



SPECIAL MEETING

Commission on Homelessness

Monday, December 7, 2015, 1:30 p.m.- 4:30 p.m.

Oxnard City Council Chambers, 305 West Third Street, Oxnard CA 93030

1. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

2. **PUBLIC COMMENT.** A person may address the Commission only on matters on the Special Meeting agenda. The presiding officer shall limit public comments to three (3) minutes per speaker. Public Comments will be heard during the Commission consideration of the item on the agenda.

3. INFORMATION/CONSENT ITEMS

SUBJECT: Minutes of Regular Meeting of November 2, 2015

RECOMMENDATION: Approve minutes of meeting of November 2, 2015.

4. REPORTS FROM CITY STAFF

SUBJECT: Report on Winter Warming Shelter

5. STUDY SESSION

SUBJECT: Long-Range Strategies to Address Homelessness

RECOMMENDATION: That the Commission conduct a Study Session and receive public comment on long-range strategies to address homelessness, including specifically the Ten-Year Plan to End Homelessness, the County Continuum of Care process, and the role of the City, the Commission, and other entities in efforts to address homelessness.

6. NEW BUSINESS

SUBJECT: Policy Recommendations

RECOMMENDATION: That the Commission discuss and formulate recommendations for policies and actions to address homelessness; and authorize and direct the Chair to present the Commission's recommendations to the Homeless Committee and City Council.

7. ANNOUNCEMENTS OF UPCOMING EVENTS

8. ADJOURNMENT

In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act and City of Oxnard policy, if you need special assistance to participate in a meeting, please call 385-8095 (TDD 487-2850). Notification 72 hours prior to the meeting will assist the City in making reasonable arrangements to ensure meeting accessibility.

NOTE: The Commission Meeting must adjourn by 4:30 p.m. due to a meeting in the Council Chambers of another body which is scheduled to begin at 5:00 p.m.

**City of Oxnard
Commission on Homelessness
DRAFT Minutes of the Regular Meeting of
November 2, 2015**

On Monday, November 2, 2015, at 4:07 p.m. the Regular Meeting of the Commission on Homelessness convened in the Oxnard City Council Chambers, 305 West Third Street, Oxnard, CA 93030. The following Commissioners were in attendance: Chair Peggy Rivera; and Commissioners Sue Brinkmeyer, Francisco Jaena, Lucy C. Martinez, and Darlene Miller Gonzalez. Vice-Chair Flores and Commissioner Castanon were absent with excuse. City of Oxnard staff members present were Oxnard Police Officer Jacob Jundef, and Karl Lawson, interim Homeless Services Program Manager, Oxnard Housing Department, who acted as Executive Secretary.

1. ROLL CALL

Roll was called and a quorum was deemed present.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Tim Hockett, Executive Director of Community Action of Ventura County, addressed the Commission requesting an update on the Winter Warming Shelter. He also urged the Commission to issue a weekly update on the status of the WWS, and to request Council action on Community Action's request for a General Plan amendment that would allow for the establishment of a year-round homeless shelter at 621 Richmond Ave. Mr. Lawson indicated that a report on the WWS would be provided later in the meeting; and further, that the agenda included a recommendation by a sub-committee requesting a mechanism for the Commission to have website access.

Ms. Eileen Tracy, complimented the City staff on the recently-adopted CAPER, and distributed an excerpt from the report (included as Attachment No. 1 to these minutes). Ms. Tracy addressed several items on the report.

3. INFORMATION/CONSENT ITEMS

Commissioner Jaena moved, and Commissioner Miller-Gonzalez seconded, approval of the minutes of the October 5, 2015 meeting. The motion passed with affirmative votes and two abstentions (Chair Rivera and Commissioner Brinkmeyer).

4. REPORTS FROM CITY STAFF

- (A) Winter Warming Shelter: Mr. Lawson provided an update on the efforts to organize a Winter Warming Shelter. Mr. Lawson reported that last Tuesday evening, the Oxnard City Council had authorized \$40,000 in funding from the Housing Department's reserve fund to be pooled with funding from the County of Ventura, the City of Ventura, and the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, for the operation of a shelter beginning December 1st at the Ventura National Guard Armory. He further reported that the following morning, the State of California Military Department reversed its position, and informed the City that the Ventura Armory would not be available. On Friday, October 30, the state Military Department advised that the Oxnard Armory would be made available.

A lengthy discussion ensued, during which staff responded to numerous questions from Commissioners. Chair Rivera opened the floor for public comments. Mr. Hockett recommended that the Commission consider submitting a request to the state via the offices of State Senator Hannah-Beth Jackson, seeking permission to allow use of the Armory during the daylight hours, instead of having to require the homeless persons to depart at 6:00 a.m. every day. Mr. Abel Magaña, Director of the Downtown Oxnard Business association, expressed his view that the change in location from Ventura to Oxnard was made without any opportunity for public input. Mr. Magaña cited a number of concerns that downtown business owners had expressed to him about the consequences of having the shelter close to the downtown once again. He invited the Commission to send a representative to a meeting of the Board of Directors of his organization, to take place on November 19, 2015, at 8:30 a.m. at Heritage Square.

Ms. Tracy addressed the commission again. She reported on a meeting she had attended of the Homeless Subcommittee of the Ventura City Council, at which numerous members of the faith community were present, regarding that City's efforts to expand housing opportunities for extremely low-income persons.

Ms. Karol Schulkin of the County of Ventura Human Services Agency addressed the Commission about the hours of operation of the armory. She indicated that a request to extend the hours had been communicated. Ms. Schulkin also stated that there was a 25-year history of night-time only shelters in this community, and while not ideal, the issues presented are not new. She noted that a truly desirable way to address the need is to expand the supply of SRO units.

- (B) **Section 8 Vouchers:** Mr. Lawson indicated that no representatives from the Oxnard Housing Authority were able to attend the meeting to provide an update on the implementation of the 15 dedicated vouchers for homeless persons.

5. NEW BUSINESS

- (A) **Subject: Meeting Time for Regular Commission Meetings.** Commissioner Brinkmeyer moved, and Chair Rivera seconded, that the Commission change its regular meeting time to 3:00 p.m. Following discussion, the motion carried unanimously.
- (B) **Subject: Web Access.** Commissioner Brinkmeyer moved that the Commission authorize and direct the Chair to write a letter to the City Council requesting that the Commission be provided with access to provide information on the City's website, and/or that funding be appropriated to fund Commission access to a different website, for the purpose of providing updates on Commission activities and other matters related to issues of homelessness. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Miller-Gonzalez. The motion carried unanimously.
- (C) **Subject: Proposal from Subcommittee on Coordinated Services.** Mr. Lawson distributed a document which had been previously requested by the Commission (Attachment No. 2 to these minutes) detailing the 2013 action of the City of Ventura's Homeless Task Force on the matter of the 10-year plan to end homelessness. Commissioner Brinkmeyer presented a recommendation from the Subcommittee that the Commission conduct a special session for the express purpose of discussing the 10-year plan and the long-range strategy of the City with respect to homelessness. The motion was clarified to include an invitation to the County's Continuum of Care staff to provide an updated presentation on the 10-year plan and on best practices.

Commissioner Miller-Gonzalez seconded the motion and discussion ensued. The motion passed unanimously, with the study session to be scheduled for Monday, December 7, 2015, at 1:30 p.m.

Commissioner Martinez addressed the matter of panhandling. Mr. Lawson distributed a copy of the two sections of the Oxnard City Code related to panhandling (Attachment No. 3 to these minutes). The Commission agreed that the December 7th study session could include discussion of Commission recommendations on the issue of panhandling as it relates to homelessness. The Commission requested a status report from the Office of the City Attorney regarding any proposed amendments to the City Code related to panhandling.

(D) **Subject: Fiscal Year 2016-17 Funding Cycle.** Mr. Lawson reported that the tentative schedule calls for the City to provide notice in December to the public of the availability of funding, and the opportunity to apply for funding, under the Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) and Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) programs. Commissioner Brinkmeyer moved that the Commission recommend that the City specifically solicit proposals for operation of a year-round shelter (or bridge housing), for permanent supportive housing, including rehab and re-purposing, and for expansion of extremely low-income housing opportunities. Chair Rivera seconded the motion, and the Commissioners discussed the motion. Ms. Tracy addressed the Commission on the matter, urging the City to utilize city-owned property at First and Hayes, and elsewhere, for the development of needed extremely-low income housing. The motion carried unanimously.

(E) **Subject: Upcoming events.** In addition to the November 19th meeting at Heritage Square, the Commission noted that the Inter-faith Thanksgiving Celebration would take place on Saturday, November 21, at 6:30 p.m. at All Saints Episcopal Church in Oxnard.

6. SUB-COMMITTEE REPORTS

Chair Rivera requested the consent of the Commission to take items out of order, and with said consent, moved to Item 6: Sub-Committee Reports.

(A). **Sub-Committee on Housing and Sheltering:** Commissioners Jaena and Miller-Gonzalez reported that Commissioner Castanon would be presenting the report at a later time.

(B). **Sub-Committee on Coordinated Services:** Commissioner Brinkmeyer distributed a report of the Subcommittee's meetings of August 5 and August 27, 2015 (Attachment No. 4 to these minutes). She asked that consideration of the Subcommittee's recommendations be presented to the full Commission to be ranked and adopted by the full Commission at the December 7, 2015, Special Meeting.

(C). **Sub-Committee on Community Outreach and Communications:** There was no report due to the absence of Vice-Chair Flores. A copy of that Subcommittee's prior written report will be included as Attachment No. 4 to these minutes. Ms. Schulkin advised the Commission that the County of Ventura was planning to remove the homeless encampments from the Santa Clara river bottom on December 4, 2015, in order to ensure the safety of individuals currently residing in areas which are in danger of being subject to flooding with the predicted arrival of the upcoming El Niño weather system.

7. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Chair Rivera declared the meeting adjourned at 5:54 p.m.

(Draft Minutes prepared by Karl Lawson)

CR-20 - Affordable Housing 91.520(b)

Evaluation of the jurisdiction's progress in providing affordable housing, including the number and types of families served, the number of extremely low-income, low-income, moderate-income, and middle-income persons served.

	One-Year Goal	Actual
Number of homeless households to be provided affordable housing units	25	16
Number of non-homeless households to be provided affordable housing units	2,314	3,571
Number of special-needs households to be provided affordable housing units (veterans, people with HIV/AIDS, homeless people)	150	710
Total	2,489	4,297

Table 6 – Number of Households

	One-Year Goal	Actual
Number of households supported through Rental Assistance	2,464	2280
Number of households supported through The Production of New Units	0	31
Number of households supported through Rehab of Existing Units	0	12
Number of households supported through Acquisition of Existing Units	25	13
Total	2,489	2,330

Table 7 – Number of Households Supported

Discuss the difference between goals and outcomes and problems encountered in meeting these goals.

During FY 2014-15, 39 families were assisted with CDBG (16 families) and HOME (23 families) funds. Six families purchased units in the Vista Urbana Housing Development and those families are accounted for in the totals for CDBG and HOME.

Discuss how these outcomes will impact future annual action plans.

No future impact is currently foreseen.

CR-15 - Resources and Investments 91.520(a)

Resources made available

Source of Funds	Source	Resources Made Available	Amount Expended During Program Year
CDBG	Federal –Entitlement & program Income	4,863,486	2,791,985
HOME	Federal –Entitlement & program Income	1,472,108	708,762
ESG	Federal –Entitlement	248,217	227,358

Table 3 - Resources Made Available

Narrative

During the reporting year, CDBG, HOME and ESG grants had total available resources, and expenditures detailed as follows:

	CDBG	HOME	ESG
Balance available July 1, 2014	\$ 2,606,422.07	\$ 598,655.86	\$ 70,647.23
2014 Entitlement	\$ 2,145,231.00	\$ 638,502.00	\$ 177,570.00
Program Income	\$ 111,833.00	\$ 234,950.43	\$ -
Total Resources Available	\$ 4,863,486.07	\$ 1,472,108.29	\$ 248,217.23
Expenditures	\$ 2,791,985.00	\$ 708,762.00	\$ 227,357.70
Total Available July 1, 2015	\$ 2,071,502.00	\$ 763,347.00	\$ 20,859.53

Under the CDBG Program, the City received \$2,145,231 as the 2014 allocation from HUD and realized \$111,833 in program income receipts during the PY 2014-15. The detailed expenditures for the CDBG grant are grouped as follows:

- Administration/Planning \$404,034
- Public Services \$316,158
- Direct Benefits \$2,071,793
- Total Expenditures \$2,791,985

Please refer to IDIS PR -26 Report for the details of the expenditures per project and per category.

Under the HOME Program, the City received \$638,502 as PY 2014 HUD allocation and realized \$234,950.43 in program income for a total of \$873,452. HOME expenditures are grouped as follows: (1) Program Administration \$79,197; (2) First-time Homebuyer Program \$435,744; and, (3) Owner Occupied Rehabilitation Program \$193,821.

Goal	Category	Source / Amount	Indicator	Unit of Measure	Expected Program Year	Actual Program Year
Code Enforcement Effort	code enforcement	CDBG: \$ 200,000	Housing Code Enforcement/Foreclosed Property Care	Household Housing Unit	700	6916
Help Achieve Homeownership	Affordable Housing	CDBG: \$ 390,000 HOME: \$	Homeowner Housing Added	Household Housing Unit	25	26
Help Achieve Homeownership	Affordable Housing	CDBG: \$400,000 HOME: \$300,000	Direct Financial Assistance to Homebuyers	Households Assisted	0	27
Help Achieve Housing Preservation	Affordable Housing	CDBG: \$0 HOME: \$236,369	Homeowner Housing Rehabilitated	Household Housing Unit	0	13
Infrastructure and Public Facilities	Non-Housing Community Development	CDBG: \$ 577,886	Public Facility or Infrastructure Activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit	Persons Assisted	4515	9575
New Affordable Rental Housing Units	Affordable Housing	HOME: \$ 384,900	Rental units constructed	Household Housing Unit	42	0
Planning and Administration	Planning and administrative costs	CDBG: \$439,046 HOME: \$68,608 ESG: \$28,318	Other	Other	NA	NA
Public Services	Homeless Non-Homeless Special Needs	CDBG: \$289,000	Public service activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit	Persons Assisted	4190	3155
Public Services	Homeless Non-Homeless Special Needs	CDBG: \$59,299	Public service activities for Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit	Households Assisted	27910	27910
Reduce homelessness	Homeless	ESG: \$22,637	Tenant-based rental assistance / Rapid Rehousing	Households Assisted	13	61
Reduce homelessness	Homeless	ESG: \$46,540	Homeless Person Overnight Shelter	Persons Assisted	908	862
Reduce homelessness	Homeless	ESG: \$20,075	Homelessness Prevention	Persons Assisted	33	65
Reduce homelessness	Homeless	ESG: \$60,000	Other	Other	650	148

Table 1 - Accomplishments – Program Year & Strategic Plan to Date

Recommendations of the Ventura Social Services Task Force on the revised County of Ventura 10-Year Plan to End Homelessness

At its regular meeting on Wednesday, June 5, 2013, the Ventura Social Services Task Force voted to ask the Ventura City Council and its Committee on Homelessness to endorse the revision to the 10-Year Strategy to End Homelessness and to give priority to the recommendations therein as follows:

Recommendation #9 (48 votes): Permanent Very Low Income Housing: Develop 300 additional units of permanent affordable housing for extremely low and very low-income families and individuals during the next five (5) years of implementation of plan.

Recommendation #7 (31 votes): Shelters: Create small local short-term year-round shelters which are intended to be short-term harbors while permanent housing solutions are sought.

Recommendation #1 (25 votes): Housing First Model: Adopt and implement a Housing First Model when access to permanent supportive housing (i.e., Supportive Housing Program, Shelter+Care, HUD BASH Voucher, Section 8 Voucher) or permanent affordable housing is readily available and the appropriate level of services and supervision can be provided for episodic homeless households who are housing-ready as well as for chronic homeless households that may not be traditionally viewed as "housing-ready."

Recommendation #12 (18 votes): Homeless Prevention Resources and Services.

- Increase homeless prevention resources and services that will help more households remain in their housing by alleviating the problems that place them at risk of becoming homeless and that such assistance is more effective and efficiently delivered to households within the stability of their own housing;
- Increase financial resources for rental and utility assistance to households that are most likely to become homeless if not for this assistance.

Recommendation #18 (14 votes): Business Community Involvement:

- Increase the number of business organizations and individual business leaders that actively become involved in the implementation of the recommendations of the 10-Year Plan.
- Identify employment opportunities for homeless and formerly homeless persons who have successfully obtained housing;
- Provide on-the-job-training (OJT) and entry level job opportunities;
- Create partnerships between homeless prevention service providers and business community to ensure that the community's workforce is aware of homelessness prevention resources and services; and
- Support local homeless service providers and the homeless persons that they serve through the donation of funds or the provision of in-kind services.

Recommendation #4 (13 votes): Permanent Supportive Housing Beds: Develop at least 100 more permanent supportive housing beds during the next five (5) years of the implementation of the plan to serve the chronically homeless population. These beds will serve homeless individuals and families with mental disabilities, chronic substance abuse, and/or infected with HIV/AIDS with long-term affordable rental housing and a broad range of on-site and/or off-site supportive services.

Summary of Discussion:

It was pointed out multiple times during the meeting that the solution to homelessness is housing and that the City can have great impact on the availability of housing for extremely low-income and low-income families through its policies, procedures, and distribution of resources. The City can also adopt programs and procedures that encourage the business community to become more fully involved in ending homelessness within the City.

Respectfully submitted,

Sue Brinkmeyer
Chair, Ventura Social Services Task Force

EXCERPT FROM OXNARD CITY CODE
CHAPTER 7: NUISANCES

SEC. 7-133. BEGGING PROHIBITED.

No person shall, in any place of business where food or drink is sold and consumed, beg, solicit or importune any patron or customer of or visitor in such establishment to purchase any article of food or drink for the one begging, soliciting or importuning, or for any frequenter, habitue, vagrant or idle person in or about such place.

(64 Code, Sec. 20-13) (Ord. No. 2452)

SEC. 7-134. PROPRIETOR RESPONSIBLE.

No person who owns, manages or otherwise controls any business where food or drink is sold and consumed shall permit or allow another person to beg, solicit or importune patrons, customers or visitors thereof in the manner and for the purposes specified in section 7-133.

(64 Code, Sec. 20-14) (Ord. No. 2452)

Combined notes from August 5, 2015 and August 27, 2015 meetings of Coordinated Services Ad-Hoc Subcommittee of the Oxnard Commission on Homelessness

1. MSC approval minutes of 7/15/15
2. Sue reported on meeting with Kate Mills regarding service needs. The committee discussed Kate's observations and concurred that the following recommendations should be brought forward to the Commission for action:
 - a. Fund a full-time coordinator for homeless services in next budget cycle, or sooner if possible - Ad Hoc Committee to propose revised job description
 - b. Establish an Ad-Hoc subcommittee to propose priorities as to types of proposals sought for CDBG, ESG and HOME grants before the next RPP's are issued
 - c. Expand services available at public housing communities like Colonia to include case management and homelessness prevention services
 - d. Support a community garden that could provide training and employment
 - e. Expand paid apprenticeship programs through unions
 - f. Recognize employers who offer paid apprenticeship or internship programs
 - g. Ask police to donate confiscated bicycles so they can be repaired and provided to individuals who need bicycles to get to work or to appointments; ask VC Cool or Community Action to help with any necessary refurbishing
 - h. Seek sponsors for monthly bus passes case managers can distribute
 - i. Seek funding for motel vouchers for case managers to have available
 - j. Establish a Safe Sleep program for those who need to sleep in their cars or RV
 - k. Implement the Homeless Prevention Fund established at Community Action - send a letter to faith groups asking for support for shelter, for advocacy, and for homelessness prevention
 - l. Use HMIS funds to help services providers pay fees and use HMIS effectively
 - m. Ask Commissioners who can to attend, perhaps on a rotating basis, Behavioral Health Advisory Committee meetings and, as permitted, Service Provider meetings and seek ways to work more closely with Behavioral Health
 - n. Print foldout cards for Homeless Services Referral ---City Corps will print for free.
 - o. Establish an advocacy group that will show up at City Council or Planning Commission meetings to support affordable housing projects -- go through churches and organizations like House Farm Workers, CAUSE, VC CLUE to call on their members to attend
 - p. Establish a team that will help people apply for disability and appeal denials - behavior health will train through program called SOAR
3. Peggy reported on services provided by houses of worship:
 - a. St. Anthony's, 2511 So. C Street, 805-486-7302. President of Conference is Vincent Inez. Provide rental assistance to those residing in the boundaries of the church; fundal fund for all, pantry Tuesday and Friday 9:30-11:45; McIntire fund for parishioners only. Meeting time: Tuesday & Friday 9:30-10 am
 - b. Santa Clara Parish, 323 S. E. Street, 805-487-3891. Pastor Marco Ortiz. St Vincent de Paul President: Sal Gonzales (805) 407-1047; Services: Pantry Sundays only.
 - c. New Life 1251 N Rice Ave, Oxnard, CA 93030 (805) 983-1890. Does street outreach. Provides homeless prevention by application -- see Pastor Ray

- d. Calvary Chapel, 1925 Eastman Ave, Oxnard, CA 93030, (805) 485-0111- Pastor Sid Ward. Does homeless prevention; no pantry.
- e. Victory Life, 2041 Cabot Pl, Oxnard, CA 93030, (805) 604-7777, does gang intervention and street outreach.
- f. Episcopal Church, 144 South C Street, Oxnard, CA 93030, 805-483-2347 - does pantry and meals.
- g. Doug Stanton reports that there are no churches in the SB2/shelter approved zone in Oxnard
4. Peggy reported on Homeless Court
 - a. Meets last Friday of month at 11 at rotating locations: Salvation Army Ventura, Community Action Oxnard, Samaritan Center Simi. They do not meet on holidays.
 - b. Paralegals (805) 654-2201 Matt Benites
 - c. D A Office - Daniel Barns
 - d. Deals with infractions and limited fines only
 - e. DA's office prints out case and assigns numbers of hours of community service. Once turn in hours can be put on next available calendar for court.
 - f. Removes offense from record
 - g. Governor signed new bill taking effect 10/1/15 for tickets issued before 1/1/2013, ticket fines can be reduced
5. Lucy reported on Drug Court. She spoke with the Director from the Public Defenders office and was informed it is now 2 x's a month every 1-3rd Friday. It is no longer backlogged and is up and running. They expressed concern that if the District Attorneys office could change the criteria to qualify for the court more people could be served. People do not qualify if they have ties with gang members or if it is not a first offense. Lucy will get written criteria and propose revisions. Prop. 36 is helping first-time offenders, who can go through behavioral health for treatment.
6. Lucy will report at next meeting on AB 109
7. Lucy will also report on effectiveness of having police on high school campuses at a cost of \$33,000: how many incidents, citations/arrests involved on-campus officers; response time for those off campus.
8. Peggy is considering holding a fundraiser for the shelter for December 5 -- perhaps a dinner and silent auction at Knights of Columbus or Performing Arts Center or a Sleep in a Box event in a park, perhaps with a candle light vigil. Will need volunteers.
9. Peggy will investigate municipal codes related to sleeping in vehicles or in open spaces.
10. Table to next meeting Respite for those leaving hospital and discharge planning. Sue and Hosp. Assn will get information from Kate Mills on results of task force on discharge planning. CA Hosp. Assn has process recommendations which Lucy and Sue will get from Kate.
11. MSC send forward to Commission recommendation to endorse the principles contained in the Housing Oxnard statement of the service providers (see attached motion).

Next meeting has not been set. Sue out of town through October 16

Motion: The Coordinated Services Ad Hoc Committee of the Oxnard Commission on Homelessness recommends that the Commission adopt the following statement:

The Commission thanks the members of the Oxnard Providers' Group [currently the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, The Salvation Army, Community Action of Ventura County, Ventura County Human Services Agency, the Transitional Adult Youth (TAY) Tunnel, the Rescue Mission Alliance, One-Stop, and representatives of individual churches] for their efforts "to provide a community-wide end to homelessness by bringing together the skills and resources of a wide range of community partners in support of the efforts of homeless persons to become rehoused." The Commission endorses the Guiding Principles contained in the Providers' document entitled "Housing Oxnard."

1. Ending homelessness cannot occur without the support of all sectors of our community, including government, service providers, the faith-based community, businesses, community residents and homeless persons themselves.
2. Solving homelessness requires an adequate supply of housing that very low income people can afford.
3. Homelessness is a high-risk condition that has severe impacts on each homeless person and on the larger community. For this reason, we affirm that homelessness (even if by choice) is not acceptable.
4. We believe that homelessness is a condition, not a character trait, and believe homeless persons should be treated with respect and be offered every opportunity to improve their lives.
5. Because of the complexity and uniqueness of each homeless person's situation, we believe that each homeless person must be engaged, assessed and evaluated for strengths and vulnerability, so that services can be offered to meet individualized needs.
6. Service delivery is most effective when connected to meaningful engagement.
7. Coordinating services maximizes positive impact on homeless individuals, is economical and efficient, and minimizes duplication.
8. Recognizing that some homeless persons have diminished capacity due to health or other issues, solutions to homelessness usually involve a mix of personal responsibility and social responsibility. The ratio varies depending on each individual's capacity and each community's resources.
9. We recognize that solutions to homelessness often require political will and governmental action. For this reason we view advocacy as a necessary part of what we do.

10. We encourage positive community living behaviors and will discourage high-risk, illegal, and anti-social behaviors.

11. We realize that multiple models of service will be required to end homelessness, among which "housing first" and "rapid rehousing" strategies are primary, evidence-based practices. Both of these approaches require access to housing that people living in poverty can afford.

The Commission supports the members of the Oxnard Providers' Groups efforts to:

1. work collaboratively in a client-centered way
2. make every effort to engage all homeless persons with a view toward urging them into a path that leads out of homelessness.
3. embrace a coordinated entry system that includes comprehensive assessment, vulnerability screening and movement into a strong system of supports.
4. provide services that help homeless persons both survive homelessness and permanently leave homelessness.
5. uphold the values of respect, personal responsibility, fairness, caring and good citizenship.
6. increase the partnerships necessary to achieve the goal of ending homelessness.
7. create accountability systems that demonstrate positive outcomes.
8. be good stewards of their resources.
9. embrace and promote best practices.
10. advocate for the development of housing that is affordable to persons of very limited means.
11. advocate advancement of their mission when and where needed.

The Oxnard Homeless Commission concurs that:

Homelessness represents the deepest measure of poverty. The condition of homelessness robs individuals of their dignity, their privacy, their health, their independence and even their identity. It places them in living conditions that are unacceptable in our society. Homeless persons suffer at great cost not only to themselves, but also to the community — in healthcare as well as police and court interventions. Homelessness is often viewed as a scourge or blight on the community. Ending homelessness not only helps those barely existing, it makes the community a better place for all. The 2015 "point-in-time" count identified 1,417 homeless persons on one day in Ventura County; there were 603 identified in Oxnard, the highest concentration in the County. Experts tell us that the point-in-time count represents only a portion of those who are homeless during the year. Therefore, it is critical that the community marshal all of its resources and work together to end homelessness.



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
12/01/2015

Media Contact: Ron Irwin, Director of Community Services
(805) 436-4015 or (805) 890-5496, Cell

TRANSITION CENTER TO OPEN FULL DAY
Offering Services to Homeless and Community

(OXNARD, CA)—With the Ventura County Winter Warming Shelter opening this week in Oxnard, Community Action of Ventura County (CAVC) will be extending the hours of the daily transition center to provide additional access to services during day time hours, when the shelter is closed. The new hours will begin Thursday, Dec. 3, 2015 and the center will be open from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Oxnard is expecting to see a rise in homeless individuals, as many will come from around the county seeking warm night time shelter during this forecasted harsh winter. CAVC is hoping that during the day our case managers and center staff may be able to provide access to services that may lead individuals out of homelessness.

"Services in our transition center range from basic needs, such as showers, bathrooms, and basic hygiene, to being an entry point back in to society by helping the homeless secure identification, social security documents, and basic healthcare," said Ron Irwin, Director of Community Services. "During these extended hours we are also looking to work with our community partners to offer, expanded services."

Irwin said CAVC is grateful for the community and business support CAVC has been receiving as we work together to address the issue of chronic homelessness.

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Ron Irwin

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