

Minutes

HOMELESS ADVISORY BOARD MEETING

January 11, 2010 – 11:30am

Siouxland Health & Human Services Building

Members present: Hugh Grogan, Kerri DeGraff, Shirley Halleen, Tam Baker, Judy Buseman, Vernon Brown, Carol Twedt, Mike Cooper.

Members absent: Jim Meyer, Wendy Giebink

Others present: Shireen Ranschau, SF Housing; Melanie Bliss, Homeless Coalition; Julie Becker, St. Francis House; Tim and Nancy Nicolai, Arena Motel; Tammie Denning, ICAP; Kari Benz, County Human Services; and Stacey Tieszen, HAB Homeless Coordinator.

I. Approval of Minutes – 12/14/09 Minutes

- Upon motion by Tam Baker, and seconded by Shirley Halleen, the HAB approved the minutes of the 12/14/09 meeting as provided. Carried unanimously.

II. Old Business

A. Safe Home Update

- Kari Benz, Assistant Director for Minnehaha County Human Services provided an update in regards to the progress of the new facility for Safe Home. She discussed current funding progress as well as facility adjustments that may be made as all options are pursued. Kari Benz discussed the two RFP's that were received in regards to building Safe Home. Carol Twedt mentioned that they have also continued to meet with various community partners to secure funding. Carol Twedt also thanked Senator Johnson's office for securing the \$340,900 appropriation for Safe Home.

B. Inter-Agency Collaboration Summit

- Stacey Tieszen updated members about the progress on putting together a Summit to address ending family homelessness. Invitations were presented and are ready to be mailed. February 4, 2010 from 8am to 3:30pm is the timeframe. Grant request from SF Area Community Foundation has not yet been decided. Discussed lunch and funding snack options. Provided information about the facilitator.

III. New Business

A. Homeless Advisory Board Chair and Executive Committee – Tam Baker

- Tam Baker thanked Judy Buseman for her extension of time and service to the Board as its Chair. All members present also thanked Judy for her service and commitment to the Board. Tam then said that the Nomination Committee met and Hugh Grogan has agreed to be the new Board Chair. Wendy Giebink will remain as Vice-Chair. Vernon Brown made a motion to approve Hugh Grogan and Wendy Giebink as Chair and Vice-Chair respectively. Tam Baker seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.
- Carol Twedt shared with the Board that this will be her last meeting as a HAB member. Minnehaha County Commissioner Jeff Barth will assume her position on the Board. Members thanked her for her years of commitment, passion and service to the Board as well as to those in need in the community.

B. Winter Weather Needs – Community Issues – Hugh Grogan

- Discussed the Salvation Army's Warming Center that was on the news over the weekend. It was suggested that Major Mills from the SA come talk with the HAB about its services. Mike

Cooper discussed prior concerns with the shelter as well as their plan to do the same warming center idea last year. The Planning Department of the City will follow up with the Salvation Army. Details of the services will be relayed to the Board members as well as others attending today's meeting. Hugh Grogan discussed after 5pm calls from the Helpline as well as the requests for assistance at the County Human Services office. Numbers are not available from Fran at UGM in regards to their capacity, but Hugh Grogan said that their policy is to make room on cold nights. St. Francis House is consistently full. Julie Becker shared that there have been increased requests for food as well as people lacking proper clothing for the cold weather so they have worked hard to try and meet the growing needs. St. Francis House will have a ribbon cutting soon for the new transitional housing units. The Good Shepherd Center is also experiencing an increase in need and use.

IV. Homeless Coordinator Updates

- Stacey Tieszen provided updates on activities since the last HAB meeting.

V. Miscellaneous Updates

- Vernon Brown shared about the progress in selecting a company from the RFP's that were submitted to SECOG for the Affordable Housing Study. They will be interviewing successful submissions and will hopefully have a completed study by the end of April. Julie Becker mentioned concerns with requiring people to have 4 different items in order to acquire a state identification. Melanie Bliss discussed concern with the number of prisoners being released and the lack of affordable housing available in the community to meet that need. Over 50% of the guests currently staying at St. Francis House are parolees.

VI. Committee Reports

- Program Committee

No additional report – focus of the Program Committee is on the Summit discussed above.

- Faith-Based Committee

No report at this time.

VII. Adjournment

- Meeting adjourned at 12:35pm