



CITY OF SIMI VALLEY

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TASK FORCE ON HOMELESSNESS

Thursday, February 8, 2018

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 Presentations
 - a. Status Update on the Homeless Encampments Abatement Program
 - b. Overview of the Upcoming 2018 Homeless Point-In-Time Count
6. New Business
 - a. Update on the Status of the Previously Adopted Ventura County 10-Year Plan to End Homelessness and Brainstorming of Potential Actionable Goals
 - b. Discussion of Establishing a Referral Network to the Home Rehabilitation Program to Maximize Access to Homeowners with Homeless Prevention
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 10, 2018, 3:30 p.m.

/s/
Sommer Barwick
Community Services Director

If any interested individual has a disability that may require accommodation to participate in this meeting, please contact Jennifer Santos at (805) 583-6759. 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 Mashburn called the meeting to order at 3:30 p.m. and Jennifer Santos, Management Analyst noted that a quorum was present. The attendance detail is available on the last page of the minutes.

2. Agenda Review

Ms. Santos requested to move Item 8 (Task Force on Homelessness Coordinator's Report) before Item 4 (Public Statements/Comments). The agenda was modified to reflect the requested changes.

3. Approval of Minutes

Ms. Santos stated the attendance detail needed to be revised to show Taylor Criddle as the current representative for State Assemblyman Acosta, and to indicate that he was present. A motion was made by Fred Bauermeister and seconded by Toni Freeland to approve the May 11, 2017 minutes as revised. The motion passed unanimously.

8. Task Force on Homelessness Coordinator's Report

Jennifer Santos announced that Ventura County Public Health is providing outreach and vaccinations to populations at high-risk for Hepatitis A, including people who are homeless. Ventura County Public Health will provide vaccinations at the 4 Syringe Replacement Program sites in Ventura, Oxnard, Santa Paula, and Simi Valley. Ventura County Health Care Agency clinics and hospitals are also offering the vaccine. This effort includes the Healthcare for the Homeless One Stop sites.

4. Public Statements/Comments

A commercial property manager for a property on E. Easy Street expressed concerns about health and safety issues that have impacted the property due to activities that were conducted by some homeless individuals. The manager mentioned that they are working to increase lighting and fencing for additional security. The property manager was directed to speak with Homeless Liaison Officer Sean Baker who was present, and the Simi Valley Police Department's Business Crime Prevention Unit, at (805) 583-6276 to explore additional safety options.

Ms. Santos stated that staff corresponded with a resident who was frustrated about the meeting times and requested that the Task Force discuss and modify the times to occur in the evening to accommodate the work schedules of Simi Valley residents who want to get involved. Task Force members reiterated that the meeting times were conducive to representatives of agencies whose focus is serving those at risk and currently homeless. The consensus was to retain the existing meeting time and that no discussion was needed for a future meeting.

Sergeant Steve Shorts introduced Officer Sean Baker to the Task Force. Officer Baker has been assigned to address homeless and vagrancy issues. Sergeant Shorts clarified that homelessness and vagrancy are separate issues. Task Force members commended Officer Baker for his efforts to date as many of them had already worked with him in previous assignment as Community Liaison Officer.

5. Informational Presentations

a. Overview of the Simi Valley Community Garden's Social Feed Project

Robbie Hidalgo, Vice President of the Simi at the Garden (Garden), provided an overview about their Social Feed project. Mr. Hidalgo explained how the project was inspired to engage connections from public, private, civic, educational, nonprofit and faith-based agencies and residents to help efforts of reducing food shortages by planting sweet potatoes. The Simi Valley Youth Council partnered with the Garden to provide outreach and event support to promote the project. This resulted in over 6,700 pounds of sweet potatoes being donated to local food banks.

The project inspired the Garden to establish Ventura County's first Free Farmers Market in Simi Valley. The Garden partnered with Food Forward, a Los Angeles based produce gleaning and recovery organization that has expanded into Ventura County. The first Farmers Market was held on October 17, 2017, and within 50 minutes most of the produce was gone. Fresh produce was provided for free with no prequalifying requirements. These efforts give the community access to abundant fresh produce through the recovery efforts of gleaning organizations. The Farmers Market also provides opportunity for the Garden to serve Ventura County as a hub to distribute tens of thousands of pounds of fresh produce to more than two dozen regional agencies throughout the County from surrounding cities including Thousand Oaks, Moorpark, Oxnard, Camarillo, Fillmore, and Ventura. These agency partners pick-up produce and distribute it to their own regional food banks, dinner sites, and distribution agencies that will help to provide fresh produce on a county-wide scale. Additionally, a number of nonprofit agencies volunteer their time to support the Farmers Market and include PathPoint, Big Brothers Big Sisters of Ventura County, and more. There will be two more Farmers

Markets held on November 14, 2017 and December 12, 2017, from 2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

b. Overview of the Revised Structure of the Task Force on Homelessness

Ms. Santos stated that the City Council approved the Task Force's recommendation to revise the structure to consist of 13 members. The Task Force will continue to meet quarterly. Separate from the Task Force, there will be quarterly Resource Coordination events providing opportunities to learn about new or existing services and discuss needed services for Simi Valley, and monthly Case Management meetings to allow local service providers and the City's Police Department to meet on a regular basis to discuss the needs of their clients and identify needed resources.

c. Distribution of 2018 Meeting Dates

Ms. Santos provided a handout of the 2018 dates and times for the Task Force on Homelessness. She also provided dates for the Resource Coordination, and Case Management meetings for those interested in participating in the community's efforts to address homelessness.

6. New Business

a. Overview/Discussion of Ventura County Health Care Agency's Whole Person Care Program

Deanna Handel, Manager of the Whole Person Care Program (WPC) for the Ventura County Health Care Agency provided an overview about the program. Ms. Handel explained that the program's intent is to coordinate health care, behavioral health, and social services that is focused on the patients' needs, with the goal of improving health and well-being through more efficient and effective use of resources.

Targeted patients include vulnerable Medi-Cal beneficiaries who have been identified as high users of multiple systems and continue to have poor health outcomes. Individuals in this group tend to be homeless or at risk of homelessness, have substance abuse issues or mental illness, and may have several chronic health conditions. Services are coordinated by the County, which can include access to field-based care coordination, mental health and substance abuse services, social services, life skills and job readiness training, and housing support services. The program also includes temporary Outreach Care Pods that are strategically located in areas where the homeless population congregates allowing access to medical and social services. The Pods consist of retrofitted cargo

containers that are equipped with showers, an area for basic medical assessments for common vaccines and basic wound care.

At the conclusion of the presentation, no action was taken.

7. Task Force Member Comments

Humna Ahmad stated that the City of Simi Valley Youth Council is planning for the 2018 Youth Summit and will have a committee to discuss homelessness. A committee also discussed homelessness at the 2017 Youth Summit.

Betty Eskey reported that the Samaritan Center has reached the Housing and Urban Development's capacity of serving 200 people. They have assisted 16 families to maintain housing and eight individuals were moved into housing. Of the eight individuals housed, three were vulnerable seniors and one person was homeless for approximately 20 years. Ms. Eskey also announced that the Public Action to Deliver Shelter (PADS) will be open until March 31, 2018. On average, 15 people utilize the PADS location each night. This average is three times higher than last year.

Fred Bauermeister stated that the Simi Valley Free Clinic has been awarded a lease contract with the County of Ventura for a new office location at 2003 Royal Avenue. This will benefit the Free Clinic to have their existing medical and dental services in the same building and provide office space for a number of non-profit service agencies. Some of these agencies will include Big Brothers Big Sisters of Ventura County, Ventura County Foster Parents Association, Many Mansions, and the Simi Valley Samaritan Center.

Brian Miller commended Mr. Bauermeister for all of his hard work and efforts.

9. Adjournment: Thursday, February 8, 2018, 3:30 p.m.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:52 p.m.

Organization	Representative	Attendance P = Present; A = Absent
Area Housing Authority	Michael Nigh	A
Chamber of Commerce	Rana Ghadban	P
City Council	Mayor Pro Tem Mike Judge	P
City Council	Council Member Keith Mashburn	P
Council On Aging	June Marie von Osinski	A
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	P
Dinner Site	Toni Freeland	P
Faith Community	Kurt Fredrickson	A
Faith Community	Andy Mattick	A
Free Clinic of Simi Valley	Fred Bauermeister	P
Lutheran Social Services	Denise Cortes	A
Many Mansions	Rick Schroeder	A
Neighborhood Council # 1	Dan Kirk	P
Neighborhood Council # 2	Lesley Greenfield	A
Neighborhood Council # 3	Mary Oaks	A
Neighborhood Council # 4	Steve Mace	P
PADS	Nikki Kellogg for Ryan Behr	P
Rancho Simi Recreation and Park District	Theresa Pennington	A
Representative who has Experienced Homelessness	Colleen Abininati	P
Rotary Club of Simi Valley	Kate O'Brien	P
Salvation Army	Mary Flandez	P
Samaritan Center	Betty Eskey	P
Simi Valley Hospital	Kacie Macdonald	P
Simi Valley Police Department	Sgt. Steve Shorts for Cmdr. Stephanie Shannon	P
Simi Valley Unified School District	Trustee Bill Daniels	A
State Senator or Assemblyman	Taylor Criddle	P
Youth Council	Humna Ahmad	P

CITY OF SIMI VALLEY • MEMORANDUM

DATE: February 1, 2018

TO: Task Force on Homelessness

FROM: Sommer Barwick, Community Services Director

SUBJECT: UPDATE ON THE STATUS OF THE PREVIOUSLY ADOPTED VENTURA COUNTY 10-YEAR PLAN TO END HOMELESSNESS AND BRAINSTORMING OF POTENTIAL ACTIONABLE GOALS

The previously adopted Ventura County 10-Year Plan to End Homelessness expired in 2017. Under the guidance of that plan many accomplishments have been made throughout the County to reduce homelessness, such as the development of the Pathways to Home program that allows a homeless resident to be able to access resources through subscribing service providers county-wide.

This year the County of Ventura's Continuum of Care will begin coordinating the development of a new strategy to continue reducing homelessness in Ventura County. Each community in Ventura County has unique needs and resources to address homelessness and will play an important role in the development of an updated plan.

At its February 7, 2014 meeting, the Task Force on Homeless reviewed the City Council's adopted goals related to the 10-Year Plan to End Homelessness and discussed different community-wide opportunities to strengthen these efforts further. A copy of the City's previously adopted goals has been enclosed for your review. This information is provided to assist in the brainstorming and development of future actionable goals to assist in reducing homelessness in Simi Valley and throughout the County.

Prepared by: Jennifer Santos, Management Analyst

CITY OF SIMI VALLEY • MEMORANDUM

DATE: February 1, 2018

TO: Task Force on Homelessness

FROM: Ted Drago, Environmental Services Director (Interim)
Sommer Barwick, Community Services Director

SUBJECT: Discussion of Establishing a Referral Network to the Home Rehabilitation Program to Maximize Access to Homeowners with Homeless Prevention

The City of Simi Valley Home Rehabilitation program is funded by the City and the State of California. The program offers Simi Valley homeowners 2% simple-interest loans of up to \$50,000 for detached single-family dwelling home repairs. Qualifying homeowners are not required to make monthly payments and interest stops accruing after 15 years. Homeowners are required to repay the loan once the house is sold, refinanced, leased, or when changes are made to the title.

In order to apply, homeowners must occupy the residence, qualify as low-income (based on established annual income limits, as specified in the Home Rehabilitation Program Application), and have more than 10% in home equity. There are a wide variety of home repair options for homeowners, and life-safety repairs are prioritized.

Some examples of the covered repairs or replacements include:

- accessibility improvements related to a disability or injury
- air conditioning and heating
- electrical and wiring
- exterior wood siding and trim/stucco and painting
- flooring
- fencing/block walls, driveways, and landscaping
- garage doors
- installation of energy saving devices
- plumbing systems
- roofing
- windows and doors

This program provides low cost options for homeowners to help maintain the health and safety of their home. However, at times homeowners could be facing different financial challenges that could result in risk of losing their home, and potentially becoming homeless.

The City would like to create a referral network of contacts within stakeholder agencies to assist in identifying eligible participants and increase the awareness of program as an option to prevent homelessness.

Prepared by: Jennifer Santos, Management Analyst

CITY OF SIMI VALLEY - MEMORANDUM

DATE: February 7, 2014

TO: Task Force on Homelessness

FROM: Sommer Barwick, Director of Community Services

SUBJECT: UPDATE ON TASK FORCE ON HOMELESSNESS COMMUNITY LEADERS FOR ADOPTED GOALS RELATED TO THE COUNTY OF VENTURA'S 10-YEAR PLAN TO END HOMELESSNESS

At its November 14, 2013 meeting, the Task Force on Homelessness discussed and identified opportunities for community involvement associated with the following goals adopted by the City Council in July 2013, related to the *County of Ventura's 10-Year Plan to End Homelessness*. To date, the community leaders following each opportunity have volunteered to champion the community efforts to accomplish these goals.

In order to effectively address the community issue of homelessness, additional volunteers will be sought by the community leaders, Task Force members and through City communication channels including the Task Force's email distribution list. It is anticipated that increased community involvement will continue to strengthen the collaboration among service providers and to further the prevention and reduction of homelessness in Simi Valley.

1. **Adopted Goal:** Discuss and develop goals and objectives for City Council consideration through the Task Force on Homelessness to assist community organizations in helping the homeless become housed.

Community Leader(s): Task Force on Homelessness

Status: On July 15, 2013, the City Council adopted goals recommended by the Task Force on Homelessness at its May 16, 2013 meeting. Additional goals and objectives may be discussed and proposed as needed. Opportunities for community involvement to accomplish each goal were identified at the November 14, 2013 Task Force meeting. Community leaders for each goal have been identified as follows.

2. **Adopted Goal:** Assign City staff to monitor and request United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) funding including developing a

collaborative to request Continuum of Care (CoC) funds to be directed to Simi Valley.

Community Leader(s): Task Force on Homelessness and City Staff

Status: City staff continues to use the City's e-notification for the Task Force to share information of interest and funding opportunities with service providers that serve Simi Valley. At its September 12, 2013 meeting, the Task Force created a collaborative to pursue establishing a veterans' home in Simi Valley and authorized staff to initiate future collaboratives, as needed. The veterans' home collaborative began discussions; however, the project was deemed financially unfeasible at the time.

3. **Adopted Goal:** Facilitate grant writing training for Simi Valley non-profit organizations.

Community Leader(s): Joanne Abruzzese, Fred Bauermeister

Status: Community leaders have been identified. Grant writing and other trainings are anticipated to be incorporated into the supportive structure for the Under One Roof project.

Opportunity: The Task Force can collaborate with non-profit organizations and services providers to facilitate grant writing training and other associated opportunities that may assist Simi Valley non-profit organizations in competing for limited funding resources. Trainings could be scheduled depending on availability and funding needed. Staff will assist in facilitating partnerships between non-profit organizations to leverage resources and further strengthen funding applications.

4. **Adopted Goal:** Make a concerted effort to ensure available County of Ventura funding is equitably dispersed through the County.

Community Leader(s): Rick Shroeder, Fred Bauermeister, Betty Eskey, City Staff

Status: Staff actively participates in the County's CoC and promotes a funding structure that allows for equity and a strategic approach to preventing and reducing homelessness. Fred Bauermeister and Betty Eskey were both seated on the CoC Board. For the FY 2013 funding cycle, the CoC Board decided that it would defund some renewal projects to better meet the needs of the community and to allow for new permanent supportive housing projects to be eligible for funding. The Board also decided that for future funding cycles projects would not be automatically renewed for funding to ensure that the CoC will remain competitive with its tier one and tier two allocations based HUD's funding criteria

for each funding cycle. The CoC Board indicated the future focus will be placed on permanent supportive housing and rapid rehousing. Transitional housing and supportive services only will not be funding priorities in future funding cycles.

Opportunity: Task Force and community members may participate in a number of subcommittees of the CoC.

5. **Adopted Goal:** Ensure that Simi Valley is represented at countywide organizations such as the Ventura County Homeless and Housing Coalition and the Continuum of Care Oversight Board.

Community Leader(s): Rick Shroeder, Mike Nigh, Fred Bauermeister, Betty Eskey, City Staff

Status: Task Force members Fred Bauermeister and Betty Eskey are current CoC Board members. Additionally, Mike Nigh of the Area Housing Authority of the County of Ventura is a CoC Board member. Rick Shroeder of Many Mansions is active in the CoC subcommittees and regional discussions. City staff continues to participate in the CoC.

Opportunity: Additional opportunities will be available for community participation as members of subcommittees and grant applicants. Staff will promote further participation through community outreach.

6. **Adopted Goal:** Collect and disperse information about available resources and programs to faith-based organizations, case managers, service clubs, and other community stake holders.

Community Leader(s): Kevin Dieckilman, Joanne Abruzzese, Kurt Frederickson, Andy Mattick, Toni Freeland, Jim Visage, Mary Flandez, Betty Eskey, René Frumkin, Fred Bauermeister, Rick Shroeder, Michele Surber, Theresa Pennington, City Staff

Status: Staff currently shares information through the City's website, e-notification system, targeted community outreach, and presentations to community organizations. Staff will continue to use these communication vehicles as appropriate. At its January 13, 2014 meeting, the City Council approved staff exploring a community banner program to provide education on panhandling. The City has continued its community education campaign related to panhandling with targeted press release for the holiday season, information available on the City's website, and announcements on Simi Valley Television. Mental Health First Aid trainings are being presented by Ventura County Behavioral Health through Mental Health Services Act funding and hosted by Rancho Simi Recreation and Park District (RSRPD). The trainings are free for attendees. RSRPD is in the process of reviewing its rules and conditions

governing the use of District parks and facilities and participation in District programs and continues to offer subsidized programming for low income and homeless families.

Opportunities:

Community At Large

A. Develop consistent messaging and talking points focused on educating the community about available resources, responsible giving, and impacts of donating to panhandlers and encourage the community to report illegal activity so it can be addressed through enforcement.

B. Promote community training for business, non-profit, and faith communities to help navigate disruptive situations and provide assistance to those in need of mental health services.

C. Explore a community banner program or poster campaign encouraging responsible giving and discouraging donations to panhandlers.

D. Promote connections between volunteers and non-profit organizations and encourage residential and commercial property owners who need assistance with improving their properties to meet acceptable standards.

E. Connect residential rental community with service providers for enhanced communication about available housing units.

Business Community

F. Identify properties adversely affected by panhandling and trespassing and conduct targeted outreach for crime prevention and planning design modifications and coordinate assistance.

G. Utilize Police volunteers to engage businesses to do crime prevention assessments.

H. Facilitate crime prevention workshops with the business community, including the Chamber of Commerce.

I. Partner with the business community, including the Chamber of Commerce to facilitate business forums to facilitate discussion among the business community to share successes and ideas.

Service Providers

J. Create a model for staff training that can be shared with the business, nonprofit, and faith communities to help diffuse disruptive situations.

K. Host service provider networking events to encourage collaboration and maximize impact of services.

L. Connect residential rental community with service providers for enhanced communication about available housing through local real estate associations.

M. Host faith community forums to identify community needs and share available resources.

N. Increase faith community outreach to provide support to community members who need assistance.

Community Facilities

O. Encourage and facilitate crime prevention plans for community facilities to reduce the impacts caused by homeless individuals and prevent urban camping or illegitimate use of the facilities including building improvements and/or enhancements.

P. Collaborate with the Rancho Simi Recreation Park and District and Simi Valley Unified School District to refine facility use policies to prevent illegitimate use of the facilities.

7. **Adopted Goal:** Advocate for improvements to discharge planning of homeless individuals to prevent the “dumping” of individuals into unstable health conditions and homelessness.

Community Leader(s): Michele Surber

Status: The Health Care for the Homeless program is currently exploring locations for a permanent clinic in east Ventura County.

Opportunity: Health care and service providers could strengthen collaboration and communication to identify resources and programs available to Simi Valley and provide updates to the Task Force as appropriate.

8. **Adopted Goal:** Continue to support the Simi Valley Community Foundation’s Under One Roof project.

Community Leader(s): City Council, Task Force on Homelessness, City Staff

Status: The City Council continues to support the Simi Valley Community Foundation’s Under One Roof project and recently executed a lease for the City’s Development Services Building to house its operations.