

Sonoma Valley Interfaith Ministerial Association

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Wednesday, April 22, 2020

Zoom Meeting

Present: Steve Finley, Emily Pickens-Jones, Stacey Schoeningh, Jim Thomas, Donna Thomas, Curran Reichert, Scott Pryor, David Schoenbach of CSS, Kathryn Stark, Peadar Dalton.

Guests: Police Chief Rodriguez, Sandy Piotter-FISH, Kathy King-SOS

Welcome and Call to Order - Steve opens, thanking this group for stepping up during this time and for supporting each other and the community.

Guests -

Chief Orlando Rodriguez

The first shelter in place was smooth and citizens were very cooperative. The second shelter in place has been good so far with only a slight increase county wide in domestic disturbance calls, no real increase in Sonoma Valley. Initial rumors of significant increase in domestic violence was not true. Please continue to report anything you see or hear of concern. The community is safe for the most part with only some area thefts, especially of work trucks with tools and supplies. They are routinely checking parks and other areas and educating those who may not be following the orders of social distancing. No fines are being issued at this time.

There are no current outbreaks in Coronavirus in the jails and everyone is monitored before entering.

The chief wanted to update us as to the situation where the fruit vendor on Frates Road was shut down. This person was given two previous warnings regarding the cutting of fruit with no access to hand washing as well as proper permitting. The department is not enforcing immigration at this time and wants the public to know this.

The chief is working with the County Health Officer on moving forward with events and how the model will look. Possible that all County 4th of July events will be cancelled as will the Sonoma Raceway events in June. More to come....

Please reach out to the department if you would like to meet or communicate with the deputies who patrol your area.

SOS and the police department are communicating well via email in regards to persons who enter or have been asked to leave due to some issue.

Kathy King

Kathy and the chief both agree that the newspaper often lends a negative spin on the SOS/Haven situation and often many issues at the Field of Dreams area are blamed on the homeless when in fact it is teens and other citizens creating problems as well. And both agree that most of the homeless population trust law enforcement and are policing themselves and calling on those who don't follow the rules. Most appreciate the support and want to be safe themselves.

The inside of the Haven is currently closed. They are serving food and coffee daily from 9am-1pm, mostly packaged food and meals. They serve about 40 people per day. Hand washing stations and a port-a-potty are set up outside. The Health Center is helping providing staff to take temperatures and do health screenings. Masks are required. There is a portable shower set up at the Vets Hall. Those using the showers are each provided with a hygiene kit of soap, shampoo, conditioner, razor, and two towels. Showers are sprayed and wiped down after each use. If necessary, they can also get clean socks, clean underwear, and a change of clothing. There are 18 new volunteers helping.

Calling on our Sonoma Community! With the closure of many food support groups (St. Leo's, Brown Baggers, Women's Guild and more) monetary donations are needed to provide prepared meals ordered from local restaurants. We are looking for: Monetary donations are most useful, Small Chip bags, Fruit (oranges, bananas, apples), Razors, Napkins, Paper Towels (if you can find any..!) Please call to get an updated list for other needed items. Here is a link to a snack donation site: <https://sites.google.com/view/haven-snack-donations/home>

There are discussions regarding how to help the most vulnerable homeless population: seniors and medically fragile. It has been difficult for the County to lease hotels for homeless due to the difficulty getting security, food and proper monitoring. Sonoma State University and the Sonoma Fairgrounds have been discussed as options for this vulnerable population to stay.

SOS will continue to give food and clothes and keep people clean as long as possible. Thank you to the faith communities for all of your support.

Sandy Piotter

The clothing room is closed with exceptions for urgent needs on an appointment basis. Food needs have increased dramatically and distribution is the form of a drive through pick-up. They still have volunteer drivers taking people to doctor appointments. Utilities support has increased especially with people staying home and seeing larger bills and reduced income. Rental assistance has also significantly increased. In April 130 families were given rental support of 1/2 their rent or up to \$1000. They are working on a solution to helping families with a second month of support for May as normally families are allowed one month of support only. They are working with La Luz who mostly offers general financial support while FISH does rent and utilities. They are applying for grants to keep moving forward and hope to be able to continue to meet the community needs.

Please help spread the word that they have many new volunteers but are mostly in need of monetary donations at this time.

Other items -

Kathryn Stark reports on Hospice - only nurses are allowed to visit for urgent cases. They have been approved to do tele-health calls, Zoom and Facebook. There are no current outbreaks of Coronavirus in the Valley nursing facilities.

Curran suggests we get our youth groups and all congregation members to consider making supportive signs to hold up at distributions sites. Many families are accepting support for the first time and are struggling emotionally. The Hanna center is serving about 500 families per day and would be a site to support a large group of families, but any site would be great to show signs.

Steve would like to gather from you and your institutions quotes, words of inspiration, support and spiritual enrichment to assemble and read on the radio. Please send them to him at rabbisteve.shir-shalom@gmail.com

Please remember to check out our news and events page for ways to give/receive support. <https://www.sonomavalleyinterfaithma.org/news-events>

Meeting Adjourned - 1:30pm

KSVY Radio Show Schedule, Tuesdays, 9am:

May 5	Donna Thomas	707-939-6774
May 12	Stacey Schoeningh	707-227-6285
May 19	Dave Gould	
May 26	Scott Pryor	831-747-0139
June 2	Jim Thomas	707-933-6154
June 9	Peadar Dalton	707-939-7613
June 16	Manette Fairmont	707-529-9562