



Written materials relating to an item on this agenda that are distributed to the legislative bodies within 24 hours before the item is to be considered at the special meeting will be made available for public inspection at the City Clerk's Office, 305 West Third Street and 435 South "D" Street during customary business hours. The agenda reports are on the City of Oxnard web site at www.ci.oxnard.ca.us.

AGENDA
Commission on Homelessness
Monday, August 5, 2013 - 3:30 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.
City Council Chambers
305 West Third Street, Oxnard, CA 93030

A. ROLL CALL

B. APPROVAL OF MINUTES
July 15, 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. 2012 Continuum of Care Grant: Will Reed (update)
3. 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. Year Round Shelter Discussion: Commissioner Courtland

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. Homeless Panhandling: Commissioner Castanon

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 September 9, 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.
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City of Oxnard
Commission on Homelessness
Business Meeting
July 15, 2013
3:00 PM

Commissioner Rivera called to order the business meeting of the Commission on Homelessness at 3:27 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 Garcia
Commissioner Miller
Commissioner Couey
Commissioner Courtland
Commissioner Rivera
Commissioner Perez
Commissioner Castanon

B. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. Commissioner Courtland made a motion to approve the minutes of June 3, 2013, second by Commissioner Couey. Motion was approved by all.

C. PUBLIC COMMENTS

1. NONE

D. HOMELESS SERVICES UPDATE

1. Public Comment-
 - i. Tim Hockett-Executive Director of Community Action of Ventura County was awarded a grant in the middle march. Wanted to bring it to the Commission's attention that they're operating a transition center in good faith. It costs the agency about \$10,000 a month, already \$20,000 into it and waiting on HUD. Realizes they are dealing with the federal government, but asks that if there is anything staff can do to help facilitate the contract for funding sooner because it's hurting the agency financially.
2. 2013 Continuum of Care Grant-Additional information requested by HUD has been submitted however HUD has not responded back. Hope to receive the contracts for the 2012 application within the next 30 days. The 2013 application expecting the NOFA within the next eight weeks.

E. OLD BUSINESS

1. Public Comments-
 - i. Ron Mulvehill- Society St. Vincent de Paul wanted to clarify that they will still work with the Winter Warming Shelter. The Society is looking forward to the County's Strategic Update with Ending Homelessness. Trying to work with other service providers in the community to come up with a better plan to

serve 170 people per night. We do want to serve the community and have no plans of abandoning the community.

- ii. Carol Schulkin- Manages the homeless service programs for the Human Services agency. Reassigned a case worker to the Winter Warming Shelter. 806 people that used the shelter, 382 were City of Oxnard residents, 116 women, 165 men, and 36 children. Significant number of people that stayed 31 days or longer, people who are in significant need for shelter. There are other people who are willing to work with the City to work on a different model.
- iii. Tim Hockett- Thanked the commission for their service. Wanted to call to their attention that when they think about the Continuum of Care from owning a home to someone on the other end being homeless and on the street, if any of the elements on that Continuum are broken then there is a problem with this system. There's a big push to find housing and supportive services for folks instead of shelter. Their agency addresses poverty with two mandates: 1)Help them survive poverty (food, clothing, shelter, access to medical attention); and 2) Help them get out of poverty; that's harder. In order for people to survive homelessness there has to be some sort of provision. City needs to have something year round. Everybody should have an option for emergency shelter. Sympathetic to St. Vincent trying to house 170 a night. Too many people to handle, too many people to try to engage in conversation. I understand that the push is to have several sites to try to have a controlled environment. If everyone pulls together in the same direction we all have a better chance in being successful.
- iv. Cathy Brudnicki- was the person who started the Winter Warming Shelter in the mid 80's when she was the chair of the Red Cross. A man froze to death in Ventura on a cold rainy night. The Red Cross owned a house that was used only for meetings and storage. It had a bathroom, a kitchen, carpet, heat and light. The house was opened and had a handful of people, second night had twenty, someone donated a microwave and it morphed into the Winter Warming Shelter at the armory. Even though the shelter was her idea...it doesn't work. It saves lives, but you cannot case manage people who are sleeping. Year round options are needed so that people who become homeless from April to November have somewhere to go. Glad the Commission has created an Ad Hoc Committee and is willing to work with the Commission to create a year round option.
- v. Kate Mills- Responsible for both one stops in Ventura and Oxnard that provides multiple services for those in need whether they are homeless or not. Both armories don't support anything other than bedding down on a cement floor. Attempts to carve out space and attempts to provide case management have been made. The fact that Carol and her people were able to do it with seven to get them into housing really speaks volumes. Because you're allowed in at 6pm, then they have dinner, then it's off to bed. There is no time to provide other services when a person's priority is to eat and have a place to

sleep. They aren't allowed on the premises until 6pm and the armory doesn't support in size or set up in assisting the homeless in trying to get out of the situation they are in.

- vi. Ron Mulvehill- Involved in the sign up of applications at Community Action. Unfortunately, because it was an online process there wasn't a way to streamline people who were homeless to get in the process of the Section 8. His organization assisted two days for several hours. The time it took to sign up people for an email and then signed up for the application the numbers were increasing rapidly. Someone from the Housing Department was there, but she also needed assistance to stream line. There were two sections one for signing up for an email, the other to apply. Within two hours there were already a thousand applicants. With the numbers of homelessness being so high other cities have vouchers just for the homeless. We are in a crisis situation and we need a lot more support if we want to decrease the numbers that we heard earlier.
 - vii. Carol Schulkin-Service providers were also taken off guard. This source is a primary solution for a lot of her clients. They scrambled to try to get people informed. She personally called many service providers and did the best they could. She asked that in the future, service providers be notified ahead of time. There was a woman who was blind and disabled that was assisted to apply by one of her case workers. The case worker was ready at 9am and was unable to submit her application until 9:07 and she was #28, ten minutes later another case worker was #78 and by 9:42 there were up to 525 people on that wait list. Aside of people who are disadvantaged and do not have access to a computer, the working poor who have to go to work are still unable to apply. I urge for a paper option for people who don't have access to the technology and a lottery system. So that there is fair access for all. These vouchers are primary solutions to the issue of homelessness and getting them directly into housing.
- 2. Support of House Resolution No. 13-No major changes to the language since last time, it's a two year bill which allows time to talk about language. Homelessness is a very important issue for Das Williams and would like to work with the Commission on Homelessness. Homeless courts is something that was brought to Das William's Office, however if there's other areas of homelessness that the Commission would like to focus on, the direction of the Commission would be appreciated.
 - 3. Year Round Shelter Discussion- The Ad Hoc meeting was formed and met once. They spoke about the number of persons who used the shelter and how many were Oxnard residents. They discussed who the target population was going to be assisted. It was decided that they would aim to assist women and children. We talked about communication or lack of communication with staff; we need to learn how to work better together. HUD isn't saying, no year round shelters, they're suggesting smaller centers to assist the homeless to ensure people are getting properly served and assisted.

4. Legality of Section 8 Application Process- A motion was made by Commissioner Rivera to send a letter to the Housing Authority Board of Commissioners regarding the Section 8 process and asking them to possibly put it on the lottery system and that once the letter is submitted and reviewed by Commissioner Rivera that it be delivered. Second by Commissioner Courtland, approved by all. Motion passed.

F. NEW BUSINESS

1. Public Comment

- i. Carol Schulkin-She's on the Board of the Homeless and Housing Coalition and wanted to explain the letter. The purpose of the June 21st letter was really to invite discussion of possibly merging the two Continuums of Care. The City has one to which HUD funding comes, the County of Ventura CEO's office has a Continuum of Care as well. The Coalition worked very hard to distribute a million dollars. The new HEARTH definition of homelessness has changed how the issue of homeless is looked at and how funds are managed and reported. The level of accountability, transparency, community planning that didn't exist before. That's why when Cathy Brudnicki retired the Coalition looked to the Ventura CEO's office to take on that responsibility. Funding environment has also gotten very competitive. If both Continuums could be merged would be more efficient and it would facilitate the process to the applicants.
2. Housing Authority Resources-It is important we're all on the same page. What the Housing Authority does affects our cause. The communication between Housing and the Commission is vital.
3. Continuum of Care Grant Request from Ventura Homeless & Housing Coalition- HUD is encouraging agencies to become a Unified Funding Agency (UFA). We are not in position to that for this year's application. Will working with lead staff person from the County, Meg Campbell Drewery trying to coordinate both Continuums to make them individual UFAs. In becoming a UFA all funds come directly to the UFA and all funds would be distributed from the UFA to the various service providers.

G. COMMISSION BUSINESS

1. Commissioner Miller announced this year's Black & White Dinner Dance has been set for November 9, 2013.
2. Commissioner Couey mentioned the Salsa Festival will take place end of the month and urged the public's participation in order to help out all the organizations that are raising funds for their cause.

H. MEETING ADJOURNED

4:54 p.m.