

Minutes

HOMELESS ADVISORY BOARD MEETING

February 8, 2010 – 11:30am

Siouxland Health & Human Services Building

Members present: Hugh Grogan, Kerri DeGraff, Shirley Halleen, Tam Baker, Jeff Barth, Mike Cooper, Wendy Giebink.

Members absent: Jim Meyer, Judy Buseman, Vernon Brown.

Others present: Angela Hyde, Community Outreach, Brett Johnson, Southeastern Behavioral Healthcare, Tammie Denning, ICAP; Kari Benz, County Human Services; and Stacey Tieszen, HAB Homeless Coordinator.

I. Approval of Minutes – 01/11/10 Minutes

- Upon motion by Shirley Halleen, and seconded by Tam Baker, the HAB approved the minutes of the 01/11/10 meeting as provided. Carried unanimously.

II. Old Business

A. Safe Home Update

- Hugh Grogan discussed the Minnehaha County Housing Authority that has been established to work with creating affordable housing. It will be the entity applying for funding from the SD Housing Development Authority in Pierre. Hugh Grogan discussed the Tax Credit and HOME fund applications that will be submitted prior to month's end and that they have been working with Lloyd Companies for the application. The THUD appropriation secured by Senator Johnson is \$340,900 and Safe Home should know by late March when paperwork will be available to procure the money. The Safe Home building will look different than the original design in an effort to reduce costs and increase the likelihood of securing a successful application. Commissioner Barth said that the County will get Safe Home built, but are pursuing all avenues for funding. Barth also stated that there was a neighborhood meeting held in regards to re-zoning the area where Safe Home will be constructed. Two people attended and neither were in opposition. No letters in opposition were received by the Planning Department.

B. Inter-Agency Collaboration Summit

- Stacey Tieszen provided an update as to the success of the Community Summit on Ending Family Homelessness. Three priorities were identified: affordable housing, transportation, and education. Facilitator, Patricia Julianelle, will type up the data and expects to have it ready by February 12. The Program Committee of the HAB will then look over the information and get it ready for disbursement to the community. The plan will be to have several short-term working groups meet focusing on one specific priority and/or strategy. Feedback was given in regards to the positives and constructive criticisms of the day's events.

C. Salvation Army Warming Center

- Mike Cooper, Director of City Planning, shared that a letter had been sent to the Salvation Army in regards to their Warming Center identifying several key items pertaining to zoning and neighborhood issues. Cooper stated that they received a letter in response from Steve Cook, Board Chair for the Salvation Army, that said their Mission is clear and they don't believe they are doing anything wrong. Shirley Halleen mentioned that she had been approached by Steve Cook who inquired as to why would we want people to freeze? Halleen said that we don't want people to freeze, but we want to avoid duplication of

services making sure that what is already available in the community is being properly utilized as well as comply with proper zoning and other requirements. Angela Hyde mentioned that a program should meet the needs of the program and not vice versa. The warming center meets a need for those who cannot or choose not to stay at other shelters. Board members agreed that it would be beneficial to have Major Mike Mills come talk about what their goals and services are at the March HAB meeting.

III. New Business

A. Creating a Housing Trust Fund for Sioux Falls

- Hugh Grogan discussed the basics of a housing trust fund, the success other communities have had with it, and potential funding options. Grogan discussed the possibility of utilizing SF Housing as the entity that disperses the vouchers, that there would be some type of work requirement as well as some leveraging to encourage participants to pay some of the rent. Subsidizing a portion of the rent for low income families has proven to be successful in preventing homelessness. Angela Hyde shared that a small group has been meeting to create a housing trust fund, but the funds are on a much smaller scale. Grogan said that it will be about fostering partnerships including with banks, SEUW, SF Area Community Foundation, the City, Minnehaha County, and people interested in legacy giving. Discussed getting additional information together including examples from other communities. It was recommended that the Board look at formally endorsing this Housing Trust Fund as an option and avenue to pursue.

- Mike Cooper shared an article he read in the Sunday (February 7, 2010) Minneapolis Star Tribune about the chronically homeless in Duluth, MN and the work being done there. The underlying cause for homelessness is poverty – not earning enough to pay the rent or to afford the necessities that go with renting.

B. Establishing a Community Standard – Homeless Families

- Hugh Grogan brought up that the community standard for Sioux Falls has been to try and make the time that children spend in a shelter with their parent(s) be as minimal as possible. Discussion centered on ways to keep them affordably housed and how to get them out of a shelter as quickly as possible. There is a significant lack of affordable larger units, but more families needing them. The standard would be considered the philosophical approach we would take in the community. Kerri DeGraff made a motion that the Community Standard for Sioux Falls be to limit time in emergency shelters for families with an emphasis on working to secure permanent housing as funds are available. Wendy Giebink seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously. There continues to be some issues with communication and entities wanting to work independently so information on families in need is not readily accessible nor are services made available as a result.

IV. Homeless Coordinator Updates

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

V. 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.

VI. Adjournment

- Meeting adjourned at 1:00pm