

TASK FORCE ON HOMELESSNESS

Thursday, May 11, 2017

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. Results of the 2017 Ventura County Homeless Count and Survey
6. New Business
 - a. Overview and Discussion/Potential Recommendations on the Real Change Movement, a Coordinated Effort to Reduce Panhandling
 - b. Discussion and Possible Action on Proposed Restructuring of the Task Force on Homelessness
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, August 11, 2017, 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 Neighborhood Council Coordinator at (805) 583-6759. Upon advance notification, reasonable arrangements will be made to provide accessibility to the meeting.

TASK FORCE ON HOMELESSNESS
NOTES

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

Mayor Pro Tem Mashburn and Jennifer Santos noted that a quorum was not present. The attendance detail is available on the last page of the notes.

2. Agenda Review

It was noted that all agenda items would be presented for information only and no action would be taken due to not having a quorum present.

3. Approval of Minutes

The minutes from the November 10, 2016 meeting will be reviewed at the May 11, 2017 meeting.

4. Public Statements/Comments:

A representative from School on Wheels Inc. stated that the agency has tutored homeless children since 1993. Last year, 3,000 students were served by the organization through the support of over 3,000 volunteers, and 30 scholarships were awarded to students. The organization is funded solely by private and corporate donations. For additional information about the program, please visit www.schoolonwheels.com or call (805) 366-9846.

5. Informational Presentations

a. 2017 Ventura County Homeless Count and Survey Update

Betty Eskey, Executive Director of the Samaritan Center provided an update on the 2017 Ventura County Homeless Count and Subpopulation Survey that occurred during the morning of Tuesday, January 24, 2017. Ms. Eskey stated that the count went well and the final report will be available by the end of April or early May. Data is collected through a short survey and observation to provide a Point-In-Time (PIT) "snapshot" as to what the homeless population in Ventura County looks like during a single day. She explained this helps communities and leaders better understand who is homeless, why, and for how long.

6. New Business

a. Overview and Discussion/Potential Recommendations on the Real Change Movement, a Coordinated Effort to Reduce Panhandling

Kurt Fredrickson provided a presentation on the Real Change Movement program that started in the City of Pasadena and currently operates in a

few other communities throughout the nation. In 2014, the Flintridge Center launched the program to raise awareness and understanding about homelessness. The program also provides alternatives for people to give to organizations that serve the homeless and reduce panhandling. In Pasadena, signs and donation parking meters have been installed in high traffic areas that read "Homes for the Homeless, Powered by Change". Individuals can use either a credit card or insert change into the meters. In 2014-15 \$8,000 was raised for this program, (\$4,000 through meters and \$4,000 in matching funds from the United Way.) The goal for 2015-16 was \$16,000.

The program is started in communities by having local organizations pay \$1,500 to sponsor a meter which covers installation, graphics, a sponsor sign, maintenance, coin collection and bookkeeping. If Simi Valley took an interest with starting a program, a nonprofit would need to be identified to coordinate the campaign, recruit sponsors, identify meter locations, maintain meters, collect funds and donate to local non-profits and post signage. For approximately \$1,000, the Flintridge Center will provide graphic files for meter wraps, marketing materials, and website maintenance, as it does for multiple cities.

Comments included the following: concerns about the cost to start up the program; that sign verbiage might be deceiving and should be more specific to make messaging clear; program seems like a great idea if funds are appropriately used for the homeless, and request for more data to determine if panhandling has decreased and funding has increased over time.

Questions about the program were: did the City of Pasadena obtain its goal to double installation of the meters; is there data showing reduced panhandling; if there was a report from other cities to evaluate program success; is panhandling a big problem in the cities that have the program, and have there been issues with credit card fraud with meter donations.

Due to not having a quorum, no action could be made and the item will be discussed at a future meeting.

- b. Discussion and Possible Action on Proposed Restructuring of the Task Force on Homelessness.

Jennifer Santos, Management Analyst provided an overview and history of the Task Force, including its growth from 19 to 31 representatives. She explained the Task Force is comprised of public agencies, non-profit service groups, and community members. At the November 10, 2016 meeting, a request was made to evaluate the current structure of the Task Force further. Recommendations were developed by the Simi Valley

Alliance to House the Homeless (Alliance) with the goal of enhancing the ability to address homelessness. Targeted groups would be established that would consist of the Task Force, Alliance, Case Manager Collaboration, and Community Input. These groups would continue to address the broad scope of homelessness through discussions and the sharing of resources, which is currently coordinated at the Task Force meetings. The proposed structure will allow for progressive discussions at an ad hoc level to be channeled up to the Task Force for the development of recommendations to the City Council for action, and will include a broader emphasis on community input.

Comments consisted of the following: downsizing the Task Force will streamline the process to have consensus to develop recommendations; concern with the loss of representation from established committees, such as the Council On Aging that was strongly advocated for; concerns that ground level input would be lost; preference for maintaining the current structure to stay informed about different resources; concern that proposed structure would consist of a majority of representatives from the government, and suggestions that Alliance representatives attending Task Force meetings consist of appropriate members to participate in discussions.

Due to not having a quorum no action could be made and the item was continued to a future meeting.

7. Task Force Member Comments

Colleen Abbinanti announced her upcoming fundraising event, "Hands of Hope" for the Samaritan Center that will be held on April 8, 2017 at 10:00 a.m. The event will be located at St. Francis Episcopal Church, 280 Royal Avenue. A woman's clothing line will be sold and all the proceeds will go to the Samaritan Center.

Betty Eskey stated that the Samaritan Center's 5th annual "Ride for Hope" fundraising event will be held on April 29, 2017. The event will begin at 7:00 a.m. and different route options are available, from five to 100 miles. The event will start at City Hall, 2929 Tapo Canyon Road and food and live music and raffles will be available after the ride. For more information or to register for the event, visit www.ridesv.org or call (805) 579-9166.

Carla Orieta encouraged the Task Force to get the business community more involved and work to establish employment opportunities for those in need to gain financial independence through employment and training opportunities.

Phoebe Ruiz announced the annual "Simi Valley Youth Summit" that will be held on March 24, 2017, at 8:00 a.m. The event will be located at the Ronald Reagan

Presidential Library and Museum. She stated the event is a free event to inspire youth to set goals, enhance leadership abilities, and become involved in their community. She also encouraged the community to volunteer at the Samaritan Center at least four hours learn about their services.

8. Task Force on Homelessness Coordinator's Report: None.

9. Adjournment: Thursday, May 11, 2017, 3:30 p.m.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:12 p.m.

Organization	Representative	Attendance P = Present; A = Absent
Area Housing Authority	Michael Nigh	A
Chamber of Commerce	Rana Ghadban	A
City Council	Council Member Mike Judge	P
City Council	Mayor Pro Tem Keith Mashburn	P
Council On Aging	June Marie von Osinski	P
County of Ventura Behavioral Health Department	Bob Gross	A
County of Ventura Homeless Services	Melissa Perezchica Ramirez	P
County of Ventura Human Services Agency	Latrell Herbert	A
County of Ventura Public Health Department	Michele Surber	A
County of Ventura Supervisor Peter Foy's Office	Brian Miller	A
Dinner Site	Toni Freeland	A
Faith Community	Kurt Fredrickson	P
Faith Community	Andy Mattick	P
Free Clinic of Simi Valley	Fred Bauermeister	A
Lutheran Social Services	Denise Cortes	A
Many Mansions	Rick Schroeder	P
Neighborhood Council # 1	Dan Kirk	P
Neighborhood Council # 2	Richard Grossman	A
Neighborhood Council # 3	Chair/designee	A
Neighborhood Council # 4	Lesley Greenfield	P
PADS	Rosie Moreno	A
Rancho Simi Recreation and Park District	Theresa Pennington	P
Representative who has Experienced Homelessness	vacant	
Rotary Club of Simi Valley	Kate O'Brien	A
Salvation Army	Mary Flandez	A
Samaritan Center	Betty Eskey	P
Simi Valley Hospital	Carla Orieta	P
Simi Valley Police Department	Officer Chapple for Cmdr. Stephanie Shannon	P
Simi Valley Unified School District	Trustee Bill Daniels	A
State Senator or Assemblyman	Marie Lakin	A
Youth Council	Phoebe Ruiz	P

TASK FORCE ON HOMELESSNESS
DRAFT MINUTES

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

Mayor Pro Tem Mashburn called the meeting to order at 3:30 p.m. and 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 May 12, 2016, minutes were approved as presented.

4. Public Statements/Comments: None

5. Informational Presentations

a. Update on Faith Community's Efforts to Address Homelessness

Betty Eskey, Executive Director of The Samaritan Center provided an update about the efforts made to assist the Samaritan Center with their supportive services. A program called the Network of Care was introduced to Ms. Eskey by John Amstutz, Senior Pastor of Antioch Church. Pastor Amstutz worked on this program in Newberg, Oregon; however it was called Love Inc. The program brought much success to Newberg with reducing and preventing the incidents of homelessness.

The Network of Care would be a program that the Samaritan Center would administer to assist their clients with needed resources that they identify through their case management program. After the client meets with their case manager and needed resources are identified, they are set with a voucher with the listed needs to a partnering church. That church will provide those services, such as, obtaining clothes, food, auto repair services, and more. Once clients receive those resources, they will continue to work with the Samaritan Center to further address their situation. The program would benefit the Samaritan Center by freeing up space and time to strengthen their efficiency with assisting clients with case management and creating a support network through partnering churches to utilize available resources within the community and limit potential duplication of services. Ms. Eskey announced that there will be meeting with the faith community to provide more information about the program and answer questions on January 18, 2017, at 2:00 p.m., located at St. Francis of Assisi Apostle Church, 280 Royal Avenue.

b. Overview of the Pathways to Home Program

Tara Carruth from the Ventura County Executive Office and Ventura County Continuum of Care Alliance provided an overview about the Continuum of Care's Coordinated Entry System, called Pathways to Home. She explained that the system allows individuals and families to access needed services to move out of a state of homelessness as promptly as possible. The program consists of a client-focused approach to minimize the complexities associated with accessing multiple service programs that can prevent or end their situation with homelessness. Service providers within the network work collaboratively to coordinate information to provide the most effective services for clients.

The system has been live since early October 2016. Some challenges with the system are being worked on to ensure better access to assistance for homeless individuals that are the most vulnerable. Weekly meetings have been held with service providers to receive feedback and adjust priority listings to effectively utilize available housing and related services.

c. 2017 Ventura County Homeless Count and Survey

Ms. Eskey provided an overview of the 2017 Ventura County Homeless Count and Subpopulation Survey that is scheduled to occur the morning of Tuesday January 24, 2017. The annual Count is coordinated by the Ventura County Continuum of Care, in partnership with community partners and cities. The data, collected through a short survey and observation provides a Point-In-Time (PIT) "snapshot" as to what the homeless population in Ventura County looks like during a single day to help community leaders better understand who is homeless, why and for how long. Also, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development requires local jurisdictions to participate to continue receiving Continuum of Care funding for homeless persons.

Volunteers are being sought for Simi Valley and throughout the County. Interested volunteers are required to attend training in their community and will be paired up on the morning of the Count to canvass areas. Training classes will be offered in Simi Valley on Monday, January 16, 2017, from 12:00 p.m. to 1:00 p.m. and Wednesday, January 18, 2017, from 5:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m., at St. Francis of Assisi Apostle Church. For the first time, a youth survey will be conducted Friday afternoon on January 27, 2017, that will establish a baseline count of homeless youth in Ventura County. Volunteers can sign up at <http://www.VolunteerVenturaCounty.org>.

d. Update on the Homeless Encampments Abatement Program and Responses to Panhandling

Sergeant Steve Shorts reported that the Community Liaison Officers (CLOs) have partnered with Building and Safety, Code Enforcement, and local service providers to address illegal trespassing and prevent future issues from occurring on private property. They work together to assist property owners to address trespassing issues and establish preventive methods to prevent future incidents with trespassing.

He provided an overview of the recent clean-up efforts to address property maintenance issues. Currently, most of the illegal homeless encampments are smaller and more mobile. Efforts are being made to reassess the entire city with Code Enforcement to identify active camps and work with property owners to ensure their properties are in compliance with the Municipal Code. Incorporating a multidisciplinary approach has been effective in addressing trespassing issues while balancing the expectations of the community and offering services. Some of the clean-up efforts have included addressing overgrown vegetation along the railroad right-of-ways and addressing substandard residential property conditions. Homeless encampments were identified at various sites and efforts were made to offer available resources to assist individuals out of homelessness. However, some individuals were arrested based on past or ongoing criminal activities.

Sergeant Shorts explained that panhandling is protected by the first amendment and that the CLOs continually engage with panhandlers to offer resources to assist them with options to exit homelessness. Additionally, property owners throughout the city have worked with the CLOs to obtain letters of agencies to prevent and address trespassing on private property. It is encouraged to give money to charities that directly assist those in need.

6. Task Force Member Comments

Kurt Fredrickson stated that the City of Pasadena has started up a program called the Real Change Movement. The program provides alternatives for people to give to charity and reduce panhandling. In Pasadena, signs and donation parking meters have been installed throughout different areas where there is a high amount of pedestrian foot traffic. Individuals can use either a credit card or insert change at the meters to help provide homes for the homeless. This program may be an option for Simi Valley to research. More information was requested about the program and it was the consensus of the Task Force for Mr. Fredrickson to provide a presentation at the next Task Force meeting.

Sergeant Shorts explained that the CLOs conducted an investigation of stolen bikes that resulted in six arrests. All of the involved individuals were Simi Valley residents and four were homeless. He reiterated that the CLOs continuously work with homeless individuals to engage with offered services. However, there are some individuals that are resistant to services. He reminded everyone that individuals can call the CLO hotline at (805) 583-6161 for assistance.

Fred Bauermeister requested to have the Task Force's Alliance to House the Homeless develop recommendations regarding the framework and meeting frequency to ensure that the Task Force is effective in addressing the current needs in reducing the incidents of homelessness in the community. It was the consensus of the Task Force to discuss at the next meeting.

Mayor Pro Tem Mashburn mentioned the importance of supporting the Task Force.

Howie Gobler suggested that recommendations made by the Task Force be reviewed by the Neighborhood Councils.

Mary Flandez announced that the Salvation Army is planning to expand the facility in Simi Valley, including opening a thrift shop and a drug rehabilitation location, sometime next year.

7. Task Force Coordinator's Report

Ms. Santos stated that the City of Simi Valley is hosting a showcase of local non-profit organizations to create volunteer opportunities for the community. The Building Compassion through Volunteering event will provide opportunities to talk with representatives from a variety of local organizations. Attendees get to learn about non-profits' services and how volunteers can assist them. The event will be held on November 10, 2016, from 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m., at the Simi Valley Public Library, 2969 Tapo Canyon Road. All ages are encouraged to attend. She also announced that Many Mansions and the Area Housing Authority of Ventura County will hold a community meeting to provide an overview and receive feedback about 30-unit affordable housing development for very-low income seniors who are veterans. The meeting will be held at the Boys & Girls Club of Simi Valley located at 2850 Lemon Drive at 6:30 p.m.

8. Adjournment: Thursday, February 9, 2017, 3:30 p.m.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:14 p.m.

Organization	Representative	Attendance P = Present; A = Absent
Area Housing Authority	Michael Nigh	A
Chamber of Commerce	Rana Ghadban	A
City Council	Council Member Mike Judge	A
City Council	Mayor Pro Tem 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	Chris Russell	A
County of Ventura Human Services Agency	Latrell Herbert	A
County of Ventura Public Health Department	Michele Surber	A
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	A
Many Mansions	Derrick Wada	A
Neighborhood Council # 1	Howie Gobler	P
Neighborhood Council # 2	Richard Grossman	P
Neighborhood Council # 3	Kelly Tinker	P
Neighborhood Council # 4	Lisa Morrison	P
PADS	Rosie Moreno	A
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	Sgt. Steve Shorts for Cmdr. Stephanie Shannon	P
Simi Valley Unified School District	Trustee Bill Daniels	P
State Senator or Assemblyman	Marie Lakin	P
Youth Council	Timothy Ho	P

CITY OF SIMI VALLEY • MEMORANDUM

DATE: May 4, 2017

TO: Task Force on Homelessness

FROM: Sommer Barwick, Director of Community Services

**SUBJECT: DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON PROPOSED
RESTRUCTURING OF THE TASK FORCE ON HOMELESSNESS**

The attached presentation is a graphic summary of the memo previously distributed in the agenda packet for the Task Force meeting scheduled for March 16, 2017. Due to a lack of a quorum, the item has been placed on this meeting's agenda A. The original memo is also available online and hard copies will be made available at the May 11, 2017, meeting.

The objective of the Task Force on Homelessness has been to elevate the profile of the impacts of homelessness on the community for both those directly affected and in need of services as well as issues of concern to residents and businesses. The proposed structure of community dialogue is focused on soliciting maximum and balanced community input on the issue of homelessness to result in a strong and healthy community.

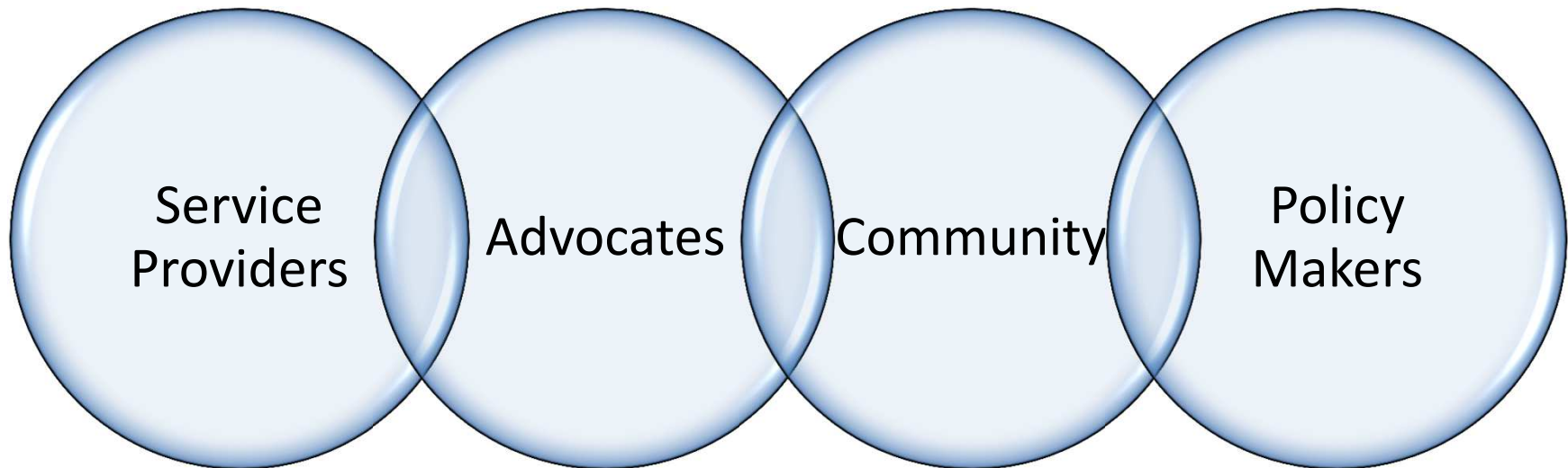
Some aspects of the restructuring have already been implemented by staff to enhance the dialogue and improve the effectiveness of case management collaboration across agencies.

Prepared by: Jennifer Santos, Management Analyst

TASK FORCE OBJECTIVES



CURRENT TASK FORCE STRUCTURE



COLLABORATIVE FRAMEWORK



ENHANCED STRUCTURE



TASK FORCE



Service Agencies
Alliance Representatives
City Council

Service Agencies

Alliance Representatives

City Council

ALLIANCE

Service Providers

Samaritan Center
Many Mansions
Salvation Army
Area Housing Authority
Behavioral Health
Free Clinic of Simi Valley
Simi Valley Hospital
RSRPD
SVUSD
Police Department
Human Services
Interface
Cabrillo Economic
Development
Public Health

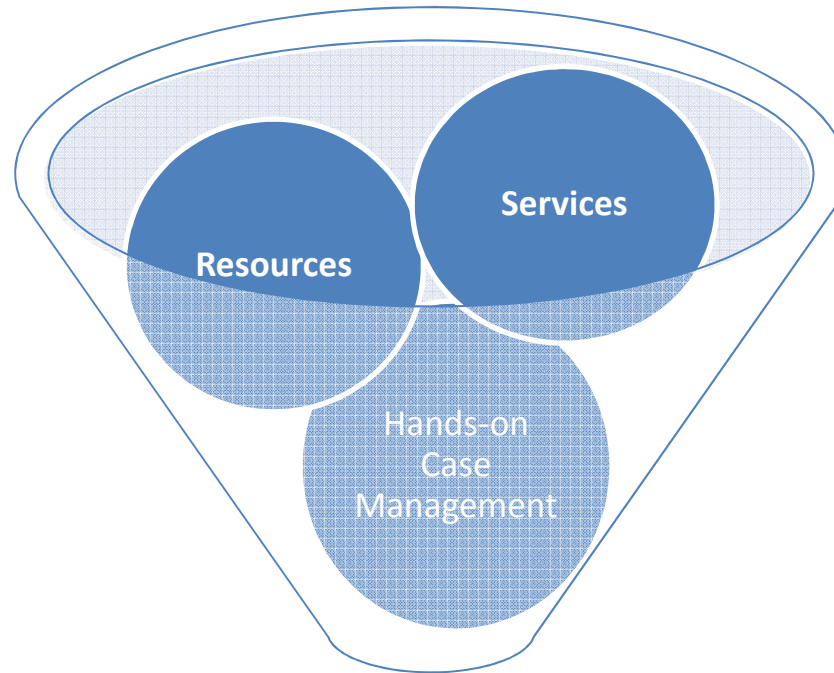
Faith Community

Churches
Temples
Mosques
Kingdom Halls
St. Vincent de Paul
Knights of Columbus
Individuals
ACTION

Community Groups

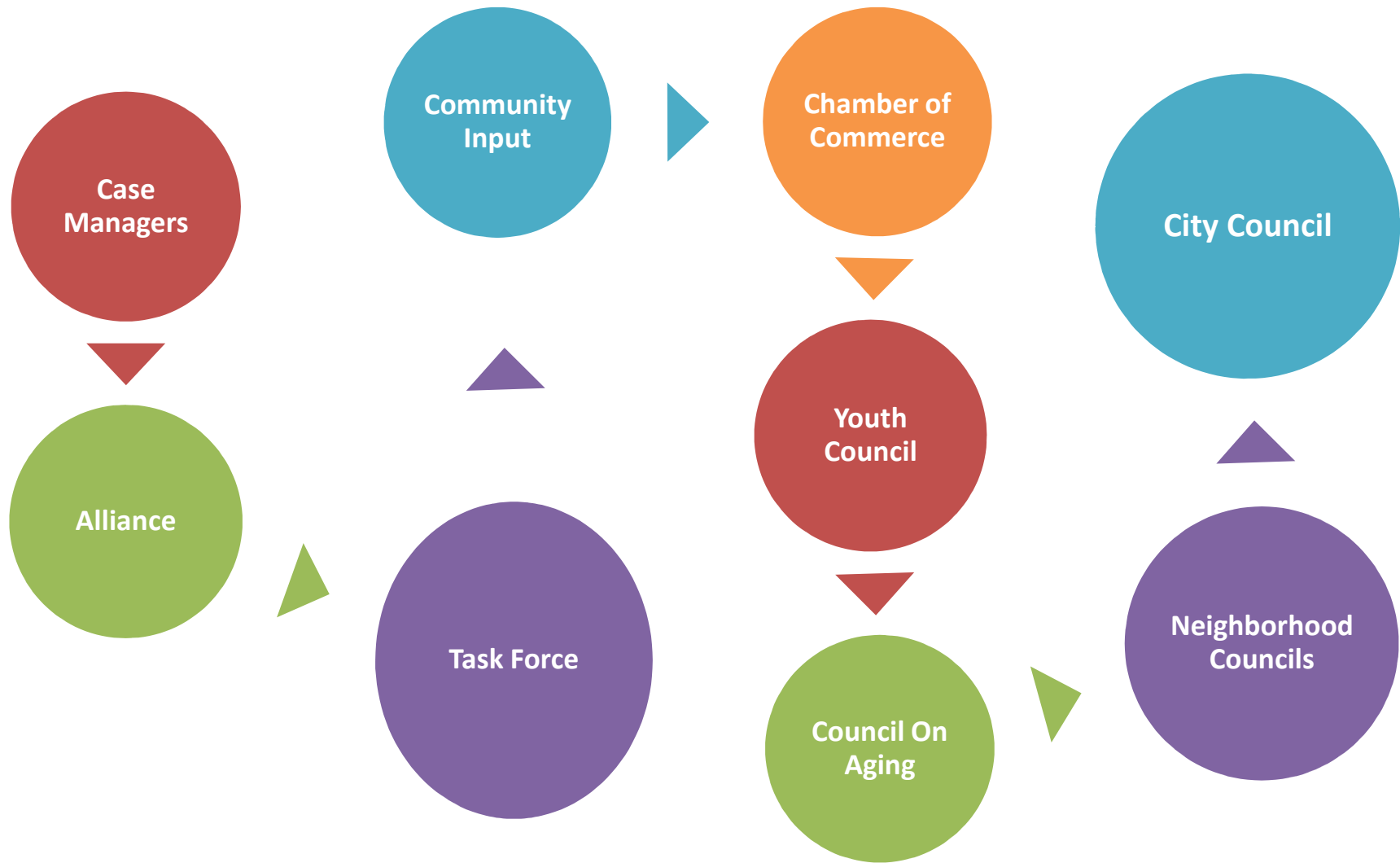
Kiwanis
Rotary
Chamber of Commerce
Lions
Elks Lodge
Boys & Girls Club
YMCA
First 5

CASE MANAGER COLLABORATION



DIRECT IMPACT TO CLIENT

COMMUNITY INPUT



COLLABORATIVE OUTCOMES



City Council

Task Force on Homelessness

Alliance to House the Homeless

Case Manager Collaboration

Community Input