



# CITY OF SIMI VALLEY

## **TASK FORCE ON HOMELESSNESS**

Thursday, November 14, 2019

3:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Simi Valley Public Library Community Room  
2969 Tapo Canyon Road, Simi Valley, CA 93063

**\*\*\*Special Meeting Location\*\*\***

### **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: None
6. New Business
  - a. Community Panel Discussion on Government Resources Available to Individuals at Risk of and Experiencing 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, February 13, 2020, 3:30 p.m.

/s/

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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 Mike Judge called the meeting to order at 3:30 p.m. and Mara Malch, Deputy Environmental Services Director, noted a quorum was present. The attendance detail is available on the last page of the minutes.

2. Agenda Review

Council Member Mike Judge announced that due to leadership changes at the Samaritan Center Toni Freeland, Board President of The Samaritan Center of Simi Valley will present item 5a.

3. Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Linda Fisher-Helton and seconded by Susan White Wood to approve the May 9, 2019 minutes. The motion passed unanimously.

4. Public Statements/Comments

A member of the public brought up concerns regarding changes to the City's bus policies, specifically not allowing passengers with excess baggage to get on the bus and unsheltered individuals falling asleep on the bus since there are no shelters to take them. Mara Malch, Deputy Environmental Services Director, clarified that it was a safety concern for unattended items to be brought on the bus and that passengers have to be able to maintain items on the bus at all times.

5. Informational Presentations

a. Introduction of Chantel Zimmerman, Executive Director of The Samaritan Center

Toni Freeland announced that Chantel Zimmerman is no longer with The Samaritan Center of Simi Valley and that she will be the acting Executive Director until a new Director is hired. She stated that The Samaritan Center will continue to serve the community with no interruptions to services.

b. Overview of Ventura County Continuum of Care's 2019 Request for Proposals and upcoming availability of state funding to address homelessness Tara Carruth, from the Ventura County Continuum of Care (VC CoC), presented information on upcoming state funding. Homeless Housing and Prevention Program (HHAP) funding will be awarded to Counties and CoCs with an approximate award total of 4.5 million for the Ventura County

region. HHAP will be a one-time funding program with local funding determinations in early 2020 while state funds become available in late spring 2020. Eligible programs/services under HHAP include the following: rental assistance/rapid re-housing, operations funding for emergency shelters/navigation centers, landlord incentives including security deposits and holding fees, street outreach, homeless prevention services and supportive housing programs. A total of 8% of the funding must be used for services for homeless youth. The CoC will announce more about the HHAP funding process once the state issues program guidelines and a timeline. Tara Carruth also announced that the annual cycle to renew existing HUD funded projects was underway with \$383,951 in bonus funding and \$371,000 for domestic violence funding. More details on program information and applications can be found on the CoC website.

In response to an inquiry about funding for emergency shelters, Tara Carruth stated that the Ventura County Board of Supervisors will match funding operations or the rehabilitation of a building for the establishment of year-round (24/7) emergency shelter or navigation center, allowing for cost sharing between a City and the County. She also stated that there is state funding for non-profits to apply for and more information can be attained by contacting the CoC.

c. Overview of the Regional Housing Needs Assessment (RHNA) and Housing Element Update Processes and Timelines

Eric Chen, Associate Planner with the City of Simi Valley, presented information on the Regional Housing Needs Assessment (RHNA) process and timeline for the upcoming 6<sup>th</sup> cycle. Once every 8 years, the California Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) requires the RHNA process to determine how many housing units California needs to house the state's growing population. Local jurisdictions, with Southern California Association of Government's (SCAG) help, are responsible to include RHNA into their General Plan Housing Elements through an update. SCAG is in the process of developing the 6<sup>th</sup> cycle RHNA allocation plan which will cover the housing development targets from October 2021 through October 2029. Draft RHNA numbers will be distributed in February 2020 with the final RHNA adoption taking place by October 2020. HCD has provided five statutory objectives: increasing supply of housing type and mix in an equitable manner; promoting infill development, social economic equity and protection of environmental resources; job-housing fit; income equity in the distribution of affordable housing allocations to cities; and fair housing to maintain compliance with civil rights and fair housing laws.

6. New Business: None

7. Task Force Member Comments

Linda Fisher-Helton from Area Housing Authority of the County of Ventura announced that Many Mansions is accepting applications for homeless veterans for the Ormond Beach Villas project.

Ryan Valencia from Assembly Member Smith's Office stated that the Governor's proposal for housing was announced and included a total of \$650 million in funding with roughly \$275 million provided to cities with populations over 300,000, \$175 million to counties and \$109 million to the CoCs.

Commander Steve Shorts from the City of Simi Valley Police Department stated that he will be meeting with The Samaritan Center to discuss Safe Parking ideas.

Samantha Shapiro stated that if any assistance is needed to reach out to the Simi Valley Chamber of Commerce.

Council Member Ruth Luevanos stated that there were concerns related to unattended youth as a result of federal immigration actions. She inquired as to whether that has been an issue here and what assistance is available for the youth. Commander Steve Shorts indicated that anyone who comes into contact with an unattended youth should contact the Police Department, who can involve social services as needed.

Heidi Marine from Many Mansions reported that there are currently beds available for Veteran families that need housing and to contact Many Mansions for more information.

Toni Freeland from The Samaritan Center of Simi Valley stated that the new email address for the Director position will be [director@samcentersv.org](mailto:director@samcentersv.org) and to send all correspondences to that email address.

Trustee Bob LaBelle from the Simi Valley Unified School District announced that the first day of school for students is Wednesday, August 14, 2019.

Susan White Wood from Ventura County Behavioral Health reported that the 2019 Community Health Needs Assessment can be found on the Public Health Department's website; she noted that housing and homelessness made it in the top ten of identified needs. She also announced that there is a request for proposal for *No Place Like Home* on the Behavioral Health Department's website as of August 8, 2019. Behavioral Health also has one-time rapid rehousing funds available, as well as funding for hotel stays, up to 2 weeks, for recipients who meet eligibility requirements and are actively seeking housing and participating in case management.

Director Brian Dennert from the Rancho Simi Recreation and Park District expressed compassion for law enforcement and reiterated the District's support.

8. Task Force on Homelessness Coordinator's Report

April Rosser, Management Analyst, announced that the next Homeless Resource Coordination meeting is set for October 15, 2019 at 1:30 p.m. in the Simi Valley Public Library Community Room with presenters from 2-1-1, Simi Valley Transit and the County of Ventura's Homeless Services. The next Task Force on Homelessness meeting will be November 14, 2019 at 3:30 p.m. in the Simi Valley Public Library Community Room with a panel discussion comprising of representatives from the County of Ventura's CEO Office, Human Services Agency, Health Care Agency and Area Housing Authority of Ventura County.

Mara Malch, Deputy Environmental Services Director, announced that staff is currently evaluating Safe Parking program options and at some point, will come back to the Task Force with information. The City is also working on assessing the eligible activities under SB2 for Permanent Local Housing Allocation funding and the Planning Grant to formulate applications to maximize benefits to the community.

9. Adjournment: Thursday, November 14, 2019, 3:30 p.m.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:44 p.m.

<b>Organization</b>	<b>Representative</b>	<b>Attendance</b>
Area Housing Authority of the County of Ventura	Linda Fisher-Helton	P
Simi Valley Chamber of Commerce	Samantha Shapiro	P
City Council	Council Member Mike Judge	P
City Council	Council Member Ruth Luevanos	P*
Ventura County Health Care Agency	Susan White Wood	P
Ventura County Ventura Human Services Agency	Jillian Fleming	A
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	Fred Bauermeister The Free Clinic of Simi Valley	P
Resource Coordination Representative	Heidi Marine Many Mansions	P
Resource Coordination Representative	Toni Freeland The Samaritan Center of Simi Valley	P
<b>Attendance Key:</b> P = Present A = Absent * = Arrived after Approval of the Minutes		

## CITY OF SIMI VALLEY • MEMORANDUM

**DATE:** November 7, 2019

**TO:** Task Force on Homelessness

**FROM:** Mara Malch, Deputy Environmental Services Director

**SUBJECT:** Community Panel Discussion on Government Resources Available to Individuals at Risk of and Experiencing Homelessness

At the November 14, 2019 Task Force on Homelessness meeting, Ventura County agencies and the Area Housing Authority of the County of Ventura will provide information on services and resources available to those who are in need of assistance. The presentations will provide information on available programs and how to access services to assist in preventing homelessness, and services for those currently experiencing homelessness.

By identifying and providing feedback on existing services within the community, the Task Force has the opportunity to pinpoint potential areas to target and strengthen. With a greater focus on the issue of homelessness at both the federal and state levels, awareness of existing services or the barriers to access them within the community will allow a better understanding of the community's needs and how to best leverage federal and state assistance to meet those needs.

Attached is a brief summary of the array of services that each speaker will be covering. Please review the information and feel free to browse the websites prior to the presentation to allow for informed questions and feedback to assist in improving the connection to and delivery of services to those most in need.

Prepared by: April Rosser, Management Analyst

Attachment



**COUNTY OF VENTURA  
HUMAN SERVICES AGENCY**

The County of Ventura Human Services Agency (HSA) has multiple departments, two of which are Adult and Family Services and the Community Services Department. The departments and programs within HSA provide for individual, family and community needs through assistance, aid, protection and help.

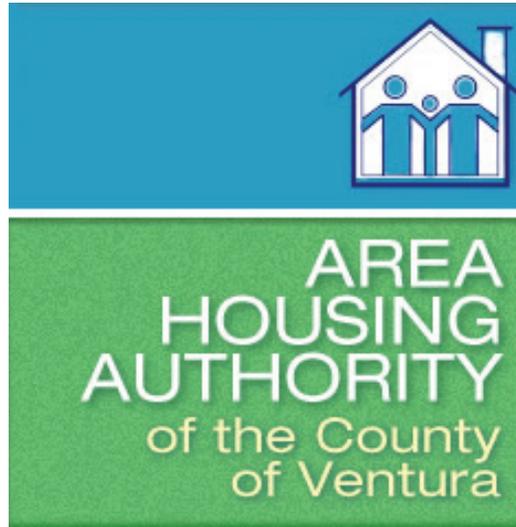
<https://www.ventura.org/human-services-agency>

**Speaker: MARCY SNIDER,  
Senior Manager of Adults and  
Family Services**

Adult and Family Services provides services to the public with employment and financial assistance programs like CalWORKs, homeless and housing assistance programs like Rapid Re-housing, and protection and help for adults and veterans.

**Speaker: AURORA ORTIZ,  
HS Program Analyst for  
Community Services Department**

The Community Services Department provides assistance with health care coverage through Medi-Cal which provides needed health services for low-income individuals, seniors, persons with disabilities, children and pregnant women. The department also administers the CalFresh program, which helps people who have little or no income to buy groceries.



**Presenter: LINDA FISHER-HELTON,  
Community Relations Manager for Area  
Housing Authority**

The Area Housing Authority of Ventura County is an independent, government agency serving the unincorporated areas of Ventura County and the cities of Camarillo, Fillmore, Moorpark, Ojai, Simi Valley and Thousand Oaks. AHA provides opportunities and assistance to people in need of affordable housing through development, acquisitions and partnerships.

[https://www.ahacv.org/who\\_we\\_are.shtml](https://www.ahacv.org/who_we_are.shtml)



**CITY OF SIMI VALLEY**

[WWW.SIMIVALLEY.ORG/HOMELESSSERVICES](http://WWW.SIMIVALLEY.ORG/HOMELESSSERVICES)

**TASK FORCE  
ON  
HOMELESSNESS**



**Government Resource  
Panel Discussion**

**November 14, 2019**

**Speaker: TARA CARRUTH, VC CoC Manager**

Ventura County Continuum of Care (VC CoC) Alliance is a collaborative group dedicated to promoting a safe, desirable and thriving community by ending homelessness in Ventura County.

<http://www.venturacoc.org>



The County of Ventura Health Care Agency consists of a wide variety of divisions and departments serving the community. Whole Person Care and Health Care for the Homeless fall within Ambulatory Care, while programs like RISE, ASSIST, Alcohol and Drug and Housing fall within Behavioral Health.

<http://www.vchca.org>

**Speakers: DEANNA HANDEL, Manager of Whole Person Care**  
**HEATHER TE, Behavior Health Clinician**

Whole Person Care is an integrated system to help Medi-Cal recipients with multiple needs to navigate the county's medical and social programs. It provides comprehensive health care for those facing barriers by providing resources, education and medical case management.

<http://www.vchca.org/agency-divisions/ambulatory-care>

**Speaker: JAMES BOYD, Program Assistant for Health Care to the Homeless**

Health Care for the Homeless Transition Clinic and One Stop Program provides health assessment, diagnosis, and treatment for homeless or transitionally homeless persons at various community sites throughout Ventura County. <http://www.vchca.org/health-care-for-the-homeless>

**Speaker: FELICIA SKAGGS, Clinic Administrator III over RISE/ASSIT**

RISE, a program through Behavioral Health, is a field-based outreach team that assists people experiencing mental health problems get treatment and provides ongoing support in navigating challenges to accessing care. ASSIST is an outpatient mental health treatment program through Ventura County Behavioral Health and is intended for adults who are suffering from serious mental illness but have difficulty engaging in traditional mental health treatment. <https://vcbh.org/en>

**Speaker: CRIS FORD, Clinic Administrator for Simi Valley Alcohol and Drug**

The Behavioral Health Alcohol and Drug program helps promote recovery from substance use and mental health disorders by providing assessments for treatment levels and can provide referrals for detox, residential and outpatient treatment. <http://www.vchca.org/locations/companies/36>

**Speaker: SUSAN WHITE WOOD, Behavioral Health Housing Manager**

Ventura County Behavioral Health helps co-develop and coordinate housing for those with mental illness and currently has over 230 units of housing in the county for its clients. It is the lead agency in the voter approved No Place Like Home initiative to build more housing for those with mental illness.

<https://vcbh.org/en/about-us/news-and-updates/no-place-like-home-housing-rfp-now-available>

## CITY OF SIMI VALLEY • MEMORANDUM

**DATE:** November 7, 2019

**TO:** Task Force on Homelessness

**FROM:** April Rosser, Management Analyst

**SUBJECT:** 2020 TASK FORCE ON HOMELESSNESS MEETING DATES

The Task Force provides policy recommendations to the City Council to assist in developing the community's response to homelessness. The Task Force is comprised of representatives from the City Council, regional and local services providers, and government agencies providing services to individuals experiencing and at risk of homelessness.

The Task Force meets quarterly and all meetings are open to the public. Please see the 2020 Task Force on Homelessness meeting dates listed below. Meeting locations will be specified on the individual meeting agendas at the time of distribution, which is approximately one week prior to the meeting date.

Thursday, February 13, 2020, 3:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.  
Thursday, May 14, 2020, 3:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.  
Thursday, August 13, 2020, 3:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.  
Thursday, November 12, 2020, 3:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.