

MINUTES

HOMELESS ADVISORY BOARD MEETING MONDAY, MARCH 26, 2007 – 11:30 AM LOWER CARNEGIE BUILDING MEETING ROOM

Members Present: Alan Graff, Hugh Grogan, Judy Buseman, Tam Baker, Carol Twedt, and Vernon Brown.

Members Absent: Lori Blom and Shirley Halleen

Others Present: Gary Colwill, City Attorney; Ken McFarland, County Commission; Russ Sorenson, City Planning; Melanie Bliss, Homeless Coalition; Kari Benz, Southeastern Behavioral Health; Johanna Saylor, SD Public Radio; and Suzanne Schroeder, Community Development staff.

I. Approval of Minutes – 3/12/07.

Upon motion by Hugh Grogan, seconded by Tam Baker, the HAB voted to approve the minutes as mailed. Carried unanimously.

II. Committee Reports – Review Accomplishments & Target Dates

Review Progress Report of Each Committee:

- A. **Need Committee** – Hugh Grogan reported the intern is still working to document the number of long-term homeless and he hopes to have the final number in April. At this time, it appears to be 39 chronic homeless. Of that number, approximately 20 persons need housing with supportive services and 13 just need housing. He said these people all fit the federal definition of the chronic homeless.

Homeless Reporting Dashboard – Hugh Grogan said the numbers on the form are through today. He said he will be going back in records to see how many people have had their rental or motel rooms paid by Human Services so far in the month. He pointed out that the Union Gospel Mission and, occasionally, St. Francis House both had open beds in March.
- B. **Strategy Committee** – Vernon Brown said the committee is ready to deal with implementation and should perhaps regroup to talk about some of the other homeless issues . . . Families, etc.
- C. **Financing Committee** – Randy said the committee is waiting for information from the Strategy and Needs Committees before being able to proceed.
- D. **Faith Base Community Committee** – Tam Baker reported that Susan Amundsen attended the Forum and gave a presentation on Elizabeth House. She said committee will be meeting soon to work on goals.

- E. **Implementation Committee** – Alan Graff said he is looking for leadership for this committee. He said if the Implementation Committee is in place to work on the ideas and thoughts presented, he could see the HAB moving to monthly meetings. The two objectives would be Housing First and Case Management. Randy Bartunek said there needs to be agreement at the subcommittee level on what project the HAB wants to do and the manner in which it is to be accomplished. After discussion, the HAB decided to form three subcommittees under the Implementation Committee. The subcommittees and their membership are:

Housing First Options - Shirley Halleen, Vernon Brown, Tam Baker, Ken McFarland, Mike Cooper, and Russ Sorenson.

Case Management Options – Carol Twedt, Lori Blom, Hugh Grogan, and Judy Buseman, and representatives from agencies who provide case management to the chronic homeless.

Funding Options – Alan Graff and Randy Bartunek

It was decided the initial reports from the Implementation Subcommittees will be received at the April 9, 2007, meeting and that Hugh Grogan and Alan Graff will be co-chairs of the Implementation Committee.

III. Old Business

- A. **County Pilot Project** – Hugh Grogan reported he still has to obtain approval of the County Commission. With HAB approval, he will present it to the County Commission on April 9, 2007, and the housing units will be ready for occupancy after that date. Case management will be contracted as needed.
- B. **Website Definitions** – It was decided not to post a definition for homelessness on the HAB website and to use the definition in the 10-Year Plan.
- C. **Homeless Survey Results** – Hugh Grogan handed out copies of the preliminary results of the 2007 Needs Committee Survey and said his office is still putting together the number of chronics who responded. Discussion was held on changing the questions asked so that the respondent will provide the information needed on a subsequent survey. Carol Twedt made a motion to do another survey to use the amended questions. Hugh Grogan told the HAB the next survey will include more targeted questions to elicit the types of services available and whether or not the homeless are using the services. Carol Twedt withdrew her motion. Hugh Grogan said when analysis of the number of chronic homeless who responded to the survey is complete, he will present the results to the HAB.

IV. New Business

A. Homeless Coordinator Search Committee

Discussion was held on creating a search committee to participate in the initial interviews, with the full Homeless Advisory Board to participate in the final interviews. The Homeless Advisory Board Search Committee membership will consist of Alan Graff, Carol Twedt, Vernon Brown, Judy Buseman, and Hugh Grogan. Upon motion by Hugh Grogan, seconded by Tam Baker, the Homeless Advisory Committee voted to form a subcommittee to participate in the first round of applicant interviews, with the entire Homeless Advisory Board to participate in the interview process of finalists for the position.

V. The Next Meetings are April 9 and 23, 2007, at 11:30 a.m.

VI. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 12:45 p.m.