

HOMELESS ADVISORY BOARD MEETING MINUTES

April 19, 2010 – 11:30am

Siouxland Health & Human Services Building

Members present: Hugh Grogan, Jim Meyer, Vernon Brown, Shirley Halleen, Mike Cooper, Judy Buseman, Tam Baker, and Jeff Barth.

Members absent: Kerri DeGraff, Wendy Giebink.

Others present: Angela Hyde, Community Outreach; Brett Johnson, Southeastern Behavioral Healthcare; Tammie Denning, ICAP; Kari Benz, County Human Services; Julie Becker, St. Francis House; Tim Nicolai, Arena Motel; Shireen Ranschau, SF Housing, and Stacey Tieszen, HAB Homeless Coordinator.

I. **Approval of Minutes – 03/08/10 Minutes**

- Upon motion by Jim Meyer, and seconded by Mike Cooper, the HAB approved the minutes of the 03/08/10 meeting as provided. Carried unanimously.

II. **Old Business**

A. Safe Home Update

- Hugh Grogan shared an editorial from the Argus Leader encouraging contact with the City of Sioux Falls again in regards to the costs associated with the facility and operating expenses of Safe Home. Grogan shared that some changes have been made to the original design of the building to make it more cost effective for the tax credits which County should hear about in about two weeks. Community Partners will continue to be vital to the completion and success of the program.

B. Inter-Agency Collaboration Summit

- Stacey Tieszen discussed the number of people who had responded to join one of the three priorities taken from the Summit and that no one had chosen transportation as an area, but many said to put them where they could be of most use. Discussed the new transportation coordination committee that has formed as well as the focus groups that have been done recently to identify strengths and weaknesses for transportation. Taskforce groups will be scheduled in the near future.

C. Salvation Army Warming Center Update – Mike Cooper

- Mike Cooper and Russ Sorenson met with 3 Salvation Army staff and 3 Whittier Neighborhood residents on March 26th to discuss the warming center specifically focusing on what the need for the center is, to discuss neighborhood concerns, and how the Salvation Army believes this center to be within their mission. The Salvation Army believes there is an unmet need in the community and they want to do what they can to help alleviate that. Cooper shared that the Salvation Army felt very strongly about being able to keep their doors open as these individuals are not being served elsewhere. Cooper suggested that there be a coordinated effort between homeless service providers to see what options exist and what more can be done. If the Homeless Advisory Board believes that there is an unmet need that discussion needs to occur in the summer/early fall to make a plan. If the Board agrees that the warming center is the best option then coordinated efforts need to occur as does delineating clear expectations. Was also mentioned that County procedures for providing a safe place after 5pm be made more clear so that people know that option may be available to them by calling 211.

III. **New Business**

A. Strategic Planning with New City Leadership

- Discussed the best way to make contact with the 4 new City Councilors as well as connecting with the new Mayor. Discussed having Stacey Tieszen go to an informational meeting of the Council to

present on the work of the Homeless Advisory Board. Discussed what information should be included and how to include it. Discussed maybe having a new City Councilor who is unfamiliar with homeless issues replace Vernon Brown on the Homeless Advisory Board.

B. Ten Year Plan at the Halfway Mark

- Reviewed the 20 items of the Blueprint to End Homelessness and agreed that a more in-depth review needs to occur at the next HAB meeting. Would look to consider which of the items may no longer be relevant or necessary as well as review what things on that list have been accomplished. Discussed doing a press release as well as presenting at a Joint City/County meeting. Agreed that the Board needs to develop some specific goals with objectives in obtaining them for the next year. Jeff Barth recommended selecting 3 points to get done this year. Barth also was interested in the HI-Team identified in the Blueprint to look at ways that might coordinate with the new Involuntary Committal Team that is taking shape via the County. Vernon Brown suggested that Stacey Tieszen and Hugh Grogan come back to the next HAB meeting with what items should have the greatest focus for the year.

IV. Homeless Coordinator Updates

- Stacey Tieszen provided updates on activities since the last HAB meeting. Discussed the Youth Needs Assessment Survey that will be done at the end of April. Discussed the upcoming Faith Based Community Breakfast where members will be informed of how the emergency service providers for basic needs all work together. The Breakfast is scheduled for May 20 at the Siouxland Health and Human Services building.

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 – focus is on the Faith Based Community Breakfast discussed above.

VI. Additional Information

- Shireen Ranschau from SF Housing mentioned that on Tuesday at 11am, they will be having a groundbreaking at 505 S. Duluth for their new 8-studio units that will be income based at 40% of median income. The majority of the rents will be between \$310 and \$390/month and will be open to all individuals. Each unit will be about 350 square feet. Neighborhood Stabilization and other stimulus money are helping to pay for construction of the units.
- St. Francis House Director, Julie Becker, shared that they are consistently full. They continue to offer sack lunches to people who stop in and say they are hungry regardless of if they are current guests of the program. She said that many are not working, but have no place to go for lunch meals. Lunch is Served continues to provide about 300 meals a week, but are geared towards those who are working. Shirley Halleen who helps with the Lunch is Served ministry suggested she and Julie talk to see if they can find some ways to help those in need of lunch.
- Angela Hyde with Community Outreach shared that they spent their emergency funds (\$16,000) in the first 4 days of the month. Hugh Grogan shared that County Human Services is at a quarter of its annual budget. Whittier Neighborhood Cleanup is next Saturday.

VII. Adjournment

- Motion to adjourn made by Vernon Brown and seconded by Judy Buseman. Meeting adjourned unanimously at 1:00pm.