



CITY OF SIMI VALLEY

TASK FORCE ON HOMELESSNESS

Thursday, August 8, 2019

3:30 p.m. to 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. Introduction of Chantel Zimmerman, Executive Director of The Samaritan Center
 - b. Overview of Ventura County Continuum of Care's 2019 Requests for Proposals and upcoming availability of state funding to address homelessness
 - c. Overview of the Regional Housing Needs Assessment and Housing Element Update Processes and Timelines
6. New Business: None
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, November 14, 2019, 3:30 p.m.

/s/ _____
Mara Malch
Deputy Environmental Services Director

If any interested individual has a disability that may require accommodation to participate in this meeting, please contact April Rosser, Management Analyst 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 Luevanos called the meeting to order at 3:48 p.m. and Mara Malch, Deputy Director, noted that a quorum was present. The attendance detail is available on the last page of the minutes.

2. Agenda Review

Item 6.a. New Business: Discussion and Possible Recommendation for the City Participation in the Ventura Countywide Homelessness Memorandum of Understanding was moved to immediately follow Item 5.a. Informational Presentations: Results of the 2019 Homeless Point in Time Count.

3. Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Bob Labelle and seconded by Betty Eskey to approve the February 14, 2019 minutes. The motion passed with a vote of six in favor and two abstentions.

4. Public Statements/Comments

Toni Freeland, Board President of The Samaritan Center, inquired about the notifications provided to community agencies regarding the availability of State funding. Mara Malch informed her that the City emailed community partners, including The Samaritan Center, and hosted training workshops at the October 2, 2018 Homeless Resource Coordination (HRC) meeting on the application requirements and process for new state funding on Homeless Emergency Aid Program (HEAP) and at the April 16, 2019 HRC meeting hosted a training workshop on California Emergency Solutions & Housing (CESH) and Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program (YHDP) grants.

Grace Hughes, Board Member for The Samaritan Center, referenced the shelter crisis resolution adopted by the City Council and inquired about the City's plan to address homelessness. Mara Malch responded with the items the Task Force discussed at its February meeting including possibilities for a safe parking program, the upcoming Regional Housing Needs Assessment, and review of current City programs providing support to at risk populations.

5. Informational Presentations

a. Results of the 2019 Homeless Point in Time Count

Tara Carruth, from the Ventura County Continuum of Care (CoC), presented the 2019 Point in Time Count. The count captures the number of homeless based upon HUD's definition: persons in emergency shelters, persons in motels paid for by programs, persons in transitional housing and persons living in places not meant for human habitation. There was a countywide increase in homelessness by 28.5% from 2018 to 2019, with 121 counted within Simi Valley. Pathways to Home, the CoC's coordinated entry system, shows an average length of time of homelessness at 141 days with a 95% housing retention once housed with 3% returning to homelessness. Ms. Carruth presented new funding resources including Homeless Emergency Aid Program (HEAP), Affordable Housing Funds (SB2), No Place Like Home (NPLH), Housing for a Healthy California, Veterans and Affordable Housing Bond Act (SB3) and Community Development Block Grant Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR). She also provided updates on the permanent emergency shelters being developed in the cities of Ventura and Oxnard, the youth shelter Interface Child and Family Services is opening in June 2019, and the efforts to maximize housing resources to increase supportive housing units across the County.

6. New Business

- a. Discussion and Possible Recommendation for the City Participation in the Ventura Countywide Homelessness Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)
- Mara Malch, Deputy Director, and Tara Carruth from the Continuum of Care provided information on the Countywide Homeless MOU. The MOU was developed by the City Managers in collaboration with the Ventura County Executive Office to articulate each jurisdiction's commitment to its own emergency response to unsheltered homeless. Ms. Malch discussed each term of the MOU and the current response and actions taken by the City of Simi Valley. A motion to recommend that the City Council approve the execution of the MOU was made by Bob Labelle with a second by Susan White Wood. The motion passed unanimously.

5. Informational Presentations

- b. Overview of the Community Development Block Grant Funding Process and Permissible Activities

Julia Ramirez, Senior Management Analyst, provided an overview of the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG). The federally funded grant has regional priorities and is meant to benefit low and moderate income persons, aid in the prevention or elimination of slums or blight, and assist with activities that directly respond to emergency conditions. The three funding categories are public service, capital improvements, and administration. The

City's formal application process starts in the fall and includes a mandatory application workshop. There is a CDBG Advisory Committee that helps evaluate applications. Two public hearings are held, with the second being at a City Council meeting where the funding determination is made.

6. New Business

b. Discussion of the City's Homeless Liaison Officer (HLO) Program

Commander Steve Shorts provided information on the Homeless Liaison Officer (HLO) program. There's currently one full-time and one part-time HLO position, with four ancillary officer assignments which are supervised by a Sergeant and managed by a Police Commander. Commander Shorts discussed what the homeless population looks like within Simi Valley, some of the current challenges being faced, such as the limited availability of the winter warming shelter, and special programs like Homeless Court. The HLO program has a 5 prong approach to homelessness: identify vulnerable populations, do outreach to connect with social service resources, respond to public concerns and educate, collaborate with local governments to find solutions, and enforcement. The responsibilities of the HLO are to provide homeless intervention, vagrancy enforcement, criminal abatement and interacting with members from vulnerable populations.

7. Task Force Member Comments

Susan White Wood, Behavioral Health Housing Manager, introduced herself as the new Task Force Representative for the Ventura County Health Care Agency. She stated HCA is currently working on identifying opportunities that No Place Like Home (NPLH) funding could support and looks forward to partnering with and providing resources to the Task Force.

Ryan Valencia from Assembly Member Smith's Office announced that on May 9, 2019, Governor Newsom released his May Revise, which is the revised proposed State Budget based on actual revenues. Governor Newsom is proposing one billion dollars to combat homelessness with \$650 million going to local governments to fund programs and emergency shelters. Mr. Valencia also announced that Assembly Member Smith has named The Samaritan Center as Non-Profit of the Year and it will be recognized on the Assembly Floor in Sacramento.

Betty Eskey from The Samaritan Center announced that she is retiring in June 2019 and that its board is currently interviewing candidates for her position.

Council Member Ruth Luevanos recognized and thanked Betty Eskey for all the hard work she has done for Simi Valley and stated that Ms. Eskey has been a positive force in the community and has helped many people. Council Member Luevanos provided a recommendation to the Police Department to utilize Boy

Scouts looking for Eagle Scout projects to assist with City beautification projects such as graffiti abatement or clean-ups.

8. Task Force on Homelessness Coordinator's Report

April Rosser, Management Analyst, announced that the Homeless Services pages have been updated on the City's website and reminded individuals interested in receiving timely updates of resources and events to sign-up for e-notification for the Task Force on Homelessness and Homeless Resource Coordination meetings.

9. Adjournment: Thursday, August 8, 2019, 3:30 p.m.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:57p.m.

Organization	Representative	Attendance
Area Housing Authority of the County of Ventura	Linda Fisher-Helton	P
Chamber of Commerce	Samantha Shapiro	P
City Council	Council Member Mike Judge	A
City Council	Council Member Ruth Luevanos	P
Ventura County Health Care Agency	Susan White Wood	P
Ventura County Ventura Human Services Agency	Jillian Fleming	P
Ventura County Supervisor Bob Huber Office	Joel Angeles	A
State Senator or Assemblyman	Ryan Valencia	P
Simi Valley Unified School District	Bob Labelle	P
Rancho Simi Recreation and Park District	Theresa Pennington	A
Resource Coordination Representative	Betty Eskey The Samaritan Center	P
Resource Coordination Representative	None	A
Resource Coordination Representative	None	A
Attendance Key: P = Present A = Absent * = Arrived after Approval of the Minutes		