CITY OF OXNARD
COMMISSION ON HOMELESSNESS
DRAFT MEETING MINUTES
February 7, 2022

On Monday, February 7, 2022 at 4:00pm the Meeting of the Commission on Homelessness convened remotely via Zoom. Chair Yukio Okano called the meeting to order at 4:09pm.

1. CALL TO ORDER & ROLL CALL

Present: Chair Yukio Okano, Vice-Chair Ruby Durias, Commissioners David Littell, Jack Villa, Rene Camper-Stewart, Alejandro Fregoso

Guest Speakers: Tammy Duff, Director - Gabriel's House Oxnard

Regrets/Not Present:

Staff members present: Emilio Ramirez, Jessica Petrillo, Karl Lawson, Christian Lopez

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no public comments.

3. INFO/CONSENT ITEMS

a. Minutes of Meeting on 10 January 2022

Motion to accept the January 10, 2022 minutes with the recommendation to list members of the public which include: City Councilmember Gabe Teran and Jamie Villa, Davit Karaoglanian representing Oxnard Fire Department. Moved by Vice-Chair Durias, seconded by Commissioner Littell.

All in favor.

4. PRESENTATIONS

Tammy Duff, Director of Gabriel's House Oxnard provided the following information - Gabriel's House is a ranch-style home sitting on 2.5 acres, surrounded by strawberry fields. They serve homeless women and children in Ventura County by providing a family atmosphere that will empower them to find healing and move on to independent living. Of the women they serve, some are coming out of prison, others coming out of abusive relationships, some who are trying to get their children back from Child Protective Services. Gabriel's House also services young adults 18-24 years of age, some coming out of Foster Care. Some of the residents they have serviced are coming out of living in their cars. The goal of Gabriel's

House is to help the residents find work, start saving money, and develop positive social skills while they are having their basic needs met. This is done through life skill classes such as budgeting and job-interviewing. Additionally, they provide weekly case management, 24/7 on site house management, resident mentors, exercise classes, and bible study classes. Some of the on site amenities include: a playground for children, a vegetable garden, and a picnic area.

Questions for Tammy Duff are as followed:

Chair Okano: How many women and children are there now? 14 women and 6 children
Commissioner Villa: How many individuals were served in 2021 and what was the cost to serve those individuals? 65-70 (unduplicated) individuals, the unconfirmed amount is around $1,200 per individual, but Tammy will get back with the confirmed amount.
Commissioner Villa: Does that amount to service the individuals also cover the cost for staff and infrastructure? The amount provided is the total cost combined to house one person.
Vice-Chair Durias: What are the requirements for entry to Gabriel's House and how are the services paid for? Qualifications for entry include: the ability to be employed, drug-free for a minimum of 30 days
Vice-Chair Durias: Do they have to have children? No, Gabriel's House accepts single women as well as young adult women ages 18-24.
Commissioner Fregoso: Is there a time limit that residents of Gabriel's House have and what is the capacity of the site? Emergency is 30-90 days but they also work with the women to stay up to 6 months. The individuals working the program and are following all the guidelines and case plan, will be asked if they want to go into longer term housing, up to one year. The capacity can be up to 30, with a combination of the backhouse (5) and front house (25).
Chair Okano: Is the property owned by the City of Oxnard and is the program run by the Kingdom Center? Yes, the property is leased through the City of Oxnard and Gabriel's House is a program ran by the Kingdom Center.
Commissioner Littell: Is that where funding comes from (Kingdom Center) or is it City funds? The City of Oxnard only covers a very small portion of the budget. The $500,000 Budget is made up of grants and outside donations (businesses,churches,and individuals) that are made regularly to the program.
Chair Okano: Is the program managing well with that budget? Yes.
Commissioner Littell: Are the utilities provided by the City? Yes, but the program is paying for them. The City pays for some maintenance on the property.
Commissioner Littell: Are there plans for improvements, renovations, or modifications to the property? Yes, there have been plans for a while.
Commissioner Villa: Is the cost of $1,200 for each individual per month? Tammy will report back to the Commission with the confirmed amount.
Chair Okano: Do you do regular fundraising? Yes, Gabriel's House has two main fundraising events, one in the Fall and one in the Spring. They also have one at the end of the year.
Vice-Chair Durias: If individuals are able to work and they work outside, do the individuals have to turn in their pay to Gabriel's House? There is a program fee, which is 20 percent of their income. They turn in their pay stubs and Gabriel's House calculates their program fee. They also have to save 20 percent of their income, which all goes back to the individual at the end of their stay with the program.
Chair Okano: Do the individuals need to be screened to enter the program? Do they need to have a TB vaccine or a Covid vaccine? Yes, any individuals interested in the program must call the intake line and

have a phone interview. Once the individual has been successful in the phone interview, the interview is then passed on to the case manager where the individual is interviewed face-to-face. Before entry to the program, the in-person interview, the individual must have results from a TB and COVID test.
Commissioner Littell: Do you take people from the City shelter and other shelters? Yes, Gabriel's House works with and receives people from all shelters.
Chair Okano: If somebody needed mental health treatment or addiction medicine treatment, if not too severe, could they be in the program? The program cannot take in people who need drug and rehab treatment because that is not the type of facility they are. Gabriel's House refers the individuals to providers with mental health care and addiction treatment care (i.e. Prototypes Women's Center). They do take in outpatients of these programs.
Commissioner Camper-Stewart: Do you make an exception for those (individuals) on Methadone? Gabriel's House has had a couple individuals on Methadone, it is a case by case situation for acceptance to the program.
Commissioner Camper-Stewart: Does the same apply for Suboxone? Tammy stated she believes so, Melanie (Case Manager) would be the best person to talk to regarding this matter.

5. REPORTS FROM STAFF

a. Director's Report

Housing Director Emilio Ramirez provided a report on the following:

- 2nd and B -
- Street Outreach Team
- Navigation Center - K St.
- Casa Aliento
- Del Playa Inn
- Mainstream Vouchers

Questions for Housing Director Emilio Ramirez are as follows:
Commissioner Littell: Are there any reasons the owner of the Del Playa Inn withdrew from the ? No, a reason was not offered
Vice-Chair Durias: Is there a question on the validity of administering vouchers to homeless persons? There is a question about whether or not a Housing Authority should be issuing Section 8 type vouchers to otherwise homeless persons.

Chair Okano: Is the Navigation Center on K St. still operating at a lower capacity number because of Covid? Yes, the Navigation Center is still in Covid response. The reduced capacity of 80 individuals split between the PAL and the Armory.

Homeless Assistance Coordinator Jessica Petrillo provided the following update on the Halaco Encampment Response:

The abatement of the Halaco Encampment Site took place on November 20, 2021. 66 persons engaged into the encampment response program through the non-congregate shelter, through motels. There are still a few people remaining in the motel program, working with Ventura County Health Care Agency. It has been reported that no one has since returned to the superfund site to set up encampment. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is rebuilding a fence around the superfund site. There have been reports of people on the surrounding Nature Conservancy property. The Nature Conservancy (TNC) is in regular contact with Ventura County Health Care Agency and the Street Outreach Team Encampment Response Project still attends the TNC site. The Ventura County Healthcare Agency case managers, service providers that are working in that program or working with people on the next steps to a path to permanent housing.

Questions for Jessica Petrillo are as follows:
Commissioner Littell: Where are they being housed? They are in non-congregate shelters at different motels around the City Oxnard, some in motels in the City of Ventura. The Health Care Agency is working with their motel partners to secure as many rooms as possible.

Jessica Petrillo also gave a update of on the Point In Time Count, that takes place on Wednesday, February 3, 2022 from 6am to 1pm

6. COMMISSION BUSINESS

a. Housing First Sub Committee Update

The Housing First Sub Committee will be repopulated once the vacancy on the Commission on Homelessness has been filed.

b. Safe Parking Sub Committee Update

The Safe Parking Sub Committee members include: Chair Okano, Vice-Chair Durias, Commissioner Littell, and staff support provided by Jessica Petrillo.

The next meeting will be held on February 15, 2022 at 11 am

Housing Director Emilio Ramirez reported that an item to the Committee to present the Safe Parking Plan and Budget, using the American Rescue Plan dollars that were allocated to it, is in progress. It is anticipated to be presented to the City Council to procure a project, in the Fall of 2022.

c. Foul Weather Shelter Sub Committee

The Fall Weather Sub Committee members include: Chair Okano, Commissioner Littell, Commissioner Fregoso, and staff support provided by Karl Lawson.

Housing Director Emilio Ramirez will report to the Commission with an update on the Foul Weather Shelter at the next meeting of the Commission on Homelessness.

7. NEW BUSINESS

a. Vacancy on the Commission on Homelessness

There is a person being proposed. The position is to be appointed by Councilwoman Basua. Housing Director Emilio Ramirez reported to the Commission that Councilwoman Basua would like to receive recommendations to fill the vacancy on the Commission. The candidate would have to live in District 5.

b. 2022 Goals

A round table discussion of the Commission's goals for 2022

Chair Okano:

- Sub Committees, trying to ensure action is taken. (Safe Parking, Foul Weather, etc.)
- Longest Night Event, possibly could become the signature event of the Commission
- Increase visibility of the Commission, involvement through community non profits
- Maintain an active role in the Housing Department initiative, as appropriate.
- Invite more nonprofits to speak at the meetings of the Commission on Homelessness

Commissioner Littell:

- Would like a list of the summary Chair Okano provided and more time to prepare for discussion.

Commissioner Villa:

- Would like the Commission to be informed on the programs that are available to the homeless population.
- Would like to see more service providers speak to the Commission in regards to the services they provide to the community.
- Would like to see a connection between the Oxnard Commission on Homelessness and the County and neighboring cities to see how they provide services to their residents.

Vice-Chair Durias:

- Would like more time to prepare for discussion.

Commissioner Fregoso:

- Would like to see efforts in getting the community involved and aware; in hopes to get ideas to help tackle homelessness.

8. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 5:23 pm.