



**TASK FORCE ON HOMELESSNESS
SPECIAL MEETING DATE**

Thursday, March 16, 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. 2017 Ventura County Homeless Count and Survey Update
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, May 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 Task Force on Homelessness Coordinator 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

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: March 2, 2017

TO: Task Force on Homelessness

FROM: Sommer Barwick, Director of Community Services

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

Background and Overview

The Task Force on Homelessness (Task Force) was created on January 25, 1999, by the City Council to address the issue of homelessness in Simi Valley. Since its original formation, the Task Force has grown from 19 to 31 representatives, and is currently comprised of public agencies, non-profit service groups, and community members. Table 1, attached on page four, details the current Task Force membership. The Task Force provides a forum to discuss and make recommendations on policy issues related to homelessness. Over the years as the Task Force membership has grown, and the focus of its quarterly meetings has included presentations on methods and best practices to prevent and reduce homelessness.

At the November 10, 2016, Task Force meeting, a request was made to evaluate the current structure of the Task Force with recommendations from the Simi Valley Alliance to House the Homeless (Alliance) to ensure that it continues to provide the best framework for the City Council to be responsive in the changing policy environment. Following that meeting, the Alliance and staff from the Police and Community Services Departments met to discuss the overall structure and role of the Task Force. The Alliance and staff have developed the following recommendations for consideration by the Task Force with the goal of enhancing the ability to address the issue of homelessness.

Discussion Recommendations

In order to enhance the effectiveness of the Task Force, it is recommended that the Task Force be restructured based upon objective into the Task Force, Alliance to House the Homeless, Case Manager Collaboration, and Community Input. These targeted groups would continue to address the broad scope of homelessness through discussions and the sharing of resources, which has previously been handled at the Task Force meetings. The proposed structure will allow for progressive discussions at an ad hoc level that would be forwarded to the Task Force to develop policy recommendations to the City Council. By not being a part of the formal Task Force, these ad hoc groups would have greater flexibility to further their missions outside of Brown Act public meetings. Under the new structure, current Task Force

representatives would be engaged in an environment tailored to solicit input on their area of expertise while allowing multiple perspectives on the issue of homelessness to be gathered and presented to the City Council for consideration. It is recognized that some agencies will have different representatives in multiple groups.

Therefore, it is recommended to separate the current structure of the Task Force into four groups, shown in Tables 2, 3, 4, and 5, attached on pages two and six. These groups would consist of the Task Force, Alliance, Case Managers Collaboration, and Community Input. The structure of each is discussed further below.

Task Force on Homelessness

The Alliance expressed the importance that the Task Force be focused on policy items and communitywide impacts, and therefore be comprised of decision-makers of policy making agencies. It was emphasized that the representatives of those agencies need to have authority to influence or set individual agency policy. Although this will result in a decrease in the number of Task Force seats from 31 to 13 as detailed in Table 2, public comment will still be encouraged and additional communication vehicles will be utilized to ensure that all prior groups represented have the opportunity to participate in discussions, in addition to providing for broader community engagement. Additionally, the Alliance would designate three representatives to attend Task Force meetings to ensure that service providers continue to have participation in the local policy formation. Community groups previously represented on the Task Force will have the opportunity to provide input on issues through various City Boards and Commissions, which will strengthen the input from the entire community on the issue of homelessness and provide a balanced perspective.

This approach of progressive discussion is comparable with other regional efforts of addressing homelessness issues. It is believed that this revised structure will enhance participation throughout the community, while allowing the Task Force to remain focused on policy development, regional and local collaboration, and agency resource allocation on a community-wide level. It is anticipated that the Task Force will need to regularly meet semi-annually under this new structure, and that additional meetings would be scheduled as needed.

Alliance to House the Homeless

The Alliance to House the Homeless has been meeting since 2007 and currently consists of local and regional service providers, faith community, and City staff, including the Samaritan Center, Ventura County Behavioral Health, Simi Valley Unified School District, and the Free Clinic of Simi Valley, as detailed on Table 3. The Alliance membership is flexible to allow for participation of any and all service providers serving Simi Valley at a given time. The Alliance has regularly met to address homelessness on an individual case level, share resources, and identify gaps in services over the years. The Alliance also has provided recommendations for Task Force discussion. The Alliance recommended continuing to meet quarterly to identify gaps in services and to

receive informational presentations to assist service providers in keeping informed of new or existing resources available in Simi Valley. However, it also recommended that case management be handled separately. Additionally, the Alliance recommended that it continue to have representation on the Task Force to ensure dialogue between policy and service provider agencies. Under the current proposed structure, the Alliance would send three representatives to the Task Force. The representatives would be selected by the Alliance and may change depending on the Task Force agenda and issues at hand.

Case Manager Collaboration

As mentioned above, the Alliance recommended separating case management from resource sharing, service gap identification, and provider coordination that occurs at the Alliance. This would allow for in-depth discussion and assessment of individual cases on a monthly basis to break down barriers for individuals and maintain confidentiality. The Case Manager Collaboration, similar to the Alliance, may change membership based upon current needs and available providers at a given time. The Collaboration would consist of those individuals directly working with clients. The case management discussions would be focused on individuals, not on policy or overall approaches to the issue of homelessness. A sample of participating agencies is detailed in Table 4.

Community Input

The Alliance also stressed that general community input is valuable and instrumental to the formation of policy and in addressing the issue of homelessness. In addition to public comments at Task Force meetings, the City will continue to engage the Neighborhood Councils, Council On Aging, and Youth Council, as needed, to solicit community-wide input. This would broaden the reach of the discussions by including a broader representation of the entire community and assisting in providing a balanced community-wide perspective to the issue of homelessness. Soliciting input from a broad cross section of the community will also assist to maintain input from service clubs, the faith community, and other community groups vested in the overall health of the community as illustrated in Table 5.

Requested Task Force Action

In order to enhance the Task Force's ability to assist the City Council in addressing the issue of homelessness within the current climate, the Task Force is requested to discuss and provide recommendations on the overall structure of the Task Force as discussed above.

**Table 1
Current Task Force Membership**

Representing Agency	Category	Proposed Group
Area Housing Authority	Policy Agency	Task Force/Alliance
Chamber of Commerce	Policy Agency	Task Force
City Council (2)	Policy Agency	Task Force
Council On Aging	Advisory Board	Community Input
County of Ventura Behavioral Health Department	Department of Policy Agency	Consolidate with Policy Agency Representative /Alliance/Case Manager
County of Ventura Homeless Services	Department of Policy Agency	Consolidate with Policy Agency Representative /Alliance/Case Manager
County of Ventura Human Services Agency	Policy Agency	Task Force
County of Ventura Public Health Department	Department of Policy Agency	Consolidate with Policy Agency Representative /Alliance/Case Manager
County of Ventura Supervisor Peter Foy's Office	Policy Agency	Task Force
Dinner Site	Service Provider	Case Manager
Faith Community (2)	Service Provider	Alliance, Community Input
Free Clinic of Simi Valley	Service Provider	Alliance/Case Manager
Lutheran Social Services	Service Provider	Alliance/Case Manager
Many Mansions	Service Provider	Alliance/Case Manager
Neighborhood Councils (4)	Advisory Board	Community Input
PADS	Service Provider	Case Manager
Rancho Simi Recreation and Park District	Policy Agency	Task Force/Alliance/Case Manager
Representative who has Experienced Homelessness	Community Input	Community Input Upon Invite to Task Force, Alliance
Rotary Club of Simi Valley	Service Club	Community Input
Salvation Army	Service Provider	Alliance/Case Manager
Samaritan Center	Service Provider	Alliance/Case Manager
Simi Valley Hospital	Service Provider	Alliance/Case Manager
Simi Valley Police Department	City Staff	Task Force/Alliance/Case Manager
Simi Valley Unified School District	Policy Agency	Task Force/Alliance/Case Manager
State Senator or Assembly member	Policy Agency	Task Force
Youth Council	Advisory Board	Community Input

**Table 2
Proposed Task Force Membership**

Representing Agency	Type of Member	Number of Seats
County of Ventura Health Agency	Voting – New Consolidated Position	1
Area Housing Authority	Voting - Existing	1
Chamber of Commerce	Voting - Existing	1
City Council	Voting - Existing	2
County of Ventura Human Services Agency	Voting – New Consolidated Position	1
County of Ventura Supervisor Peter Foy's Office	Voting - Existing	1
State Senator or Assemblyman	Voting - Existing	1
Rancho Simi Recreation and Park District	Voting - Existing	1
Simi Valley Unified School District	Voting - Existing	1
Alliance to House the Homeless	Voting – New Consolidated Position	3
Representative who has Experienced Homelessness	Community Input	Upon Invite – Does not count toward Task Force Membership/ Quorum
Task Force Staff Support		
City Police Department		
City Community Services Department		
City Environmental Services Department/Housing and CDBG		
City Manager's Office		

Table 3
Proposed Alliance to House the Homelessness Organizations
Faith Community
Free Clinic of Simi Valley
Lutheran Social Services
Many Mansions
Salvation Army
Samaritan Center
Simi Valley Hospital
Rancho Simi Recreation and Park District
Simi Valley Police Department
Simi Valley Unified School District
Representative who has Experienced Homelessness
St. Vincent de Paul
Interface Children and Family Services
Cabrillo Economic Development
Area Housing Authority of Ventura County
Ventura County Behavioral Health
Ventura County Public Health
Ventura County Human Services – Homeless Services
Table 4
Proposed Case Manager Collaboration Organizations
Representing Agencies
Free Clinic of Simi Valley
Lutheran Social Services
Many Mansions
Salvation Army
Samaritan Center
Simi Valley Hospital
Dinner Site
PADS
Rancho Simi Recreation and Park District
Simi Valley Police Department
Simi Valley Unified School District
Ventura County Behavioral Health
Ventura County Public Health
Ventura County Human Services – Homeless Services
Table 5
Proposed Community Input Organizations
Council On Aging
Neighborhood Councils
Rotary Club of Simi Valley
Youth Council
Representative Who Has Experienced Homelessness