



**CITY OF DANA POINT
HOMELESS TASK FORCE
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

**July 26, 2017
1:09 PM – 3:05 PM
City Hall Offices
33282 Golden Lantern
Dana Point, California 92629**

CALL TO ORDER

Director of Community Development, Ursula Luna-Reynosa, called the meeting to order at 1:09 p.m. and performed roll call.

TASK FORCE MEMBERS PRESENT: Jens Christy, Michael Fox (entered at 1:20pm), Mary Perdue, Margie Wakeham

COUNCIL PRESENT: Paul N Wyatt

TASK FORCE MEMBERS ABSENT: Heather Johnston is no longer with the Chamber of Commerce, Ryan Burris is no longer with Rescue Mission. New appointees will be determined.

CITY STAFF LIAISONS PRESENT: Mark Denny (City Manager), Ursula Luna-Reynosa (Director of Community Development), Kelly Reenders (Economic Development Manager), Matthew Sinacori (Director of Public Works / City Engineer), Rachel Johnson (Assistant Administrative Assistant), Belinda Deines (Senior Planner), Lieutenant Russ Chilton, and Deputy Chris Eiben

A. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Nick Clarke (Capistrano Beach) proposed a solution for homelessness that has been used in the Netherlands. He stated that a studio unit for residential, transitional housing can be built for \$30,000 in 6 months. He added that he is working with other cities as well. Mr. Clarke provided a handout and contact information to the Task Force.

Wayne Yost (VFW) stated that the VFW work to keep veterans from becoming homeless and transition those close to ending their homelessness. He stated that there are currently 20-30 homeless veterans in Dana Point and some have families with children. Mr. Yost stated that they offer assistance in financial aid, jobs, VA benefits, medical, and counseling. In addition, he distributed a handout and contact information.

Bob Fowler (VFW) stated that many of the veteran homeless do not have papers, but if they have their social security number, the VFW can help research and obtain paperwork for them.

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B. CONSENT CALENDAR

1. Approval of the Task Force October 4, 2016 Meeting Minutes

All Members were in favor. The Minutes were approved.

C. NEW BUSINESS

2. County Staff – County of Orange Update

Ursula Luna-Reynosa (Director of Community Development) introduced Susan Price (County of Orange Director of Care Coordinator).

Susan Price (County of Orange) provided a summary of her 22 years of experience and successes in working with the homeless throughout Long Beach and County of Orange. She stated homelessness is a symptom, not a problem itself, and is due to multiple socioeconomic issues, which more recently includes an increased influence from a criminal justice tributary. Ms. Price suggested that the Task Force read her report and assessment that includes recommendations. She added that the County is responsible for mental and public health, plus the housing authority, while cities manage land use. Ms. Price stated that providing mental and physical health care is more expensive than housing, and housing improves health. Despite a large constituency that does not believe that homelessness can be solved, supplying employment encourages purpose and self-esteem and those labeled as service-resistant are spending their energy surviving. Cities, non-profit and faith based organizations, outreach and all resources need to be involved to form a solution. She stated that outreach groups should be contacted for homeless situations rather than law enforcement as there is a more positive response. She suggested that a Beach Cities initiative would be effective in a coordination effort as homelessness is an issue that one resource alone, beyond housing, can solve and all cities have the same end goal. Ms. Price added that homelessness is an issue that responds to resources and people are their worst on the streets, but clean up very well if given a chance.

Ursula Luna-Reynosa invited discussion and questions for Susan Price.

Task Force Member Wakeham stated that Susan has moved the needle in the homelessness issue. She stated that non-profits in partnership with County and City involvement brought positive change. She added that the passing of AB-46 gives cities an opportunity to use collected in-lieu and affordable housing fees towards homeless solution funding.

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Ursula Luna-Reynosa clarified that AB-46 allows cities who previously had Redevelopment Agencies the opportunity to allocate any remaining funds. Dana Point did not establish a Redevelopment Agency, so it does not possess these funds.

Task Force Member Fox asked how resources are working together.

Susan Price replied that agencies work together in Service Planning Areas where leaders of the resource agencies meet. Meetings targeting smaller areas are being planned for September. She stated that one point of coordinated entry should be established and efforts should be mapped.

Bob Fowler asked for a list of resources and added that some hotel offer discounts, but temporary housing and security is hard to find.

Susan Price stated that resources for families should be immediate and one central point of contact should be used.

Nick Clarke stated that Red Cross offers hotel vouchers.

Mayor Pro Tem Wyatt asked if it would be practical for the County to help facilitate a larger group if the City collaborated efforts with neighboring cities.

Gilbert Castro (VFW) stated that homelessness is devastating and because of support groups he was able to phase out of his prior situation and asked if more local support groups could be staged for those in need. He asked what a solution would be for someone that was able to secure a job, but no transportation.

Susan Price stated that transportation is a barrier to overcome in the South County Service Planning Area (SPA). She agreed that peer groups are effective, especially with veterans, but less effective in family programs.

3. Mercy House Report – Outreach Update and Housing Placement Strategy

Ursula Luna-Reynosa introduced Larry Haynes and gave a brief background of his work with the City.

Larry Haynes (Mercy House) stated that the Dana Point enumeration report, prepared by Dr. Clarke of Vanguard University, determined that there were 35 homeless individuals in Dana Point and he felt that the number was high at the time. He also reported that he did not recommend a homeless shelter for Dana

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Point, unless a partnership was formed with other cities. He added that the recent by-name list compiles an assessment, background, and strategy for each homeless individual identified. Mr. Haynes stated that the current number of Dana Point specific homeless individuals is 60, and was 58 two days prior. He stated that 42 are qualified for permanent supportive housing, 15 qualify for rapid rehousing, and 1 qualifies for transition. He stated that 15 people have been housed without a coordinated City program in place, but added that if an investment isn't made into housing, the number of homeless individuals will grow. He stated that the City is at a tipping point and said that when bad actors come into town it creates a broad perception of the homeless, but they need to be helped individually. He stated that there is no credible response that does not include investment.

Questions and dialogue by the Task Force members ensued. No action was taken.

4. City Staff – Full Time Outreach Coordinator Proposal

Ursula Luna-Reynosa introduced the item.

Larry Haynes stated that outreach strategies work well, but not by themselves.

Kelly Reenders (Economic Development Manager) stated that the cost of a full-time outreach person is \$51,500 and Dana Point could approach neighboring cities to share the resource. She stated that the outreach program provides a lighter touch than law enforcement and could be implemented as greater strategies are developed.

Ursula Luna-Reynosa stated that one challenge of permanent housing is that it has a site specific price, so it is difficult to project the cost.

No action was taken.

5. Police Services – Community Impact of Feed

Lt. Russ Chilton stated the partnership with Mercy House has been great and went on to describe some of the challenges faced by law enforcement. He stated that homelessness is a community issue while criminal activity is a law enforcement issue.

Ursula Luna-Reynosa stated that she receives emails from frustrated constituents stating that they don't feel comfortable using public amenities due to the poor behavior of some homeless. She added that there is a broad view of

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the homeless and Dana Point has nothing to lose by trying new strategies such as implementing a housing strategy.

Lt. Russ Chilton stated that Welcome Inn provides food at Doheny State Beach for 30-60 people a day. He indicated that he an advocate of a “hand up” versus a “hand out” approach. He stated that he had met with some of the local churches that participate in the feed earlier in the day to discuss alternative assistance options.

Questions and dialogue by the Task Force and members of the public ensued. No action was taken.

6. City Staff – Service Proposals

Kelly Reenders thanked Susan Price for her presentation and participation. She provided an overview of the Block by Block program and highlighted the efforts of the City of Beverly Hills relative to this program. She stated that, using ambassadors, the Block by Block program promotes safety and hospitality while assisting police with witness accounts, provides safety escorts, answers questions, and encourages public engagement. She added that the proposal provided is resource heavy.

No action was taken.

D. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

7. Next Meeting

Mayor Pro Tem Wyatt stated that the Homeless Task Force Subcommittee is not meeting enough. He stated that the mission of the Subcommittee should be better defined with what accomplishments they hope to achieve and what agencies they should be working with. He stated that a step-by-step plan should be created and executed and ideas have been discussed enough. He added that he would like to consider broadening to a multi-city task force. He stated that he would like the Subcommittee to meet again in one month and refine the charter.

Mark Denny (City Manager) suggested that the Homeless Task Force Subcommittee meet on the last Wednesday of the month, August 30th and September 27th and directed staff to draft the revised charter.

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E. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business before the Homeless Task Force at this session, the meeting adjourned at 3:05 p.m.