

Minutes
HOMELESS ADVISORY BOARD MEETING
January 7, 2008 – 11:30am
Siouxland Health & Human Services Building

Member present: Alan Graff, Tam Baker, Vernon Brown, Randy Bartunek, Hugh Grogan, Kerri DeGraff, Shirley Halleen, Carol Twedt, Wendy Giebink, Judy Buseman

Members absent: None

Others present: Pastor Paul Stjernholm, Peace Lutheran Church and Charis Ministry, Shireen Ranschau, SF Housing, Melanie Bliss, Sioux Empire Homeless Coalition, Russ Sorenson, Planning Department, Kari Benz, Co. Human Services, Angela Hyde, Community Outreach, and Stacey Tieszen, HAB Homeless Coordinator.

I. Approval of Minutes – 12/17/07 Minutes

Upon motion by Tam Baker, seconded by Shirley Halleen, the HAB approved the minutes of the 12/17/07 meeting as provided. Carried unanimously.

II. Pastor Paul Stjernholm – Discussion of Charis Ministry Partners

Pastor Paul discussed the non-profit organization which is comprised of 12 ELCA congregations in Sioux Falls that will do social action ministry together in ways that they could not do separately. Charis is looking to create a mobile food pantry as their first goal and then focus on transitional housing and a mentoring ministry for those recently released from prison or who have aged out of the "system". Members discussed the need to avoid duplicity of services and transportation as a significant need. Angela Hyde from Community Outreach shared that St. Vincent de Paul is providing a 2-3 day supply of food to up to 200 people a month. More and more people are ineligible for food stamps, and food stamp allotments are not enough - people are needing help to supplement their monthly food needs. Diapers and baby formula were also mentioned as items of need. Charis Ministry is hoping to be able to start providing services by Fall 2008.

III. Homeless Coordinator Progress Report

- Stacey Tieszen provided an update of the activities and accomplishments since the last HAB meeting. A food programs inventory was handed out, along with the homeless dashboard reporting the number of open shelter beds available per month. Information was provided in regards to the Soul Connections Conference and the guest speaker, Bill Kirlin-Hackett. HAB members will meet at Foley's on January 28th at 4pm to meet with Bill and ask him questions. Discussed attending meetings that the Mayor will be speaking at that may involve homeless or poverty issues.

IV. Committee Reports – Review Accomplishments & Target Dates

A. Program Committee – Hugh Grogan reported.

- Hugh stated that the Program Committee continues to develop its goals and objectives while identifying the gaps in services in the community. Data will be reviewed in regards to homeless statistics in the Sioux Falls area at the next meeting which is January 8th.

B. Faith-Based Committee – Tam Baker reported.

- Committee continues to work towards creating a successful conference on January 29th.

C. Implementation Committee – No updates.

V. Old Business

A. Business Case – Alan Graff reported.

- Discussed the business case: who to present it to and how. Discussed presenting it to both the City Council and the County Commissioners, possibly at the next Joint County/City meeting. Discussed holding a meeting with non-profit agencies that would have an interest in a Housing First project that focuses on housing and supportive services to chronically homeless singles. Discussed the idea that a 40-unit project may be too big to have in one area, that maybe 20-24 would be better. Discussed permanent supportive housing and transitional housing options, as the Business Case focuses on permanent housing.

B. Executive Committee Development

- Discussed having Hugh Grogan and Judy Buseman on the Executive Committee as the purpose of the committee is to primarily act as a “sounding board” for the Homeless Coordinator. Discussed the transition of the HAB Chair position and looking for nominations at the next meeting.

VI. New Business -- None.

VII. Adjournment – the meeting adjourned at 1:35pm.