



CITY OF SIMI VALLEY

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TASK FORCE ON HOMELESSNESS

Thursday, May 14, 2015, 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. Overview of the 2015 Homeless Persons Count Results
 - b. Status Update of the Homeless Encampment Abatement Program
 - c. Overview of the Interface Children & Family Services Youth Crisis Outreach Shelter
6. New Business
 - a. Discussion and recommendation of partnering with Ventura County 211 to replace the City's Directory of Social Services
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 13, 2015, 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 Keith Mashburn 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

A motion to approve the November 13, 2014, minutes as presented was made by Doug Tapking and seconded by Betty Eskey.

4. Public Statements/Comments

Nora Duran from Calfresh Ventura County stated that individuals can now apply at the County's One Stop Clinics for assistance. She provided handouts and applications.

5. Informational Presentations

a. Update and Overview of the City's Affordable Housing Program

Josefina Aguilar, Senior Planner provided an overview of the City's Affordable Housing Program. She explained the challenges of obtaining affordable housing are not unique to Simi Valley and is an immense challenge throughout the nation where the rental vacancy rates are low. According to statistics from the California Housing Partnership, there is a shortage of more than 956,000 affordable homes within the State. From 2000 to 2012 median rents have increased more than 20 percent and the median income has decreased by eight percent. Also, the foreclosure crisis increased the number of households who entered into the rental market. This in turn caused households to pay more than the standard 30-35 percent of their income towards housing costs.

The study also showed that all the counties in California do not have an adequate supply of affordable housing that is available for extremely low income households. For 2014, the Area Median Income (AMI) for a household of four was \$88,700 and extremely low income households earn 30 percent of the AMI. More recent fair market rents for a three bedroom rental are close to \$3,000 in some parts of Ventura County.

The City's Affordable Housing program has affordable agreements with apartment owners in Simi Valley that provide affordable units. These agreements had terms for up to 25 to 30 years and a large portion will expire within the next three years. Many of the affordable agreements are expiring because the owners of the complexes see the advantage gaining increased profits of the market rate rents. As a result, the City will be losing 360 low income apartment units from 2014 to 2018. However, an additional 434 affordable apartment units have been approved and are either under construction, unbuilt, or are in review. If all the projects get built there will be a net gain of 74 affordable housing units.

Ms. Aguilar explained the City's Affordable Housing Guides and additional information can be found by visiting www.simivalley.org/AffordableHousing.

b. Status Update of the Homeless Encampment Abatement Program

Simi Valley Police Commander Stephanie Shannon provided an update about the ongoing abatement of illegal homeless encampments within the City. The Community Liaison Officers continue to work with case managers from the Samaritan Center, Lutheran Social Services, and Ventura County Behavior Health to conduct street outreach with homeless individuals to connect them with appropriate social services they may need. Last week, 28 individuals were arrested from 20 different homeless encampments. Of the 28 individuals, 15 agreed to be interviewed by the Samaritan Center to engage into services. Additional funding is being sought to continue the encampment breakdowns and cleanup. When the encampments are removed it is likely there will be an increased visible presence of homeless individuals within the community. Officers and social workers will continue to communicate with them about the available services. Efforts have also been made to partner with neighboring law enforcement agencies to expand the encampment removals inside and outside the City limits.

6. New Business

a. Discussion of Improvement to the Directory of Social Services

Jennifer Santos, Management Analyst, explained that the Directory of Social Services has been a valuable resource for social services providers and City employees to connect citizens to important resources that are available within the community. The Directory has been available as a printed version and is online on the City's website. However, once the Directory has been updated and printed, provider information has changed and is no longer current. Staff recommended exploring different options to ensure there is access to the most current information. Concerns were expressed about the need to maintain handouts for citizens that offer needed resources. It was the consensus of the Task Force to form a sub-committee to review the Directory of Social Services and provide

recommendations at the May 14, 2015, meeting. The sub-committee members included Fred Bauermeister, Toni Freeland, Carol Schulkin, and Commander Stephanie Shannon.

7. Task Force Member Comments

Alexander Russell thanked the Task Force and City Council for including Many Mansions as a representative on the Task Force on Homelessness. Many Mansions celebrated the grand opening of the Peppertree Apartments that provides supportive housing for individuals and families that were chronically homeless.

Fred Bauermeister inquired about the status on the banner signs that the shopping centers are able to use to help reduce trespassing and panhandling, and encourage donating to local charities. Mark Oyler, Deputy Director/Citizen Services stated that the City's Planning Division staff implemented the program but receive little interest from shopping center owners. It was encouraged to provide more presentations to the community about discouraging panhandling and encouraging donating to charities that assist the homeless.

Carol Schulkin stated that Ventura County Human Services has received additional funding to assist families who are enrolled in CalWORKS. If families are enrolled with CalWORKS, assistance could include rental assistance to help achieve financial and housing stability.

June-Marie von Osinski reported that there is a continued need to have additional affordable senior housing within the community.

School District representative Bill Daniels introduced himself to the Task Force and stated that he is a detective with the Simi Valley Police Department and is interested in the reduction of homeless youth.

Ron Hyrchuk stated that the Simi Valley Hospital now has social workers available in the evenings to work with clients in the emergency room.

Betty Eskey stated that 47 volunteers signed-up with the Samaritan Center to assist in the 2015 Homeless Count. Both the Samaritan Center and the Salvation Army had many involved volunteers to assist with the Count demonstrating that more residents want to get involved each year. The Ventura County 2015 Homeless Count and Subpopulation Survey is expected to be released in April.

Ms. Eskey met with staff from the Planning and Community Services Divisions to discuss additional housing options for the Samaritan Center's clients to transfer them into stabilized housing. A property owner who owns multiple properties offered to rent out their single family residences to the Center at market rate. However, the Simi Valley Municipal Code allows no more than two rental agreements. Another option presented was to pursue group home programs that have six or fewer clients. However, the application process through the State

would take more time. Other alternatives are needed to provide stabilized housing for homeless individuals.

Amanda Brian of Lutheran Social Services stated that since July, 47 homeless individuals have been contacted. Of the individuals who agreed to go into case management, three registered to enter into sober living programs, three individuals immediately found housing, and eight were later housed.

8. Task Force Coordinator's Report

Jennifer Santos announced that Chrissy Bowden's term will be expiring on February 27, 2015, and recruitment has commenced for a representative who has experienced homelessness. The new term will begin March 1, 2015, and end February 28, 2017.

She announced that the City has \$150,000 available to fund community projects and programs that will be completed between July 2015 and June 2016. The grant is made available through an agreement between the City and Waste Management to fund community projects and programs that benefit Simi Valley. Local 501(c)(3) non-profit organizations serving Simi Valley are encouraged to apply for grant funding. Grants range from \$25,000 to \$150,000 to support new or ongoing programs and/or capital projects. Interested applicants are encouraged to visit www.simivalley.org/ProjectsGrant to sign up through the e-notification program to receive further application and workshop information. Applications are due March 31, 2015.

9. Adjournment: Thursday, May 14, 2015, 3:30 p.m.

Organization	Representative	Attendance P = Present; A = Absent
Area Housing Authority	Doug Tapking	P
Chamber of Commerce	John Tolson	A
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	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	Amanda Brian	P
Many Mansions	Alex Russell	P
Neighborhood Council # 1	Don Diamond	P
Neighborhood Council # 2	Peter Carrube	A
Neighborhood Council # 3	Devin Brady	P
Neighborhood Council # 4	David Kennedy	P
PADS	Reneé Frumkin	P
Rancho Simi Recreation and Park District	Theresa Pennington	P
Representative who has Experienced Homelessness	Chrissy Bowden	P
Rotary Club of Simi Valley	Joe Lansden	A
Salvation Army	Mary Flandez	P
Samaritan Center	Betty Eskey	P
Simi Valley Hospital	Ron Hyrchuk	P
Simi Valley Police Department	Stephanie Shannon	P
Simi Valley Unified School District	Bill Daniels	P
State Senator or Assemblyman	Marie Lakin	P
Youth Council	Nick Steinwender	P

CITY OF SIMI VALLEY • MEMORANDUM

DATE: May 7, 2015

TO: Task Force on Homelessness

FROM: Jennifer Santos, Task Force on Homelessness Coordinator

SUBJECT: DISCUSSION OF THE CITY'S DIRECTORY OF SOCIAL SERVICES

At the February 12, 2015 Task Force on Homelessness meeting it was the consensus of the Board to form a sub-committee to discuss alternative options to update the City's Directory of Social Services. The sub-committee members included Fred Bauermeister, Toni Freeland, Carol Schulkin, and Stephanie Shannon. They met with Sommer Barwick, Mark Oyler, Emily Habib, and Jennifer Santos on March 16, 2015 to discuss options of updating the Directory. One of the options discussed included the creation of an interactive directory similar to the City of Thousand Oaks' Conejo Connections. However, the time and staffing to implement and maintain an interactive directory would require additional resources that are not available at this time. The other option discussed was to meet with Ventura County 2-1-1 staff to consider strengthening the City's partnership with them since there is an existing countywide database to refer citizens to needed services.

Ventura County 2-1-1 provides citizens with information about available resources such as, food, clothing, shelter, physical and mental health resources, domestic violence services, substance abuse services, employment support, rent and utility assistance, senior services, services for persons with disabilities, support for children, youth and families, legal assistance and more. They maintain a comprehensive database to provide the most current health and human services available in Ventura County. Since Ventura County 2-1-1 provides these services, the sub-committee recommended that City staff meet with 2-1-1 staff to discuss partnering options.

On April 20, 2015 Sommer Barwick, Mark Oyler, and Jennifer Santos met with Tanya Kellam, 2-1-1 Director and Catherine Kort, Fund Development Director at Interface Children & Family Services. A tour of 2-1-1's call center was provided followed by an overview of the program. Ventura County 2-1-1 has a large number of Call Specialists that operate the call center and receive extensive training to ensure citizens are connected to needed services.

City staff discussed options of ensuring the agencies and organizations that are listed in the City's Directory will be included in the 2-1-1 database. Discussion also included ways to further educate the community about 2-1-1 and the available services. Such topics included presentations to the community organizations, announcements on the City's SVTV, the City's website, and inserting poster signs at Transit's bus stop shelters.

Therefore, the sub-committee is recommending that the City strengthen its partnership with Ventura County 2-1-1 to replace the Directory of Social Services. Staff will also maintain and improve the availability of brochures that benefit the community on the most common inquiries such as, homeless referral cards, homeless prevention services, healthcare, affordable housing information, landlord tenant information, and legal services.