

HOMELESS ADVISORY BOARD MEETING MINUTES

October 3, 2011 – 11:30am

Siouxland Health & Human Services Building

Members present: Carol Muller, Kerri DeGraff, Michelle Erpenbach, Jim Meyer, Traci Jensen, Jeff Barth, Shirley Halleen, Doug Morrison, and Jesse Vavreck.

Members absent: Jill Franken and Darrin Smith.

Others present: Shireen Ranschau, SF Housing; Paul Hess, City Community Development office; Angela Hyde, Community Outreach; Melanie Bliss, Sioux Empire Homeless Coalition; Julie Becker, St. Francis House; Maria Krell, Good Shepherd Center; Major Mike Mills, Salvation Army; Brett Johnson, Southeastern Behavioral; Tammie Denning, ICAP; and Stacey Tieszen, HAB Coordinator.

I. Business

A. Approval of Minutes – 8/08/11

- Upon motion by Doug Morrison, and seconded by Kerri DeGraff, the HAB approved the minutes of the 08/08/11 meeting as provided. Carried unanimously.

B. Public Input on Non-Agenda Items

- None.

II. Program

A. Winter Plan 2011-2012 Update

- Major Mike Mills of the Salvation Army provided information on their intent to host the warming site for one more season beginning January 5, 2012 until mid-March 2012. Major Mills shared a letter with the Board that he has also submitted to the City of Sioux Falls Planning Department. Salvation Army had been told that they need to comply with the ordinances of the City in regards to their shelter services by applying for a conditional use permit and would appear before the Planning and Zoning Commission on October 5, 2011. Mills shared that he had been informed recently by the City that Salvation Army did not need to have a permit for the warming site, especially because it was not going to be a shelter, but strictly a warming site. Mills was asked about statistics from last winter. Mills shared that on average 28 people stayed there each night it was open. This number does not include families and was primarily male. He said that approximately 6 of the total population on any given night had been drinking and detox was utilized as needed for those who were too inebriated. He said for the most part the faces are familiar with 75% consistently returning each evening. Showers are available and they will be allowed to have cots this year. The warming site will be open when it is below 28 degrees outside which does include a wind-chill factor. Its hours of operation are from 7pm to 7am. Board members thanked the Salvation Army for being willing to take on this needed emergency service. Major Mills did state that this would be the last year that the Salvation Army will host the site as he would like to use his gym as a gym for activities for youth in the neighborhood, but is unable to do that during the winter months when the warming site is open.

B. Annual Homeless Count

- Was held on September 27, 2011 beginning at 4:00am at Labor Ready and continuing through the day and evening. Over 40 volunteers helped with the Count and all three TV news channels as well as the Argus Leader covered the Count. Discussed some of the stories people experiencing homelessness shared while completing the surveys with volunteers. Discussed having the HAB Coordinator do local data compilation to analyze any trends or information that the Board wanted to know more about. The surveys are submitted to the SD Housing Development Authority where staff input the data and provide an overall state picture. This was the first year that the school district specifically had counselors and social workers go to hotels to meet with homeless families. Traci Jensen shared that they found about 20 homeless families in motels that day, but many of the families they had expected to encounter were no longer at that motel. Lunch is Served provides sack lunches for people who get sent out on a job thru Labor Ready, and Shirley Halleen said that they have more than doubled

the number of lunches they have been preparing because of an increase in need for food. Julie Becker shared that they continue to give out sack lunches every day as well as blankets and warm clothing. She said they have seen a significant increase in the number of single women seeking shelter, especially as a result of sentencing through the drug court. St. Francis House has been consistently full.

C. Housing Trust Fund

- Discussed the progress on identifying a dedicated revenue source. A marketing subcommittee has also been formed to draft an RFP and create a campaign for the Housing Trust Fund. Will host a conference call with Mary Brooks and Michael Anderson from the National Housing Trust Fund to talk through some obstacles as well as to discuss a date that they can come to Sioux Falls to do a training with the taskforce again.

D. Community Trends Dashboard

- Shared the local information provided by community service providers. There was much discussion on the continued increase in the need for food in this community. Discussed that the number of households receiving SNAPs (Food Stamps) in Minnehaha County has surpassed 10,000 and continues to rise. The need for transitional housing also continues to grow. Jeff Barth mentioned a potential change being pursued for driver's licenses that would include Veteran designation (honorable discharge only). Also discussed the need to be proactive for the months that are cold before the Salvation Army Warming Site can open. Potential federal cuts to the Transit services in Sioux Falls may also occur.

E. Consumer Advisory Board Update

- Discussed the proposal that Falls Community Health staff, Judy Kendall, and HAB Coordinator, Stacey Tieszen, have developed including a timeline to establish an effective advisory board with consumers that want to take an active role in discussing their needs, especially any unmet needs, and ways to enhance services for those experiencing homelessness. Retention is known challenge, but staff will address as needed.

F. Community Drop-In Center (Homeless Veterans)

- Volunteers of America, Dakotas has received a federal grant from the VA in the amount of funds requested to develop and staff a drop in facility for homeless Veterans and their families. It will be located at 1113 E. 14th Street (just off Cliff Avenue behind the current Vets Center) with plans to be open around November 1, 2011. It will provide computer/internet access, job seeking assistance, and various other services including snacks, laundry, and shower facilities.

G. Strategic Process

- Discussed the need to secure funding to hire a facilitator to help the Board with developing new strategies and reviewing the 10 Year Plan to meet the current challenges of the community. Discussed facilitator fees and abilities. The Board requested that a proposal be obtained that would outline the specific areas of focus for the strategic process. Carol Muller offered to have her department pay half of the fee if another funding source or two could be identified. Discussed whether the Sioux Empire United Way or SF Area Community Foundation may be an available resource.

III. Information

- > Sioux Empire Homeless Coalition is sponsoring its next Project Connect occurs at the Salvation Army on October 31, 2011 from 9am to 3pm. Hunger and Homeless Awareness week activities sponsored by the Sioux Empire Homeless Coalition begin on November 14, 2011.
- > SD Housing Development Authority is hosting its annual Housing Conference November 8 and 9 in Pierre. Board members agreed that it would be appropriate for HAB Coordinator to attend.
- > Citibank will provide a training on New Market Tax Credits in Sioux Falls on October 25-27, 2011.

IV. Adjournment

- The meeting adjourned into Executive Session at 12:30pm.