortes provided updates on HMIS. HMIS license renewal and MOUs. Reported HMIS system is fully developed and currently in “maintenance mode”. Marissa Mach reported that upcoming HMIS training will include some segments on trauma-informed care to assist in training providers how to conduct assessments as well as enter data into HMIS.

HMIS Steering Committee meeting: July 15th at HSA

HMIS Operations Committee meeting: August 5th 9:30-11am at HSA

1. **Data Committee**

Tara thanked Alicia Morales for her service as chair of the Data Committee. Alicia’s last day with the Salvation Army and is taking a new position with HSA.

Data committee has completed revision of several of the CoC/ESG written standards. Please see attached document. Data committee will recommend the Board approve these written standards which will be used by all Permanent Supportive Housing, Rapid Re-Housing and Transitional Housing projects with CoC or ESG funds.

Data committee received the Letters of Intent (LOI) from all CoC funded providers and have begun reviewing. Tara will be sending out the policy for ranking and priority setting of projects to all providers. The Data committee continues to seek additional members who are not conflicted (non-funded) partners. If you are interested in participating, please talk to Tara. The next meeting is July 22nd 10am-12pm in the United Way Conference Room.

1. **Housing Workgroups updates**

Linda Braunschweiger provided an update on Veteran Housing workgroup. The Ventura County Housing Trust fund is leading a workgroup discussion on Veteran Housing. In the 2015 Homeless Count, Ventura County had 87 unsheltered veterans. The National goal is to end Veteran Homelessness this year! As of June 15, there were 10 unused VASH vouchers in Ventura and 16 in Oxnard. The challenge continues to be finding units and willing landlords to accept the voucher. Representatives from the Housing Authority echoed this same challenge with Section 8 vouchers. Amy Luoma working with HSA doing Housing Navigation for the CalWorks program echoed the same challenges.

Karol Schulkin updated on Rapid Re-Housing. 86% of individuals/families that are being housed by Ventura County Homeless Services are remaining stably housed.

Marissa Mach spoke to the resources that are coming in for CALWorks program ($515,000) but the challenge is finding the housing to use the funds. Marissa also discussed the challenges with implementing Laura’s Law without housing resources readily available as well as the need for additional licensed Board and Care homes and skilled nursing facility beds. Reported that 50% of these placements happen out of county due to the lack of local resources.

Clyde Reynolds spoke of his work with a group called Homes For All and the need for increasing housing stock with housing that is appropriate and affordable for all populations.

Silvia Chavez talked about the challenges finding affordable housing for TAY and other youth. College youth are sleeping in their cars because of the cost of housing. It is difficult to even find a room to rent.

Tara provided an update on a small workgroup who is looking at the issue of Re-Entry populations and housing.

Clyde Reynolds and Ron Mulvihill have agreed to step up and serve as Co-Chairs of the Housing and Services Committee. An invitation will go out, but the first meeting will be held on July 18th from 10am-12pm at the Ventura County Community Foundation in the Board Room.

1. NAEH System Design Clinic

Christy Madden discussed the National Alliance System Design Clinic which will be a local even in October. <http://www.endhomelessness.org/pages/hearthacademy>

Executive level stakeholders and community leaders will be invited but all will be asked to participate in preparation work. Save the Date October 14 &15—by invitation

Christy also discussed the rebuilding of the CoC Board to move in the direction of getting policy makers and influential community leaders to sit on the Board.

1. Misc

--VCHHC announcement: Susan Englund announced the Ventura County Homeless and Housing Coaltion has voted to dissolve that coalition and merge their efforts with the CoC. All Board member have committed to getting involved in a committee of the CoC. Thanks to VCHHC for laying the groundwork for the CoC and continued support.

--CoC NOFA preparation

We anticipate the NOFA will be released in the coming weeks. See attached Program Notice Registration for some highlights of what to expect. We do expect Permanent Supportive Housing money to be available but don’t know if we will quality to apply. The good news is we are continuing to align local work with National Best Practices to make ourselves more competitive for funding.

--PIO committee

Discussion about the need for a Public Information/Outreach/Advocacy group to disseminate information and take information back to local groups/taskforces. More to come on an invitation to participate in this committee.

Ventura Social Services Taskforce is planning some upcoming education/training on Housing First.