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**AGENDA
SPECIAL MEETING
Commission on Homelessness
Monday, July 15, 2013 - 3:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.
City Council Chambers
305 West Third Street, Oxnard, CA 93030**

A. ROLL CALL

**B. APPROVAL OF MINUTES
June 3, 2013 (Attachment 1)**

C. PUBLIC COMMENTS

A person may address the Commission only on matters within the subject matter jurisdiction of the Commission. The presiding officer shall limit public comments to three minutes each. The Commission cannot enter into detailed discussion or take action on any item presented during public comments that is not on the agenda. Such item may only be referred to the Commission Secretary for administrative action or scheduled on a subsequent agenda for discussion.

D. HOMELESS SERVICES UPDATE

1. Public comment on Homeless Services Update: Members of the public may comment on items listed under Homeless Services Update. Comments shall be limited to three minutes each.
2. 2013 Continuum of Care Grant: Will Reed (update)

E. OLD BUSINESS

1. Public comment on Homeless Services Update: members of the public may comment on items listed under Old Business. Comments shall be limited to three minutes each.
2. Support of House Resolution No. 13: Assemblyman Das Williams' Office (Attachment 2)
3. Year Round Shelter Discussion: Commissioner Courtland
4. Legality of Section 8 Application Process: Commissioner Rivera

F. NEW BUSINESS

1. Public comment on Homeless Services Update: members of the public may comment on items listed under New Business. Comments shall be limited to three minutes each.
2. Housing Authority Resources: Commissioner Rivera
3. Continuum of Care Grant Request from Ventura Homeless & Housing Coalition: Commissioner Rivera (Attachment 3)

G. COMMISSION BUSINESS

1. Commissioners may relate recent experiences or request that matters be placed on a future agenda for discussion.

H. ADJOURNMENT

The next business meeting of the Commission on Homelessness will be August 5, 2013, at 3:30 p.m. in the City Council Chambers, 305 West Third Street, Oxnard, CA, 93030.

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, if you need special assistance to participate in a meeting, please contact Will Reed at (805) 385-8044. Notification 72 hours prior to the meeting will enable the City to make reasonable accommodations to assure accessibility to the meeting.

City of Oxnard
Commission on Homelessness
Business Meeting
June 3, 2013
3:00 PM

Commissioner Rivera called to order the business meeting of the Commission on Homelessness at 3:16 PM on June 3, 2013 in the City Council Chambers at 305 West Third Street, Oxnard, CA 93030.

A. ROLL CALL

Will Reed conducts roll call. The following persons were present:

Commissioner Courtland
Commissioner Miller
Commissioner Couey
Commissioner Rivera
Commissioner Castanon
Commissioner MacIntosh
Commissioner Garcia

B. PUBLIC COMMENTS

1. Barbara Macri-Ortiz- Recently found out that Section 8 applications are taken 100% online. She thinks this is a disconcerting situation with injustice. Is bringing it to the Commission because she would like them to advise the City with respect to the needs of the lowest income population. That Ventura County is such a rich county because of the east end of the county, the median income in this County is very high. Eligibility for this program is at 50% of the median. She believes online applications are a travesty because the people who are at 50% and are making \$40,000 a year are able to afford computers and have the advantage and the people that traditionally Section 8 has served; it will be surprising if they are able to apply. That this is driven by financial interest, it is best to have higher income applicants who require less subsidy, but in the long run they are doing a disservice to the City.
2. Sal Gonzalez- Responded to a comment under "Commission Business" in the minutes of April the 8th, that comment stated "Commissioner Jones announced that the Commission and the City are backing out of the Black and White Dinner Dance unless St. Vincent de Paul reports back on the use of funds. He made a statement approved by the Society's L.A. office. That the Society was not aware of any request for a report on the use of the funds from the Black and White Dinner/Dance. He reported that the funds from the Black and White Dinner Dance were used for the winter shelter general expenses for staffing and running of the shelter; that the shelter was open 120 nights serving approximately 14,225 shelter nights, consisting of approximately 738 unduplicated individuals, 241 females, 497 males total with 63 of those children; that the shelter relocated three times and was unable to provide shelter on one night in early December; that a total of \$308,000 was spent on the shelter (\$63,000 on rent and maintenance; \$127,000 on staff; \$111,000 on food, supplies, etc.); that the contribution from the Black and White Dinner/Dance was included

under the category of "donations" in a report provided to Will Reed; that if the Commission requires more detailed or additional information, that the Commission submit the request to the Society and the Society and that they will do their best to provide that information.

C. HOMELESS SERVICES UPDATE

1. Will Reed gave the Commission a review of the Homeless Point in Time Count Results. Total number of homeless persons in Oxnard is 645, there are 245 who are sheltered by emergency shelter, 92 individuals were sheltered by transitional housing, and 308 were unsheltered.

D. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. Commissioner Castanon made a motion to approve the minutes of February 4, 2013, second by Commissioner Courtland. Minutes were approved by all.
2. Commissioner MacIntosh made a motion to approve the minutes of April 8, 2013, second by Commissioner Castanon. Minutes were approved by all.

E. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Commissioner Castanon made a motion to move approval of the minutes onto next month's agenda for clarification from staff on the dollar amount mentioned in minutes, second by Commissioner Courtland.

F. OLD BUSINESS

1. Public Comments-
 - i. Cathy Brudnicki- Introduced Lara Roberts, social worker for the chronically homeless hired by the Society of St. Vincent de Paul. Especially those that were leaving the Winter Warming Shelter. Also thanked the Commission for recommending to extend forty five thousand dollars for the next season of the Winter Warming Shelter.
2. SB2 Finalization- Staff recommended the Commission write a thank you letter to the Planning Department for allowing them to collaborate with SB2 and taking their recommendations. *No action taken.*
3. Year Round Shelter Discussion- Commissioner Courtland would like the Commission to recommend to City Council that CDBG funds be used toward a Year Round Shelter and apply to the County's matching program. Second that a subcommittee be put in place to come up with a plan to achieve that. *No action taken.*
4. 2013 Emergency Solutions Grant Recommendation- HUD released the actual allocation amounts and the amount for ESG was reduced from 192,690 to \$150,512, which will have an impact on the recommendations presented. Staff recommends \$45,000 to the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, \$60,205 for the County of Ventura, \$16,000 for the Turning Point Foundation, \$10,000 to the Kingdom Center, \$8,020 for HMIS, and \$11,287 for City Administrative Fees. Commissioner Castanon made the motion to approve staff recommendations as listed for presentation to City Council, second by Commissioner Courtland. Approved.

G. NEW BUSINESS

1. Support of House Resolution No. 13- Amisha De Young, field representative from Assembly Member Das Williams came to ask the Commission's support of House Resolution No. 13. The Commission asked the field rep to come back with more information, *no action taken*.
2. Review of 2013 Strategic Plan Draft- Commissioner Castanon made a motion to approve the Annual Retreat of 2013 as amended, second by Commissioner Courtland.

H. COMMISSION BUSINESS

1. Commissioner Rivera is concerned about possibility that the 2014 Winter Warming Shelter does not have a service provider. She proposed to put together an ad-hoc committee to come up with a back-up plan in case this was to happen. Commissioner Castanon made a motion to create an ad hoc committee with Commissioners': Rivera, Courtland, Tougas and any members of the public, second by Commissioner Courtland. Motion passed.

I. MEETING ADJOURNED

4:34 p.m.

House Resolution

No. 13

Introduced by Assembly Member Williams

March 14, 2013

House Resolution No. 13—Relative to homeless court programs.

1 WHEREAS, There are approximately 132,931 homeless people
2 in California; and

3 WHEREAS, People experiencing homelessness often receive
4 citations for minor offenses such as traffic tickets, infractions, and
5 various minor misdemeanors, including jaywalking, riding public
6 transportation without a fare, sleeping in public places, illegal use
7 of shopping carts, possession of an open container of alcohol in
8 public, obstructing traffic on the sidewalk, and sleeping on a bus
9 bench, as well as any warrants that arise for failure to resolve these
10 minor offenses; and

11 WHEREAS, Outstanding warrants limit the reintegration into
12 society of the homeless, deterring them from using social services
13 and impeding their access to employment. They are effectively
14 blocked from obtaining driver's licenses, job applications, and
15 rental agreements; and

16 WHEREAS, Homeless courts are special court sessions held in
17 local shelters or community centers for homeless defendants to
18 resolve outstanding misdemeanor offenses and warrants. Several
19 jurisdictions in California have instituted Homeless court programs,
20 including the Counties of Alameda, Contra Costa, Fresno,
21 Humboldt, Kern, Santa Clara, Sonoma, and Ventura, and the Cities
22 of Los Angeles, Sacramento, San Diego, San Joaquin, and Santa
23 Maria; and

1 WHEREAS, Homeless court programs reduce court and jail
2 costs, build community collaboration, improve access to court,
3 and assist homeless people in accessing vital services and jobs;
4 and

5 WHEREAS, To counteract the effect of criminal cases pushing
6 homeless defendants further outside society, these programs
7 combine a progressive plea bargain system, alternative sentencing
8 structure, assurance of "no custody," and proof of program
9 activities to address a full range of misdemeanor offenses and bring
10 homeless defendants back into society; and

11 WHEREAS, These courts are funded and operated by local
12 jurisdictions; and

13 WHEREAS, The benefits to a county that has instituted a
14 successful homeless court program are extraordinary; now,
15 therefore, be it

16 *Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California*, That the
17 Assembly hereby encourages county governments to find ways to
18 make homeless courts more accessible, such as allowing people
19 to bring multiple cases to court per year instead of limiting them
20 to one, and allowing fines to be recalled from collection by the
21 county or collections agencies; and be it further

22 *Resolved*, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies
23 of this resolution to the author for the appropriate distribution.

O

CC: Bill Williams
Will Reed

Ventura County Homeless and Housing Coalition
4001 Mission Oaks Blvd., Suite E
Camarillo, CA 93012
(805) 485-6288

Susan Englund, President
United Way of Ventura County

June 21, 2013

Rick Schroeder, Treasurer
Many Mansions

Clyde Reynolds
Turning Point Foundation

Dan Hardy
Cabrillo Economic Development Corporation

Peter Brown
City of Ventura

Karol Schulkin
*Homeless Services,
County of Ventura*

Ms. Karen Burnham
Acting City Manager
City of Oxnard
305 West Third Street
Oxnard, CA 93030

Mr. Michael Powers
Chief Executive Officer
County of Ventura
800 South Victoria Ave., #L1940
Ventura, CA 93009

Dear Ms. Burnham and Mr. Powers:

The Ventura County Continuum of Care (CoC) and Oxnard CoC are the mechanisms for accessing various homeless assistance grants from the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). The Ventura County CoC has been managed by the Ventura County Homeless and Housing Coalition (VCHHC), since 1996. To date, over \$15 million has been awarded through the Ventura CoC with similar funding, some to the same agencies, coming through the Oxnard CoC. Over the intervening years, increasing CoC responsibilities, the new requirements contained in the HEARTH Act, and the retirement of Cathy Brudnicki, the Executive Director of the VCHHC, caused our organization to re-evaluate our capacity to continue managing the systems necessary to access federal funding. The Board determined that the County of Ventura, County Executive Office was the most logical entity to take over this role, having the technical capacity and infrastructure in place to assume expanding roles for grant management and program administration, a role assumed in 2012.

Accessing federal funds necessitates collaboration with a wide array of interests, requires that funding decisions are based upon capacity, performance and demonstrated unmet need, and that progress in ending homelessness be documented with each application for funding. A shared Oversight Board, to comply with new HEARTH Act regulations, has already been established to provide transparency and objectivity in prospective allocation of COC funding. Working groups are being set up to develop a countywide coordinated system of homeless services. This Board includes representatives from both Continuums of Care and currently reports to each CoC.

To date, the County CoC and Oxnard CoC have been administered through separate yet parallel process. The service providers and housing developers must apply to the two CoCs to pursue funding for the same programs and provide separate performance reports for these projects. Each CoC has to submit separate Renewal Applications with a separate Exhibit I, manage each grant and work with separate HUD Field representatives. In the future, as Unified Funding Agencies, the responsibilities of each CoC to manage and monitor each of their grants will be

increased significantly. This is a very inefficient, "siloed", and complicated system of resource distribution.

HUD encourages Continuums of Care (CoCs) to consider consolidating or merging to:

- facilitate regional planning to address homelessness
- improve coordination of services
- enhance funding, resource allocation and administrative efficiencies

CoC consolidation can also improve competitiveness in the CoC Program Competition, as well as reduce the administrative burden of applying for funding at the local level.

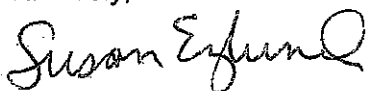
As further incentive, HUD adopted a policy for calculating Pro-Rata Need to ensure that CoCs will not lose funds by merging. Under this process, HUD calculates the newly merged CoC's Final Pro-Rata Need (FPRN) status based on the higher FPRN for each CoC. To ensure the new CoC will not lose funds by merging, HUD allows the newly merged CoC to receive the benefit of the higher FPRN for both the year in which they merge and the following year.

The purpose of this letter is to formally request that you jointly consider merging the two CoCs. If the City of Oxnard and Ventura County CoCs agree to merge into a regional CoC it would be made clear to HUD that this is not 'absorption' of one CoC into the other. The merger would result in the creation of a blended, regional entity that will participate in a coordinated effort to end homelessness. Furthermore, the County CoC has continued the VCHHC's contractual relationship with Urban Initiatives to provide oversight to maximize funding eligibility for its continuum and oversight for the point in time homeless count; merger would extend those benefits to the City of Oxnard. A region-wide HMIS system has already been established and its users are realizing the benefits with the County's enhanced administrative capacity of this complex system.

As administrators, we know that you share our interest in maximizing funding to serve our homeless population and the fundamental need to improve efficiency and effectiveness. In this era of expanding administrative regulations and oversight, merging the CoCs presents an opportunity to accomplish this and more. Doing so will not only reduce administrative burden on the community partners essential to the success of ending homelessness, but promises to result in improved system wide performance. Although we can't speak for the County, we do know that they've applied a methodology with their CDBG city partners to ensure that their prorata share of funding has been preserved under their regional administration of that program, and thus there's precedence for doing so within the context of a merged continuum of care.

We'd be happy to help to facilitate this conversation in an effort to promote a merger before the upcoming CoC funding cycle. With timing of this cycle uncertain, we recommend this discussion begin immediately to ensure sufficient time to process the necessary paperwork to effectuate the change with HUD. Please feel free to contact me, or any member of our Board, to schedule a meeting.

Sincerely,



Susan England
President

cc: Bill Wilkins
Christy Madden

ATTACHMENT NO. 3
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