

Minutes
HOMELESS ADVISORY BOARD MEETING
March 16, 2009 – 11:30am
Siouxland Health & Human Services Building

Members present: Shirley Halleen, Tam Baker, Carol Twedt, Hugh Grogan, Judy Buseman, Wendy Giebink, and Kerri DeGraff.

Members absent: Randy Bartunek, Vernon Brown.

Others present: Kari Benz, Randy Dobberpuhl, and Lori Dearborn, County Human Services; Russ Sorenson, City Planning; Melanie Bliss, Homeless Coalition; Cynthia Chase, Co. Human Services intern from USF; Angela Marshall, student from Presentation College, and Stacey Tieszen, HAB Homeless Coordinator.

I. Approval of Minutes – 02/23/09 Minutes

Upon motion by Hugh Grogan, and seconded by Kerri DeGraff, the HAB approved the minutes of the 02/23/09 meeting as provided. Carried unanimously.

II. Old Business

A. Housing First Building Committee

- Carol Twedt provided an update on how things have progressed with the Building Committee. There has been one meeting with Community Partners and another one that will occur later this afternoon. There are still a few pieces of information that are missing and need to be solidified before it is ready to be presented to the public. Larry Crane with Perspective has designed a facility that will meet the needs of the chronically homeless, that is expandable if needed and can also be converted into something else should there no longer be a need for this to operate as permanent housing for homeless individuals. A presentation to the County and City will need to be made soon when all data is ready including the operational budget.

III. New Business

A. 211 Helpline Center Community Trends

- Reviewed new data handout from 211 in regards to trends that were seen in 2008 for calls for assistance. Food made the top ten list of services requested by callers for the first time.

B. Homeless Advisory Board Structure

- Discussion focused on membership of the Homeless Advisory Board and what is needed for the future. At present, the HAB is at 9 members and Randy Bartunek's term expires in August 2009. The HAB can increase to a maximum size of 15 members. Members must be appointed and approved by both the City and County. Judy Buseman's term as Chair is also up in the next month or so. Wendy Giebink has been the Vice-Chair, but at present is not sure if she is able to take over the responsibilities associated with being Chair. Judy Buseman said

she has talked with the Mayor about needing to add another Director from the City to replace Randy Bartunek. Discussed several names of people in the community that would be positive additions to the HAB. Discussed having a Nominating Committee – Hugh and Wendy both volunteered to be on this Committee. Shirley Halleen suggested that everyone bring one name to the next HAB meeting.

- Discussed a Board model from King County (Committee to End Homelessness in King County, WA) which contains three boards that comprise the overall committee. One Board is the Governing Board (GB) that meets quarterly and contains people who have connections with other entities and funding providers. The second Board is an Inter-agency Council (IAC) that meets monthly and whose membership and role is similar to the HAB. The final Board is comprised of consumers – people who are homeless, have experienced homelessness, or are in poverty. Discussed how we can change up the HAB to make it more effective and how it interacts with the community. Carol Twedt said that the HAB is a combination of the IAC and the GB committees. Shirley Halleen stated we would need to be able to give them the authority and the responsibility to act. Carol Twedt suggested seeking new members to add to the HAB that can bring much of these same traits rather than changing up the structure. Judy Buseman said that we need to align differently in our structure so that we have a committee that can do the project pieces such as establishing the trust fund/vouchers and developing new facilities to meet the needs of our homeless families/individuals. Tam Baker said that it is important that if we seek out people who are active in the community and who are used to seeing things progress quickly, that we have HAB meetings that are very productive and forward-oriented. Tam Baker also said that it is important that we find the right people as there are many individuals in the community who are not interested in the plight of the homeless.
- Discussion then returned to finding new members to add to the Homeless Advisory Board. The creation of a Nominating Committee was deemed unnecessary as the Executive Committee (Hugh Grogan, Wendy Giebink and Judy Buseman) can perform the same function. HAB members were then asked to bring back a name of someone they have talked with who would be interested in joining the Board for the next meeting on April 6th.

IV. Homeless Coordinator Updates

Stacey Tieszen provided updates on activities since the last HAB meeting. Provided a rough draft of the homeless count numbers thus far. Official and final results should be available at the annual Homeless Summit in April. Discussed a recent report that ranked SD as 12 in the nation for how our homeless kids' needs are met.

V. Committee Reports

- **Program Committee – Hugh Grogan**

Continuing to obtain and compile data in regards to community trends and homeless families.

- **Faith-Based Committee – Tam Baker**
No report at this time.

VI. Adjournment

- Meeting adjourned at 12:55pm.