



AGENDA
MEETING OF THE COMMISSION ON HOMELESSNESS
Monday, 13 September 2021, 4:00 to 5:30 p.m.
City of Oxnard City Council Chambers
305 West Third Street, Oxnard CA 93030

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87191380358?pwd%3DbzhVQTVoa01MSEY1bmxFQ2RvVFhYZz09&sa=D&source=calendar&ust=1630970780741874&usg=AOvVaw3UG-ZpslLndauXYJsB7-J2>

1. CALL TO ORDER

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

A person may address the Commission only on matters appearing on the Meeting agenda. The presiding officer shall limit public comments to three minutes per speaker. Public comments will be heard during Commission consideration of the item on the agenda.

3. INFO/CONSENT

- A. SUBJECT: Minutes of Meeting on 12 July 2021
RECOMMENDATION: Adopt minutes of meeting on 12 July 2021

4. PRESENTATIONS

- A. SUBJECT: Street Outreach Program Update from Salvation Army
RECOMMENDATION: Receive and File

5. REPORTS FROM STAFF

- A. SUBJECT: Director's Report
RECOMMENDATION: Receive and File

6. COMMISSION BUSINESS

- A. SUBJECT: Housing First Sub Committee Update
RECOMMENDATION: Receive and File
- B. SUBJECT: Long Night Event Sub Committee Update
RECOMMENDATION: Receive and File



C. SUBJECT: Safe Parking Sub Committee Update

RECOMMENDATION: Receive and File

D. SUBJECT: Foul Weather Shelter Sub Committee Update

RECOMMENDATION: Receive and File

7. NEW BUSINESS

A. SUBJECT: Housing First Strategy Production

RECOMMENDATION: Receive and File

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 385-8096 (TDD 487-2850). Notification 72 hours prior to the meeting will assist the City in making reasonable arrangements to ensure meeting accessibility.

CITY OF OXNARD
COMMISSION ON HOMELESSNESS
DRAFT MEETING MINUTES
July 12 2021

On Monday, July 12, at 4:00pm the Meeting of the Commission on Homelessness convened remotely via Zoom. Vice-Chair Yukio Okano called the meeting to order at 4:10pm.

1. CALL TO ORDER & ROLL CALL

Present: Vice-Chair Yukio Okano, Commissioners, Ruby Durias, Rene Camper-Stewart, Alejandro Fregoso, David Littell, Jack Villa. Chair Peggy Rivera joined during agenda item 4.

Staff members present: Jessica Petrillo, Homeless Assistance Program Coordinator, and Karl Lawson, Compliance Services Manager.

Also in attendance is Susana Lopez, Executive Director of Community Action Ventura County.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no public comments.

3. INFORMATION/CONSENT ITEMS

Minutes of May 17, 2021 Meeting. Minutes were not reviewed or approved at this meeting. To be reviewed at the August meeting.

4. NEW BUSINESS

a) Community Action Guest Presentation

Susana Lopez, Executive Director of Community Action Ventura County (CAVC) provided a presentation on the services offered by CAVC.

- CAVC shut down in March due to funding limitations and the COVID-19 pandemic
- They are now operating again.
- Services include: Community Market (food pantry), LIHEAP Program (utility assistance), Mental Wellness Workshops, Showers/Laundry/Restrooms, Sack Lunches, Mail Services, Referrals, Haircuts, & Community Market.

The Commissioners discussed this presentation and Ms Lopez answered the following questions:

Q) Are you back to the funding amounts you need to be at?

A) We are somewhat back. Due to COVID, the need for showers, restrooms and mail became a priority. We did not have the staff to distribute the mail which was especially important when many were receiving stimulus checks by mail. We hope within the next year we will secure the funding needed to hire back those case managers.

Q) The One Stop used to be at CAVC. Are there more thoughts on this?

A) We felt horrible we had to shut down the One Stop and I think there is still the need to have more than one One Stop in Oxnard. Our biggest worry was not having enough staff for it, but now that we have staff and security I will be talking to them if there is a day of the week that we can begin this again. We used to host on Wednesdays but that day is now outside of the Rescue Mission. CAVC still has showers and laundry and Mondays and Fridays.

Q) Where is the food pantry location?

A) At our office location on Richmond. Clients can come from any place in Ventura County

Q) Do you have a brochure or something that can be handed out? I run into homeless people daily and would like to give information.

A) We should have one available soon.

Q) Do you have an estimate of the amount of people who CAVC has to turn away due to service availability? How much would it cost for you to open 7 days a week from 8-4 for all services?

A) We try to stick to services between Monday and Friday because that is when we have staff available. So far we have not had to turn anybody down for services. We average 20 people every Monday and Friday. The biggest cost is the salaries which are important and needed. I will have to do some research on a specific number of what it would cost to be open additional hours.

Q) Within Oxnard we have people that do not speak or read English, many speak Spanish or Mixtec. Do you have brochures in any other languages?

A) Yes. English and Spanish is always available in all of our programs. We have been working with MICOP (Mixteco Indígena Community Organization Project) for Mixteco languages.

b) Emergency Rental Assistance Program Guest Presentation

Karl Lawson presented on the Emergency Rental Assistance Program that Oxnard is participating in. The funds were distributed to 50 states and cities with a population over 100,000. The purpose of the funds is for people who lost income due to the COVID-19 pandemic. This can help pay for delinquent rent and utilities. For those who did not have delinquencies but lost income due to the pandemic it can help with rent coming up in the future. Oxnard was allocated \$12M in funds administered by the state. What the City of Oxnard has done is opted to provide assistance to our residents to apply for those funds. There are strict protocols, and requirements from the state of who is eligible and how to apply. Anyone who

would like to apply can apply directly at housingiskey.ca/gov. If someone needs assistance to complete their application we can provide that assistance. Mr Lawson also shared some information from a recent report on the program from California Dept of Housing and Community Development (HCD).

The Commissioners discussed this presentation and staff answered the following questions:

Q) Is this just for people who have lost their jobs? If someone was unemployed at the beginning of the pandemic, but did not have job opportunities to return to, would they qualify?

A) Yes you do not need to have lost your job to qualify. You just need to have lost income.

Q) Will this program continue until the money runs out?

A) No. It will continue until September 30th 2021.

Q) If someone has applied and they are being evicted - will they pay the rent to catch them up before the moratorium is lifted?

A) Yes. This is part of the overall eviction mitigation strategy. It is certainly easier if the landlord is willing to participate in the verification process.

c) Director's Update

Jessica Petrillo shared information provided by Housing Director Emilio Ramirez. Including a summary of the status of the Oxnard Navigation Center, Street Outreach, Vagabond Conversion, Second and B shelter development, Oxnard Housing Authority, Vocational Program, and Proposed Development of a Housing First Plan.

Staff answered the following questions from the Commissioners:

Q) Regarding the Housing First Plan. The Commission has not approved the plan yet. How is it already going to committee?

A) The plan has not yet been developed. The proposal going to committee is requesting support to have staff commit to the process of developing the plan.

Q) Regarding the Vagabond - How does the healthcare program work through the National Health Foundation. How many people are actually taking advantage of those beds right now?

A) It is a 20 bed capacity and I'm not sure how many of those beds are full at the moment. Last time I checked with the manager of the program said that they had a couple available. This program is for people who are homeless and most often in the hospital to get treatment for a health issue. They don't quite need the level of care provided at a hospital but they still have healthcare needs and need onsite nursing support etc and the hospital does not want to discharge them into unsheltered homelessness. NHF provides a mid level of support to those folks.

Q) How many outreach staff are there now on the whole team?

A) The whole team is 3 people.

Q) Is it possible to call the outreach team directly? Or do they have a schedule that they strictly follow?

A) They have a weekly schedule but they are quite flexible. If there is someone that has immediate concerns or a pressing need for the street outreach team they can most often attend. You can either reach out to me or to the street outreach team directly.

Q) You said individuals will be turned away if they are not vaccinated. Do you know how many people are turned away because of this? If they cannot go into the shelter, where do you send them?

A) COVID vaccines are not mandatory for entrance into the shelter. However, if someone has not been vaccinated they do need to first go through a quarantine in a separated room. Vaccines have been offered at the shelter, and at the One Stop, through backpack medicine and the street outreach team have been able to assist people getting vaccinated at other clinics. And yes, we have a greater need for shelter space than we have space available. When someone is not able to go into the shelter, the street outreach team works with them to help connect them to other shelters.

Q) Are there any active outbreaks in the shelter right now?

A) As far as we know there are not any folks with COVID-19 in the shelter right now.

d. Proposed Encampment Response Project

A staff report and presentation was uploaded to YouTube for review in advance of this meeting. The presentation outlined the proposed encampment response project including the recommendation for extending the timeline of providing outreach services at the site until November. Staff are also recommending the City enter an agreement with Ventura County Health Care Agency to provide an outreach program, and a case management and motel voucher program in order to offer people living in encampments non-congregate shelter options.

Staff answered the following questions from the Commissioners:

Q) Is VCHCA run by the City of Ventura or the County of Ventura?

A) The County of Ventura. They operate the Whole Person Care Program and have been working with us at the Halaco site.

Q) Was there an RFP posted for VCHCA?

A) An RFP was posted in late May and was open until Mid-June. The application period has now closed.

5. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 5:47pm.

DATE: 13 September 2021
TO: Commission on Homelessness
FROM: Emilio Ramirez, Housing Director
SUBJECT: Development of Oxnard Housing First Plan

RECOMMENDATION

That the Commission on Homelessness receive, file and support plans for the Housing Department staff to launch the development of a Housing First Plan for the City of Oxnard.

BACKGROUND

Homelessness in Oxnard

At the last Point in Time Count conducted in 2020, there were 567 homeless people counted in the City of Oxnard, 379 of which were unsheltered. The causes of homelessness are complex with overlapping factors including poverty, lack of affordable housing, unemployment, fleeing violence, and discharge from institutions. Our local data shows us that in Oxnard, nearly one-third (30.9%) of homeless individuals indicate that they have chronic health conditions, and over one-fourth (28.8%) have experienced chronic homelessness. It is important to note that Point in Time Counts are a one-day snapshot and likely underestimate the amount of homelessness.

Housing First

Housing First is a low barrier approach to ending homelessness. It centers on quickly moving people from homelessness into housing and then providing additional supports and services as needed. Housing First does not mean housing *only* but recognizes that people are better able to move forward with their lives if they first have housing. Many studies have demonstrated that a Housing First approach can rapidly end homelessness, increase housing stability, and is cost effective by reducing costs of other publicly funded systems.

5 Key Principles of Housing First:

1. Immediate access to housing with no readiness requirements
 - a. Assisting clients to find housing as quickly as possible
 - b. Opposite of ‘treatment first’ and other ‘housing ready’ requirements
2. Self Determination
 - a. Clients have some choice in the types of housing within limitations of what is available
 - b. Choice of what services they receive

3. Recovery Orientation

- a. Supports are focused on client well-being

4. Individualized client driven supports

- a. Individuals are unique and so are their needs
- b. Once housed, some people need minimal support to maintain their housing and others need support for the rest of their lives
- c. Supports may address housing stability, health and mental health needs, and life skills

5. Social and Community Integration

- a. People need social supports and opportunities to engage in their communities

State Level Trends

Addressing homelessness at the local municipal level is in line with current trends on housing and homelessness at a state level. On February 16th 2021, Assembly Bill 816 was introduced, which if passed, would require cities to identify gaps, and resources needed to tackle homelessness and submit detailed plans on how they plan to reduce homelessness by 90% over the next decade. Housing California, which cosponsored AB816, launched 'Roadmap HOME 2030', in March 2021. It will consist of a comprehensive framework on how California can address housing and homelessness over the next decade with a housing first model.

DISCUSSION

In order to respond to the needs of Oxnard residents and to reduce homelessness in Oxnard, staff proposes to develop a Ten-Year Housing First Plan. Given the amount of homelessness in Oxnard, the expansion of homeless services, and alignment with broader state level trends, the timing to develop such a plan has never been better.

The Ten-Year plan would include data and profiles on the homeless population in Oxnard in order to establish the needs in terms of the amount of housing and types of support needed. It would also include recommendations on how to meet those needs over the next ten years, including funding strategies and the creation and development of supportive housing. In partnership with the Commission on Homelessness, community consultation would happen throughout the process, and once complete a draft would be shared for public comment and revised before bringing the report to council.

Such an effort will intent to produce enough permanent supportive housing units to offer housing for the unsheltered population in Oxnard. Ideally, the Housing First plan will:

1. Identify methods of initial outreach to meet basic needs of the homeless population;

2. Seek transition opportunities from the unsheltered condition to eventual permanent supportive housing;
3. Identify viable funding sources to implement a complete Housing First model;
4. Identify potential sites and methods for production of permanent supportive housing; and
5. Create an implementable road map strategy for production of Housing First model and permanent supportive housing.

This meeting of the Commission on Homelessness represents staff's first effort in community engagement for the production of a strategy plan to implement a housing first model for delivery of homeless services in Oxnard.

The Oxnard Housing Department staff proposing to launch a twelve-month engagement effort including meetings with business organizations, employers, neighborhood groups, faith-based community, homeless services providers, funding sources, public and elected officials and other interested stakeholders. Staff proposes to complete such an engagement in cooperation with the Housing First subcommittee of the Commission on Homelessness.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

There is not a fiscal from this staff report and at this time.

ATTACHMENTS

Presentation

Commission on Homelessness

Development of Oxnard Housing First Plan

September 13, 2021



Homelessness in Oxnard

Homelessness in Oxnard:

1. 2020 Point in Time Count - there were 567 homeless people counted, 379 of which were unsheltered.
2. Causes of homelessness are complex with overlapping factors
 - a) lack of affordable housing
 - b) unemployment
 - c) fleeing violence
 - d) discharge from institutions
 - e) among those factors mentioned most often

Homelessness in Oxnard

City of Oxnard Five-Year Homeless Plan

1. Target Vagrancy and Negative Transient Behavior
2. Establish and Develop a Year-Round 24 Hour Homeless Shelter and Navigation Center
3. Focus Resources and Funding to Develop a Quality Coordinated Entry and Exit System out of Homelessness
4. Improve and Expand Street Outreach and Community Partnership
5. Develop and Build Housing Programs Serving the Homeless

Housing First

Housing First Overview:

1. Housing First is a low barrier approach to ending homelessness.
2. Housing First does not mean housing *only* but recognizes that people are better able to move forward with their lives if they first have housing.
3. Housing First can rapidly end homelessness, increase housing stability, and is cost effective by reducing costs of other publicly funded systems.



Housing First

Five Key Principles of Housing First:

1. Immediate access to housing with no readiness requirements
2. Self-determination
3. Recovery orientation
4. Individualized client driven supports
5. Social and community integration



Ten-Year Housing First plan

1. Identify methods of initial outreach to meet basic needs of the homeless population;
2. Seek transition opportunities from the unsheltered condition to eventual permanent supportive housing;
3. Identify viable funding sources to implement a complete Housing First model;
4. Identify potential sites and methods for production of permanent supportive housing; and
5. Create an implementable road map strategy for production of Housing First model and permanent supportive housing.

The First “Housing First” Project



Five levels high

110 beds (13,078 square feet)

Office & Supportive Services

(2,640 square feet)

56 permanent supportive housing units



QUESTIONS