



CITY OF SIMI VALLEY

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TASK FORCE ON HOMELESSNESS

Thursday, February 11, 2016, 3:30 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

City Hall Community Room

2929 Tapo Canyon Road, Simi Valley, CA 93063

AGENDA

1. Call to Order/Welcome/Pledge of Allegiance/Roll Call
2. Agenda Review
3. Approval of Minutes
4. Public Statements/Comments
This is the time allotted for statements or comments on matters within the subject matter and jurisdiction of the Task Force on Homelessness. Statements and comments are limited to no more than five (5) minutes per speaker.
5. Informational Presentation
 - a. Simi Valley Police Department-Homeless Intervention Training
 - b. Overview of the National Alliance to End Homelessness: System Design Clinic for the Ventura County Continuum of Care
6. New Business
 - a. Discussion of Communitywide Cost of Homelessness Assessment Process
7. Task Force Member Comments
This is the time allotted for Task Force member statements or comments on matters within the subject matter and jurisdiction of the Task Force on Homelessness, to request a future agenda item, or to give an Ad Hoc Committee Report. This is also the time to make any announcements related to community events and other items of interest.
8. Task Force on Homelessness Coordinator's Report
9. Adjournment: Thursday, May 12, 2016, 3:30 p.m.

/s/

Sommer Barwick
Director of Community Services

If any interested individual has a disability that may require accommodation to participate in this meeting, please contact the Task Force on Homelessness Coordinator at (805) 583-6762. Upon advance notification, reasonable arrangements will be made to provide accessibility to the meeting.

TASK FORCE ON HOMELESSNESS
DRAFT MINUTES

1. Call To Order/Pledge of Allegiance/Roll Call

Council Member Mike Judge called the meeting to order at 3:30 p.m. Jennifer Santos noted that a quorum was present. The attendance detail is available on the last page of the minutes.

2. Agenda Review

The agenda was accepted as presented.

3. Approval of Minutes

By the consensus of the Task Force, the August 13, 2015, minutes were approved as presented.

4. Public Statements/Comments: None.

5. Informational Presentations

a. The Homeless Homed Video

The Task Force on Homelessness' Community Homeless Education Campaign Subcommittee, showed "The Homeless Homed" video as an illustration of how the U.S Department of Housing and Urban Development's (HUD's) national "Housing First Model" worked in the Salt Lake City. As a result of their efforts, Salt Lake City was able to reduce their chronic homeless population by 73 percent. The video also illustrated how the community's cost for homeless individuals is reduced when they are placed in housing.

6. New Business

a. Recommendations of the Community Homeless Education Campaign Subcommittee

Michael Nigh, Executive Director for the Ventura County Housing Authority provided an overview about the Subcommittee's recommendations. Discussion included the formation of a speaker's series to provide presentations to local community groups, including the City's Boards and Commissions, non-profit organizations, the Chamber Commerce, landlords and property owners, and other community groups. Speakers would provide information to inform the community about the myths versus the reality of homelessness in Simi Valley.

Housing was also discussed and the different challenges that Simi Valley and Ventura County have, such as the lack of affordable housing. Salt Lake City, Utah, and Austin, Texas, and others have created more opportunities to house the homeless through implementation of the "Housing First" model.

The Committee made the following recommendations to the Task Force on Homelessness:

1. To form a speaker bureau to provide presentations to local community groups, including the City's Boards and Commissions, non-profit organizations, the Chamber, landlords and property owners, and other community groups. The speakers would provide statistics and facts about homelessness in the community and provide accurate information about misconceptions versus the reality of supporting programs that provide housing, employment, and supportive services to the homeless in Simi Valley.
2. Make a formal recommendation to the City Council to determine the actual community cost of homeless individuals in Simi Valley. This cost determination would include the cost of emergency room visits, hospitalization, medical treatment, incarceration, police intervention, emergency shelter expenses, and other direct and indirect costs that impact the community.

It was the consensus of the Task Force to recommend that staff prepare a report to the City Council to seek authorization to research the cost of homelessness within Simi Valley.

b. Consideration of the Continuation of the Task Force on Homelessness

Council Member Mike Judge opened the discussion to consider discontinuing the activities of the Task Force. He inquired as to what the Task Force has accomplished in the past years since he has served as Co-Chair and what its purpose is. A written report was provided by staff including previous City Council adopted goals. Lengthy discussion ensued. Various purposes of the Task Force were discussed, including serving as an advocate for County services being brought to Simi Valley, a forum for local agencies to collaborate and bring attention to issues surrounding preventing and reducing homelessness, and a link between County Continuum of Care and local agencies for information and grant funding opportunities. Challenges discussed included the lack of housing, and it was discussed that the City does not have the land, funding, or role in developing supportive housing. Opportunities for action discussed included continuously evaluating the City Council adopted goals to ensure applicability to the community, and setting actionable objectives for the Task Force. At the conclusion of the discussion, no recommendation was made, therefore the Task Force will continue.

7. Task Force Member Comments

Theresa Pennington suggested the Task Force establish a set of achievable goals the Committee can accomplish to prevent and reduce homelessness within the community.

Christian Riehl stated that the Samaritan Center continues to successfully house more individuals every month.

Betty Eskey stated that Public Action to Deliver Shelter (P.A.D.S.) sites will be open from November 1 to March 31, 2016. However, a site was still needed for the fourth Wednesday night to accommodate approximately 30-40 people. Various members volunteered to contact local churches to inquire about their availability for hosting a P.A.D.S. site.

Mike Nigh stated that the Ventura County Area Housing Authority is working to acquire a property in Simi Valley to support the development of more affordable housing.

Michele Surber stated how she is a member of many boards and there can be a frustration in the process. However, discussions like today encourage everyone to work harder to progress.

Colleen Abbinanti expressed the importance of the Task Force and was not aware of the Committee when she was homeless. She stated her gratitude about being member of the Task Force.

Police Commander Stephanie Shannon reported that staff from the Simi Valley Police Department, Community Services, Rancho Simi Recreation and Park District, Ventura County Executive Office, Ventura County Watershed Protection District, and Ventura County Public Works met to discuss planned efforts for a scheduled native habitat restoration within the Arroyo Simi. Individuals camping in the Arroyo will be notified about the need to vacate the areas prior to the restoration.

Council Member Mashburn expressed how larger groups such as the Task Force will have differences of opinions at times. Discussions like today provide opportunities for change. He emphasized the need to create achievable goals to further reduce homelessness.

Fred Bauermeister expressed that the Task Force has served as a conduit to bring information about new services, strengthen communication and help to resolve any issues between agencies and service providers. He also stated that Task Force has provided a place for members of the public to inquire and make statements, and work to further the efforts of preventing and reducing homelessness in the community.

Carla Orieta expressed her appreciation of the Task Force and announced Simi Valley Hospital's NON-12 Step SMART Recovery Group. Meetings are held every Thursday at 6:00 p.m. For additional information, please call (805) 955-6223.

8. Task Force Coordinator's Report: None.
9. Adjournment: Thursday, February 11, 2016, 3:30 p.m.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:18 p.m.

Organization	Representative	Attendance P = Present; A = Absent
Area Housing Authority	Michael Nigh	P
Chamber of Commerce	Gioia Goodrum	P
City Council	Council Member Mike Judge	P
City Council	Council Member Keith Mashburn	P
Council On Aging	June Marie von Osinski	P
County of Ventura Behavioral Health Department	Bob Gross	P
County of Ventura Homeless Services	Karol Schulkin	P
County of Ventura Human Services Agency	Latrell Herbert	A
County of Ventura Public Health Department	Michele Surber	P
County of Ventura Supervisor Peter Foy's Office	Brian Miller	P
Dinner Site	Toni Freeland	P
Faith Community	Kurt Fredrickson	P
Faith Community	Andy Mattick	P
Free Clinic of Simi Valley	Fred Bauermeister	P
Lutheran Social Services	Denise Cortes	P
Many Mansions	Derrick Wada	P
Neighborhood Council # 1	Don Diamond	P
Neighborhood Council # 2	Kimberly Drewes	P
Neighborhood Council # 3	Kelly Tinker	P
Neighborhood Council # 4	David Kennedy	P
PADS	Christian Riehl	P
Rancho Simi Recreation and Park District	Theresa Pennington	P
Representative who has Experienced Homelessness	Colleen Abbinanti	P
Rotary Club of Simi Valley	Kate O'Brien	P
Salvation Army	Mary Flandez	P
Samaritan Center	Betty Eskey	P
Simi Valley Hospital	Carla Orieta	P
Simi Valley Police Department	Cmdr. Stephanie Shannon	P
Simi Valley Unified School District	Trustee Bill Daniels	P
State Senator or Assemblyman	Marie Lakin	P
Youth Council	Prachi Patel	P