

Minutes  
HOMELESS ADVISORY BOARD MEETING  
March 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2008 – 11:30am  
Siouxland Health & Human Services Building

**Members present:** Kerri DeGraff, Randy Bartunek, Hugh Grogan, Shirley Halleen, Wendy Giebink, Judy Buseman, Carol Twedt

**Members absent:** Alan Graff, Vernon Brown, Tam Baker

**Others present:** Shireen Ranschau, SF Housing, Melanie Bliss, Sioux Empire Homeless Coalition, Russ Sorenson, Planning Department, Alex Schierbeck, County Human Services Intern, Kari Benz, County Human Services, and Stacey Tieszen, HAB Homeless Coordinator.

### **I. Approval of Minutes – 02/11/08 Minutes**

Upon motion by Shirley Halleen, seconded by Carol Twedt, the HAB approved the minutes of the 02/11/08 meeting as provided. Carried unanimously.

### **II. Homeless Coordinator Progress Report**

- Stacey Tieszen provided an update of the activities and accomplishments since the last HAB meeting. Discussed the Homeless Dashboard and the data that had not yet been received from detox. UGM provided a number of beds that were filled from Jan 1 to Feb 8<sup>th</sup>, but no further breakdown – that number was 2,592. Will attend Annual Homeless Summit in Oacoma, March 4 – 6, 2008 and will host the roundtable discussion for the City of Sioux Falls (the SD Interagency Council on Homelessness) along with Kari Benz from County Human Services. Soul Connections Conference follow-up meeting will be on March 11, at First United Methodist Church. Shirley commented on two conversations she has had recently with individuals from the faith community and the need to be clear on what we are expecting from the faith community and what the role of Community Outreach will be so as to make progress, but prevent any detriment or backward motion. The need is for the faith community to work together and avoid duplication of services. Wendy also mentioned that Homeless Education has counted 650 homeless children (includes doubled-up numbers) thus far this school year.

### **III. Committee Reports – Review Accomplishments & Target Dates**

#### **A. Program Committee – Hugh Grogan reported.**

- Discussed prioritizing the goals and objectives along with working to obtain the data necessary to establish a solid baseline – needs, gaps in services, and what the costs are – with focus on homeless families.

## **B. Faith-Based Committee**

- Hasn't met since the last HAB meeting, but items were already discussed above in Coordinator's report in regards to the follow-up meeting from the Soul Connections Conference, and being clear with the message that is being brought forth to the faith community.
- **C. Implementation Committee** – No updates.

## **IV. Old Business**

### **A. Executive Committee Development**

- The Board has discussed nominating a new Chair as well as the creation of an Executive Committee. Shirley Halleen made a motion to nominate Judy Buseman for the position of HAB Chair and that she, along with Hugh Grogan and Wendy Giebink, be nominated to and comprise the Executive Committee. Carol Twedt seconded the motion. Randy Bartunek made a motion to amend requesting that a member of the Executive Committee also be a Vice-Chair that would fill in to lead the meetings should the Chair need to be absent. Wendy Giebink was nominated to be the Vice-Chair. Shirley then repeated the motion nominating as amended. Kerri DeGraff seconded the motion. Carried unanimously.

### **B. Business Plan – Judy Buseman reported.**

- 1) City/County Business Plan Presentation

Judy Buseman stated that Alan Graff did a great job of informing the City Council and County Commissioners at their joint meeting on February 19<sup>th</sup>, 2008 about the progress that has been made in regards to homeless issues and awareness in the SF Community, as well as in presenting the need for the Housing First Business Plan. Shirley Halleen commented on the increase of public awareness of homeless issues. Wendy Giebink commented that the reception in regards to presentations and information presented on homeless issues is much more positive. Carol Twedt commented on the active efforts made by many in the community to educate, including Melanie Bliss and the Homeless Coalition. Judy Buseman also praised those crucial to increasing community awareness of homeless issues. Requests were made to both entities to endorse the Housing First Business Plan. The City Council deferred their motion until their meeting on March 3<sup>rd</sup> as not all Council members had received a copy of the Business Plan. The County Commissioners approved a motion to endorse the Business Plan. Additional discussion provided by Carol Twedt was that as Chair of the County Commission she meets with the Mayor and they discussed not creating an additional taskforce, but using current members of the HAB from the City and County to create a Business Plan Implementation Committee. The HAB will act as a liaison for the Business Plan with other community entities. Shirley Halleen made a motion that Judy Buseman and Hugh Grogan become the Chairs of this new Business Plan Implementation Committee and that all others who wish to attend the meetings may do so. Kerri DeGraff seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously. Carol Twedt also requested that a report of the Safe Home program be made at every other HAB meeting.

- 2) Non-Profit Meeting Follow-Up

Discussion of the Non-Profit Meeting that occurred on February 12<sup>th</sup>. Carol Twedt asked for clarification of what the meeting's purpose was and who attended the meeting. Discussed that it was just a first step in identifying agency interest and the agencies that were invited were some of the ones that deal with issues related to housing and chronic homelessness. The goal would be to establish community agency partnerships. Discussed the letters of interest received thus far and that the deadline to respond for the non-profits was March 14. Salvation Army had sent a letter with several questions they would like answered before they could enumerate just what their interest level would be. The questions focused primarily on the roles of the City and the County in regards to the SRO's development and on-going funding/support. It was decided that the HAB did not have the answers as of yet to the questions asked, but that they had indeed asked the right questions. An effort would be made to get those questions answered as quickly as possible through the Business Plan Implementation Committee and the non-profits would be made aware when the information was available.

- Stacey Tieszen shared that Candice Cummings from the VA expressed concerned that with the Housing First Business Plan endorsing permanent, supportive housing that we would eliminate the possibility of transitional housing also being a viable option in the community to work with the homeless population, and that there would be competition for the same funding sources. Hugh Grogan made a motion stating that while the overall long-term goal for our homeless population is permanent housing, the HAB recognizes that there is still an on-going need for transitional, supportive housing. Wendy Giebink seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

**V. New Business**

- Shireen Ranschau from SF Housing shared that the VA grant application came out and is due on April 9<sup>th</sup>. She informed that they are looking for land. She also shared that the Salvation Army is willing to provide Case Management services. A letter of support may be requested of the HAB soon.

**VI. Adjournment** – the meeting adjourned at 1:00pm.