



AGENDA

MEETING OF THE COMMISSION ON HOMELESSNESS (Virtual Meeting)
305 West Third Street, Oxnard CA 93030
Monday, October 4, 2021, 4:00pm

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/81401858470?pwd=QUIJ2a0hJS3RqL2wvOWRxxWHpJL0dQUT09>

To join by telephone dial: 1-877-853-5257 Webinar ID: 814 0185 8470 / Passcode: 004531

This meeting is being held in accordance with Assembly Bill 361, allowing members of the Commission on Homelessness, members of the public and staff to participate via teleconference.

Consistent with City policies imposed to promote social distancing, the facility where the Commission on Homelessness regularly meets is temporarily closed to the public.

YOU MAY PARTICIPATE IN THE MEETING IN THE FOLLOWING WAYS: 1.

EMAILING COMMENTS OR REQUESTS TO SPEAK BEFORE THE MEETING

- a. Submit an email to christian.lopez@oxnard.org no later than 12:00 p.m. on the day of the meeting (Please indicate the agenda item number in the subject line). All email correspondence will be forwarded to the Commission on Homelessness prior to the start of the meeting and made part of the legislative record.
- b. Submit a request to speak by no later than 12:00 p.m. on the day of the meeting by emailing christian.lopez@oxnard.org.

2. PROVIDING PUBLIC COMMENTS DURING THE MEETING VIA CALL-IN OR ZOOM OPTIONS

- a. Speakers shall have up to three minutes to speak.
- b. Speakers may register to speak by clicking the link, <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/81401858470?pwd=QUIJ2a0hJS3RqL2wvOWRxxWHpJL0dQUT09>, and/or calling 1-877-853-5257 Webinar ID: 814 0185 8470 / Passcode: 004531
- c. Public comments on items not on the agenda shall be taken at the beginning of the meeting. If there are more speakers than can be accommodated during thirty minutes, additional speakers who will be given an opportunity to speak at the end of the meeting. After all public speakers have been given an opportunity to speak, the public



comment period shall be held open for three minutes to allow additional speakers to register or otherwise be recognized for the purpose of providing public comment. During this three minute time period, the Commission on Homelessness or staff may briefly respond to comments on items not appearing on the agenda.

- d. Public comments on items on the agenda shall be taken following the announcement of the item. After all public speakers have been given an opportunity to speak on an agenda item, the public comment period shall be held open for three minutes to allow additional speakers to register or otherwise be recognized for the purpose of providing public comment. During this three minute time period, the Commission on Homelessness or staff may discuss the item being considered.

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 17 May 2021 and 13 September 2021
RECOMMENDATION: Adopt minutes of meeting on 17 May 2021 and 13 September 2021

4. REPORTS FROM STAFF

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

5. 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

6. NEW BUSINESS

A. SUBJECT: Foul Weather Shelter Proposal
RECOMMENDATION: Approval

7. 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
MEETING MINUTES
May 17 2021**

On Monday, May 17, at 4:00pm the Meeting of the Commission on Homelessness convened remotely via Zoom. Peggy Rivera, Chair, called the meeting to order at 4:08pm.

1. CALL TO ORDER & ROLL CALL

Present: Chair Peggy Rivera; Vice-Chair Yukio Okano; Commissioners, Ruby Durias, Rene Camper-Stewart (joined during item 4b), Alejandro Fregoso, David Littell. Also present is Jack Villa who is yet to be sworn in.

Staff members present: Emilio Ramirez, Housing Director; Jessica Petrillo, Homeless Assistance Program Coordinator. Rose Chaparro, City Clerk was present for the completion of item 1.

a. Swearing of Commissioner Jack Villa

City Clerk Rose Chaparro swore in new Commissioner Jack Villa

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no public comments.

3. INFORMATION/CONSENT ITEMS

Motion to approve minutes of meeting April 5 2021

Correction: Commissioner Ruby Durias identified that the minutes state Commissioner Peggy Rivera called the meeting to order but Commissioner Rivera was not present at the meeting. The motion was made by Vice-Chair Yukio Okano.

Motion to approve with correction: First – Ruby Durias; Seconded – Yukio Okano.

All in favor – Yes with two abstentions (Peggy Rivera and Jack Villa) due to not being present at the April 5th Meeting.

4. NEW BUSINESS

a. Director's Update

The Navigation Center operated by Mercy House continues to operate with the expansion to a second location due to COVID-19 protocol. We are planning for the eventual move to a single

location but do not yet know when this will happen. We anticipate the Governor is going to issue a re-opening of the state come June 15th and that may or may not come with guidance on homeless shelter operations.

The Vagabond is in operation as a non-congregate shelter also run by Mercy House and in partnership with National Health Foundation. The conversion into Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) is on track. An entitlement package has been submitted. The site must be converted into PSH by December 2022.

The downtown Homeless Solutions Center has been approved by council and we are in the midst of getting ready to submit primary financing this fall. We hope to succeed in that effort and should be in construction by Summer 2022. Expecting a construction period of 18 months.

At the request of Commissioner Rivera we have looked into whether the chair of the Homeless Commission is able to make a motion under Robert's Rules of Order. As per advice from Jason Zaragoza in the City Attorney's Office we have determined that although in normal circumstances, the chair would be responsible for managing the meeting and not able to make a motion, in this case the chair of the commission does have the authority to do so.

b. Sub-Committees

The Commissioners discussed the sub-committees presented in the staff report and Measure M prerecorded presentation. There was a point of clarification on the number of sub committees. The presentation mentioned four proposed sub committees, however five were proposed.

The proposed sub committees are: Foul Weather Shelter; Safe Sleep Program; Housing First; Event Planning; and Public Safety.

Each sub-committee can have no more than three commissioners. The commissioners discussed the sub committees and decided to split the Event Planning sub committee into two sub committees (1. Signature Event, & 2. Longest Night of the Year). It was also decided to not have a Public Safety sub committee at this time. The Commissioners decided on the following members of each sub-committee.

1. **Foul Weather Shelter:** Yukio Okano; David Littell; and Alejandro Fregoso (staffed by Karl Lawson)
2. **Safe Sleep Program:** Ruby Durias; Yukio Okano; and David Littell (staffed by Jessica Petrillo)
3. **Housing First:** Jack Villa; Peggy Rivera; Rene Camper-Stewart (staffed by Emilio Ramirez)
4. **Signature Event:** Rene Camper-Stewart; Peggy Rivera; and Alejandro Fregoso (staffed by Emilio Ramirez)

5. **Longest Night of the Year:** Yukio Okano; Ruby Durias; and Alejandro Fregoso (staffed by Jessica Petrillo)

Motion to Approve: First – Peggy Rivera; Seconded – Ruby Durias.
All in Favor – Yes.

c. Vocational Program

The Commissioners discussed this program and staff answered questions (summarized below)

Q) How many people will this pilot serve, and are the participants already in housing?

A) The pilot will serve approximately 5 people and yes, it is for people who are now in housing but were previously homeless. If the pilot is successful and the program is expanded and continued this criteria is flexible to change in the future.

Q) There was a presentation to City Council and a lot of the positions were skilled trades (electrical companies, construction companies), is this program limited to those types of jobs?

A) No this is a separate program from the one you are referring to. This program has not yet been presented to council. The jobs available will be tailored to the participant. The Workforce Development Board will work with each participant to determine a career path and what type of training is needed.

Q) Who are the case managers that are going to be connected to the participants?

A) A Housing Case Worker, a worker from the Workforce Development Board and a Community Case Manager.

Motion to Approve: First – Peggy Rivera; Seconded – Rene Camper-Stewart
All in Favor – Yes.

d. Housing First

The Commissioners discussed this program and staff answered questions (summarized below)

Q) In the staff presentation, it was said that this plan will make use of set aside/section 8 vouchers. Where are these vouchers coming from? Who is going to pay for them?

A) We are not limited to only using Section 8 vouchers. Funding for housing in this plan will come from a myriad of sources and section 8 vouchers is one of them. Some vouchers can be project based.

Q) Does the Housing First plan go together with the Vocational Program?

A) They are not written as a joint program, but it is the hope that all of our homeless programs are cohesive. It's likely that vocational training and support fits within the Housing First Plan as

does the navigation center, and the street outreach team. All have the ultimate goals of housing and stability.

Q) The State just announced they were giving \$12B towards homelessness throughout the state. This plan probably has good timing in that regard. We're looking at the Homeless Solutions Center, but are we looking at other types of housing besides the 110 beds at the solutions center? Perhaps some tiny homes or other types of options?

A) Yes the state is also adopting a Housing First initiative and the programs it operates at a state level are moving forward with a Housing First requirement to receive funding from the state.

Q) Will homeless people be given preference for this housing?

A) We have a lot of work to do before we establish specific criteria. We are working with the Housing Authority's Homeless Program on a variety of efforts which will create a preference for homeless people within that program. We have mainstream vouchers that are intended to be for homeless or chronically homeless. We are also receiving 56 Emergency Housing Vouchers that are also planned to be for people who are homeless.

(Follow up comment from a Commissioner) I am concerned here that we are using a lot of vouchers for homeless people when we have a long waitlist of housed people who have been waiting on that list for a long time.

Q) The Housing First model has been tried in different communities and some have not been that successful. Is there a plan to gather information from other communities who have implemented Housing First, both successful and unsuccessful? There are good learning opportunities in the not successful models as well.

A) Yes, we will be doing extensive research. I believe the Housing First model has the greatest chance of success. Jessica also has experience in planning and implementation on Housing First. We will consider all of the models, why it worked and why it didn't work and be clear with our findings. I can say now a significant problem of why models didn't work is when they did not properly follow through with the supportive services that are needed in the Housing First model.

(Follow up comment from a Commissioner) When they say Housing First, it doesn't mean Housing Only. It also doesn't mean they will stop paying attention to the other parts of the homeless program. The supports are beyond housing stability and include health, mental health and life skills.

Motion to Approve: First – Ruby Durias; Seconded – Rene Camper-Stewart
All in Favor – Yes.

5. ADJOURNMENT

The next meeting is on June 7 2021. The meeting was adjourned at 5:48pm.

CITY OF OXNARD
COMMISSION ON HOMELESSNESS
MEETING MINUTES
September 13, 2021

On Monday, September 13 at 4:00pm the Meeting of the Commission on Homelessness convened remotely via Zoom. Vice-Chair Yukio Okano called the meeting to order at 4:09pm.

1. CALL TO ORDER & ROLL CALL

Present: Vice-Chair Yukio Okano, Commissioners, Ruby Durias, Rene Camper-Stewart, Alejandro Fregoso.

Regrets/Not Present: Chair Peggy Rivera, Commissioners David Littell, Jack Villa

Staff members present: Emilio Ramirez, Karl Lawson, Maria Santana, Jessica Petrillo

Guest presenter: Sandra Meyer from Salvation Army

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no public comments.

3. INFO/CONSENT ITEMS

The minutes for the May 17th meeting and the August 2nd 2021 were not yet reviewed or approved. We will include these minutes at the October meeting.

Motion to accept the July 12 2021 minutes. Moved by Commissioner Durias, seconded by Commissioner Rene Camper-Stewart.

All in favor.

4. PRESENTATION

a. Street Outreach Program Update from Salvation Army

Sandra Meyer, Program Director of The Salvation Army (TSA) of Ventura County provided a presentation on the Oxnard Street Outreach Team.

- TSA Street Outreach team has served the City of Oxnard for just over a year now and currently has 3 outreach case workers.
- The Street Outreach team goes out into the community to proactively engage with people who are homeless and offer them services.
- TSA Outreach workers give information about services from TSA and other services that are available.
- The TSA Oxnard office is at 622 W Wooley Rd. Services at this office include food pantry, rental assistance, utility assistance, and a social services coordinator.
- The Street Outreach team has a weekly scheduled that was developed in collaboration with Oxnard PD and Jessica (Homeless Assistance Program Coordinator)

- The weekly schedule is flexible and the team responds to other areas as needed. One area the street outreach team focuses on everyday is downtown Oxnard. Right now, they are also providing daily services along K street. The team also responds to calls from the HLO (Homeless Liaison Officer) team and other calls for service from Jessica.
- August Service engagement data:
 - Engaged with 90 individuals
 - Gave out 100 hygiene bags
 - 20 individuals referred to other county services (eg Behavioral Health, Social Security etc)
 - 40 individuals helped with clothes and food items
 - 30 people helped in other ways including transported to appointments, help online with appointments or benefits, signed up for housing vouchers, presented at coordination meetings
 - 15 people placed into shelters.
- Participate in encampment response including weekly efforts by PD and the encampment response near Ormond Beach.
- We have permanently housed about 30 people since last year.
- Part of Ventura County HMIS system
- Collaborate with the CoC

The Commissioners discussed this presentation and Sandra Meyer answered the following questions:

Q) What are the work hours of the street outreach staff?

A) Typically between 8am to 5pm but the Street Outreach team is very flexible. For example, when there is encampment enforcement the team will often start earlier to participate in that.

Q) Are the members of the team reachable directly? For example if one of us came across a situation where we see someone who might need assistance?

A) Yes they are reachable but for third party referrals we typically receive those through Jessica. If there is a need for direct contact we can discuss that.

Q) Regarding the August numbers, is that normal? Or is it usually higher or lower?

A) That is pretty normal.

Q) What is the annual operating cost?

A) \$184,000/year (Jessica)

Q) Are the services Monday to Friday?

A) Yes. Those hours make the most sense because it is when other services are available so the Street Outreach workers can make referrals or provide practical assistance helping people navigate services. However, the team is quite flexible and can provide services on the weekend when needed.

Q) If there are children involved, is the Street Outreach team able to provide more immediate services?

A) Yes if there are children involved that usually opens other service options.

5. REPORTS FROM STAFF

a. Director's Report

Housing Director Emilio Ramirez provided the following report:

2nd and B: We have the entitlement approved. We have received funding approval for the first allocation of funding from No Place Like Home. We are preparing to submit for the permanent funding in tax credits in the next 30 days. If successful in the permanent funding we will be under construction in the earlier part of 2022.

Housing Authority: We are underway in the implementation of Mainstream Voucher Program (MVP) and Emergency Housing Vouchers (EHV). Both of these are section 8 vouchers that are being targeted for homeless individuals.

Casa Aliento (previously Vagabond): Community Development Partners (CDP) are underway in their effort to convert Casa Aliento into Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH). They have applied for financing including an allocation of project based MVP vouchers. They believe they will be under construction in the earlier part of 2022.

Housing First Initiative: We have this item later on in the agenda but we are proposing to develop PSH throughout the city in order to create enough housing to serve the homeless population. The first project from this effort is 2nd and B. As discussed in the last meeting we are also undertaking an effort to build a mixed purpose drop in center with PSH units.

The Commissioners discussed the report and asked the following questions:

Q) How many vouchers from MVP and EHV?

A) 40 MVP and 56 EHV

Q) When will Casa Aliento be converted?

A) We are hoping by summer of 2022

Q) For 2nd and B - what was the funding that has been approved and what is the tax credit portion?

A) Approximately \$7.5M has been approved of No Place Like Home funding. The tax credit portion is approximately \$22M. We should know if this is secured by the end of this year. Construction has to start by 160 days after the time of that approval.

6. COMMISSION BUSINESS

a) Housing First Sub Committee Update

Deferred to discuss during the next agenda item.

b) Longest Night of the Year Sub Committee Update

Committee members include: Ruby Durias, Alex Fregoso, Yukio Okano. Staff support provided by Jessica Petrillo.

- Have met 3 times
- Included representatives from the UU Church of Ventura who have held a homeless memorial in Ventura every December for the past 15 years.
- Have expanded meetings to include: OPD, City of Ventura, CoC, service providers and people who have experienced homelessness.
- Planning to hold simultaneous coordinated memorials in both Ventura and Oxnard.
- Our tentative date is December 19th at 3:30pm. This is not on the actual “Longest Night” but the committee discussed how this date and time helps to include more people including those who are homeless.
- We are discussing ways to include more people who have experienced homelessness
- Have also discussed planning a virtual component due to COVID.

c) Safe Parking Sub Committee

Committee members include: David Littell, Yukio Okano, and Ruby Durias. Staff support provided by Jessica Petrillo.

- At our last meeting we met with Sandra Meyer from Salvation Army and Cassie Roach from New Beginnings to learn about their programs.
- TSA program is smaller - currently 5 cars. Commissioner Okano has been involved with this program through his church.
- New Beginnings has 150 vehicles in their program.
- The New Beginnings Program is a nonprofit organization and gets a lot of funding donated. They have been operating since 2003. A point to note is their local waste management company provides RV dumping services for free. New Beginnings also provides the liability insurance.
- Our next step is to discuss a model.

d) Foul Weather Shelter

Committee members include: Yukio Okano, Alejandro Fregoso, and David Littell. Staff support provided by Karl Lawson.

- Met with Meredith Hart from City of Ventura and Pastor Jim Duran to talk about their program. Their program is a partnership between the City of Ventura, two local motels and 8 churches. They use \$25K in CDBG. The foul weather shelter is activated under certain weather conditions. On activated days people come to the River Community Church and local agencies and churches will conduct the intake and make triage decisions.

- At our last meeting, we invited Jessica Petrillo and Karl Lawson to discuss what the next steps would be if we wanted to recommend this model to the City.
- At this point, we are looking at this model more closely and are in the process of contacting Oxnard churches to see if they would be interested and able to participate.

7. NEW BUSINESS

a) Housing First Strategy Production

Housing Direct Emilio Ramirez provided a presentation on the Development of Oxnard Housing First Plan.

- Homelessness in Oxnard
- Five-Year Homeless Plan
- Housing First Overview
- Ten-Year Housing First Plan
- Oxnard Navigation Center

The Commissioners discussed the presentation and housing first plan, summarized below.

- The commissioners on the sub-committee are: Peggy Rivera, Jack Villa, Rene Camper-Stewart
- Appreciate looking at the big picture and planning things further out.
- May consider Tiny Homes in this plan
- Need for new developments to fit the neighborhood
- Can consider other types of mixed used spaces - eg PSH units with a culinary school below
- Q) Do we need to build new developments from the ground up? Or can we look into rehabilitating older buildings?
 - A) (Emilio) Absolutely. We can also use vouchers in the private market.
- Q) Does housing first necessarily mean housing? Or can it also mean shelter?
 - A) (Emilio) There is a need for actual housing. But yes, elements of housing first can be used in shelter spaces as well (eg. low barrier, individualized supports, community integration etc.)
- This is an early meeting that will be a part of a longer neighborhood engagement process that will lead towards the plan. We would like to schedule similar discussions in community forums and eventually take it to council.
- Public comment from Lorenzo Castillo - I am an affordable housing developer. I am building 30 units and we are going to have 77 beds that can be used for homeless people or for farm workers - including farmer workers who are homeless. I am excited by the plan.

8. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 5:37pm.