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**AGENDA
SPECIAL MEETING
Commission on Homelessness
Monday, September 9, 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**
August 5, 2013 (Attachment 1)
- C. PUBLIC COMMENTS**
At a special meeting a person may address the Commission only on matters on the agenda. The presiding officer shall limit public comments to three minutes each.
- D. HOMELESS SERVICES UPDATE**
1. Update on 2013 Continuum of Care Grant Merger Request (Attachment 2): Will Reed
- E. OLD BUSINESS**
1. Year Round Shelter Discussion: Commissioner Courtland
- F. NEW BUSINESS**
1. Neighborhood Council Attendance: Commissioner Rivera
- 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 October 7, 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
July 15, 2013
3:30 PM

Commissioner Rivera called to order the business meeting of the Commission on Homelessness at 3:45 PM on August 5, 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 Rivera
Commissioner Courtland
Commissioner Jones
Commissioner Castanon
Commissioner Tougas

B. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. Commissioner Castanon made a motion to approve the minutes of July 15, 2013, as amended with the corrections Karol Schulkin has provided, second by Commissioner Courtland. Motion was approved.

C. PUBLIC COMMENTS

1. Karol Schulkin- Provided minute taker with a copy of her corrections. Asked that the minutes of July 15, 2013 be amended. On Old Business under Public Comments, she was the second speaker. She was trying to make a couple points: the first was that for over 10 years she had been assigning a social worker from her team to be present at the shelter and so they've seen the increased need and they have a real concern about that, and then at the end of that comment she was trying to make the link between the work that the Commission work is trying to do in the City on behalf of the populations that need shelter and the 10 Year Plan that Ends Homelessness, which is the Countywide approach. Also, under New Business in Public Comment I was invited by Chair Rivera to address the letter that the Board of the Housing Coalition sent to the City and the County CEO's Office so she just wanted to make that reference clear. The third area was a public comment on the topic of Section 8. Her main point in giving the numbers was that those people who are technically challenged or for the poor working person who has to go off to work all day. By the end of the day because the wait list is based on date and time of application.

D. HOMELESS SERVICES UPDATE

1. Public Comment-None
2. 2012 Continuum of Care Grant: Will Reed
We were anticipating getting word on the new awards for the new continuum of care grant as of this time there are two phases that were announced last week. The City was not awarded any new projects as of this date. There were three projects: the City Continuum of Care Planning Grant, the other was the Homeless Management

Information System HMIS Expansion Grant, and the third was a Rapid Rehousing project. None of those were awarded.

3. 2013 Continuum of Care Grant: Will Reed

We are anticipating the application to be out mid-September. Tomorrow I will be sending out Letters of Intent to Renew for all of our projects that plan on renewing to resubmit. The deadline for them to re submit will be August 26, 2013. There will be some changes in some of the projects as requested by HUD. For example for Supportive Services projects they will have to change to point of entry and we are working with our consultant to see how that language needs to look.

E. OLD BUSINESS

1. Public Comments-

- i. Sal Gonzalez-Pointed out that this discussion is leaving out some of the things that have already been decided. One of the things is where is the City is going to allow year round shelters by right. That is in ML and PD zones, smaller R2 and R3 zones. He stated that every city has the responsibility of complying with SB-2, even Ventura. In terms of the business sector, there have been people who have been on the City's Homeless Task Force downtown and they left out of frustration that nothing was getting done. He questioned how much more data is needed to calculate cost if it is already known how many homeless persons we have in the city, and it's already known how much it's cost to run the Winter Warming Shelter for four months. Currently the cost to run the Winter Warming Shelter is \$360,000 divided by 120 days is about \$3,000 per day, and that is without any other services. He said that at this time service providers aren't looking to the City for assistance , service providers are looking to each other to see how they can help somebody in crisis. There are a lot of people who aren't able to pay their water bill. There is a proposal with City Council to operate an assistance program for seniors. The Commission should look to support that proposal. He suggested the Commission work with Council trying to structure a program that will assist people who can't pay their water bill. When the water bill doesn't get paid there is a sign that is placed on each wall of the house that says, "Do Not Occupy This Home," this makes them homeless. We have to be a lot more sensitive as a City. We need to go back to the City that Cares.

2. Year Round Shelter Discussion: Commissioner Courtland opened the discussion with an update. He rewrote the proposal for an Action Plan: outlined a strategy, a subcommittee has been created, start developing plans, cost analysis, and funding. He emphasized the need to update Council on what the Commission has been working on and reminding them the importance of having a year round shelter and all the reasons it should be here in this community.

F. NEW BUSINESS

1. Public Comment

- i. Karol Schulkin-Wanted to bring to the Commission's attention an event that may impact the City of Oxnard. It is the removal of people at the Santa Clara River. There is a plan by the City of Ventura who owns property along the

Olivos Golf Course, borders River Haven and then it empties out into the ocean along Harbor Blvd. The City of Ventura owns the property and for many years a number of people have camped there. Over time some of them have built elaborate structures, and established camps. As people have been released from the prisons some of them have been gathering there as well. The City's Police Department has done a few events where they go looking for people with outstanding warrants. There have been two soft outreaches by service providers to inform people that the event is coming. August 19th is the deadline and it is the City's intent to evacuate everybody. Legal notices have been issued. She warned the commission that there will be 50 additional homeless people going out and some of them may have come from Oxnard. She said that on the 13th there will be effort to assist them by providing a few nights stay at a motel to give them the opportunity to regroup and calculate their next move.

2. Homeless Panhandling: Commissioner Castanon proposed that a formal letter be sent to City Council, City Manager and City Attorney to look into some kind of code enforcement for pan handling. Some pan handlers claim to be homeless when they are not. They've become fixtures in certain locations, it's gotten aggressive and it is getting out of hand. Something needs to be done, if we can identify these people as homeless or chronically homeless we can get them the help they need.

G. COMMISSION BUSINESS

1. Commissioner Jones announced that he is officially resigning and this is the last meeting he will be attending. He wanted to thank Will Reed and Bill Wilkins for all of their support and assistance. Thanked Cathy Brudnicki, Karol Schulkin, Sal Gonzalez, Commissioner Rivera and everyone who has put in effort in for this cause.

H. MEETING ADJOURNED

4:53 p.m.

Ventura County Homeless and Housing Coalition
Continuum of Care Service Providers Conversation
August 22, 2013

Attendance: All direct grantees and sub-recipients from the City of Oxnard (CA-605) and the Ventura County (CA-611) Continuums of Care were present, with the exception of the City of Oxnard. (See attached sign in sheet.)

Following self introductions, Susan Englund explained the purpose of the meeting (see attached agenda) was to bring grantees and sub-grantees together from both continuums to discuss pro and cons of the current process and to discuss the challenges for providers in complying with new HUD requirements.

Rick Schroeder, Many Mansions, led a discussion regarding the providers' experiences with the process – ways to share, cooperate, and utilize resources effectively. He asked how we can best describe the population and move them through the program faster (shorten their stay) in order to meet HUD's expectations. RAIN shared that their focus is finding employment and permanent housing for their clients. But they find resistance on the part of property owners to rent to some of the clients they serve, i.e. felons. Therefore clients stay in transitional housing longer than they should or need to until permanent housing can be found. Other issues being faced by agencies include:

- The current homeless population seems to have more complex backgrounds,
- Lack of emergency shelter to get people off the streets,
- Homeless include the underemployed not just the unemployed,
- How will we run these programs when HUD no longer gives us funding, and
- There is a serious lack of extremely affordable rental housing.

Clyde Reynolds, Turning Point Foundation, led a discussion regarding the upcoming NOFA process. Our institutional model is expensive – 24-hour staffing with food served in a kitchen when clients could be served in an apartment setting. How do we balance supportive services on site versus services following the client? HPRP funds for rapid re-housing used a model where the lease was between the landlord and the client. It did require a lot of phone follow-up but had an 80% success rate. Those who fell through the cracks mostly had mental health issues.

The NOFA process will change the way we have been doing business if we are to remain competitive - housing first approach, permanent supportive housing vouchers for the chronic homeless, coordinated assessment tool used by places where the homeless show up, i.e. food banks.

New for the last NOFA, was the requirement to rank applications in two tiers and to put the equivalent of 3% of the CoC renewal amount into Tier 2. This was due to the possibility that

HUD would not have an allocation sufficient to funding all renewal projects. Although all renewals were funded for the 2012 cycle, the percentage to allocate to Tier 2 is expected to increase for the 2013 NOFA. HUD also anticipates that renewals in Tier 2 will not be funded.

We have recently been informed that one Continuum of Care Oversight Board cannot serve multiple continuums, which has been our plan. This will require the City of Oxnard Continuum to form its own Oversight Board in order to be eligible for CoC funding after August 2014.

Susan shared that the VCHHC Board had taken a position recommending the merger of the continuums, sending a letter in June to the City of Oxnard Interim City Manager and the County Executive Officer recommending that the City of Oxnard and Ventura County continuums merge in order to facilitate regional planning to address homelessness, improve coordination of services, enhance funding and resource allocation and provide administrative efficiencies for agencies applying in both continuums. Representatives were in attendance from all of the grantees and sub-grantees for both continuums with the exception of staff from the City of Oxnard. Concern was expressed regarding the low HUD scores received by Oxnard over the past 5 years which has resulted in a loss of funding (see attached funding history). In addition, a HUD audit is currently holding up funding to the Oxnard Continuum and several of its subgrantees.

Organizations in the room were polled as to their support of the VCHHC recommendation to merge the two continuums. Response was as follows:

Behavioral Health – yes
Community Action – yes
County of Ventura CEO – yes
HMIS – yes
Homeless Services Program- yes
Housing Authority Ventura – yes
Khepera House – yes
Kingdom Center – yes but will need to check with key leadership
Many Mansions – yes
Project Understanding – yes
RAIN Transitional Living Center– yes
Salvation Army Ventura – yes
Turning Point Foundation – yes

Frustrations were expressed that the City of Oxnard was not present at the meeting. Denise Wise, CEO Housing Authority of the City of Ventura offered to contact Bill Wilkins, Housing Director, City of Oxnard to inform him of the action taken.

Minutes of this meeting will be forwarded to HUD who will facilitate a conversation with Oxnard should they not be in agreement with the merger.

ATTACHMENT NO. 2
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Meg Kimbell-Drewry, County Executive Office, announced that the scores for 2012 are soon to be released and that the registration process for the 2013 NOFA will also open soon and close in approximately 30 days.

Clyde announced that the Board of VCHHC has agreed to take on the role of coordinating the Service Provider's Group for the C of C Oversight Board.

Attachments:

Sign-in Sheet

Agenda for Provider Meeting

6-Year Summary of HUD CoC Funding

**Summary of HUD CoC Funding
2007 through 2012**

		City of Oxnard		Ventura County	
Total Six Year Funding		\$	4,597,420.00	\$	7,235,877.00
% of Total Allocation Awarded			67.60%		98.40%
Minimum Score to Receive New \$			Funds Awarded Relative to Allocation		Funds Awarded Relative to Allocation
97	Total 2012 CoC Score:	80.80		98.25	
	Pro-Rata Allocation	\$ 1,322,273.00		\$ 1,314,050.00	
	Perm Housing Bonus	\$ 198,341.00		\$ 215,160.00	
	Total Allocation	\$ 1,520,614.00		\$ 1,649,562.00	
	Renewals funded	\$ 776,645.00		\$ 1,195,610.00	
	New Programs funded	\$ -		\$ 17,930.00	
	Total Funding Received	\$ 776,645.00	51.10%	\$ 1,213,540.00	73.60%
65	Total 2011 CoC Score:	65.25		73.75	
	Pro-Rata Allocation	\$ 962,036.00		\$ 1,044,388.00	
	Perm Housing Bonus	\$ 144,305.00		\$ 156,658.00	
	Total Allocation	\$ 1,106,341.00		\$ 1,201,046.00	
	Total Funding Received	\$ 760,228.00	68.70%	\$ 1,174,370.00	97.80%
65	Total 2010 CoC Score:	77.50		83.75	
	Pro-Rata Allocation	\$ 935,271.00		\$ 1,020,486.00	
	Perm Housing Bonus	\$ 140,291.00		\$ 153,073.00	
	Total Allocation	\$ 1,075,562.00		\$ 1,173,559.00	
	Total Funding Received	\$ 1,147,655.00	107.00%	\$ 1,287,913.00	113.00%
65	Total 2009 CoC Score:	65.25		85.50	
	Pro-Rata Allocation	\$ 934,443.00		\$ 1,023,632.00	
	Perm Housing Bonus	\$ 140,166.00		\$ 153,545.00	
	Total Allocation	\$ 1,074,609.00		\$ 1,177,177.00	
	Total Funding Received	\$ 827,130.00	77.60%	\$ 1,290,858.00	113.50%
65	Total 2008 CoC Score:	61.00		76.25	
	Pro-Rata Allocation	\$ 934,443.00		\$ 1,023,632.00	
	Perm Housing Bonus	\$ 140,166.00		\$ 153,545.00	
	Total Allocation	\$ 1,074,609.00		\$ 1,177,177.00	
	Total Funding Received	\$ 536,108.00	49.90%	\$ 1,132,662.00	96.20%
65	Total 2007 CoC Score:	78.50		90.00	
	Pro-Rata Allocation	\$ 935,070.00		\$ 1,028,374.00	
	Perm Housing Bonus	\$ 140,261.00		\$ 154,256.00	
	Total Allocation	\$ 1,075,331.00		\$ 1,182,630.00	
	Total Funding Received	\$ 549,654.00	51.10%	\$ 1,136,534.00	96.10%

VENTURA COUNTY HOUSING & HOMELESS COALITION MEETING
August 22, 2013

NAME	COMPANY	EMAIL ADDRESS
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MARISSA P. MECH	HSA / HHS Admin	marissa.mech@ventura.org

VENTURA COUNTY HOUSING & HOMELESS COALITION MEETING
August 22, 2013

NAME	COMPANY	EMAIL ADDRESS
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Susan England	United Way/VCHC	
Ruth Schroeder	Many Manners	
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