

## Minutes

### HOMELESS ADVISORY BOARD MEETING

June 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2008 – 11:30am

Siouxland Health & Human Services Building

**Members present:** Randy Bartunek, Shirley Halleen, Judy Buseman, Carol Twedt, Vernon Brown, Hugh Grogan, Kerri DeGraff, Alan Graff, Tam Baker

**Members absent:** Wendy Giebink

**Others present:** Melanie Bliss, Homeless Coalition, Russ Sorenson, Planning Department, Shireen Ranschau, Sioux Falls Housing, Kari Benz, Lori Dearborn, Randy Dobberpuhl, Minnehaha County Department of Human Services (Project Safe Home), Ambrose St. John, Stanley Yellow Boy, Robert Thunder Hawk, and Marvin Otter Robe, Safe Home Participants, and Stacey Tieszen, HAB Homeless Coordinator.

#### **I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – 05/05/08 Minutes**

Upon motion by Shirley Halleen, seconded by Hugh Grogan, the HAB approved the minutes of the 05/05/08 meeting as provided. Carried unanimously.

#### **II. OLD BUSINESS**

##### **- A. Safe Home Project Update**

Safe Home Caseworker Lori Dearborn provided an informational progress report on the status of the project as well as the clients that are being served. The basic goal is for the participants to retain their housing, while applying for disability, obtaining appropriate healthcare, working on harm reduction in regards to the consumption of alcohol and compliance with program components all as equally important goals. Four Safe Home participants talked about their lives – how long they had been homeless and what that had been like, and then they shared about how things have been since they became a part of Safe Home. For many of them it is the first time they have ever had case management services. Approximately 20 chronically homeless individuals are participating in Safe Home – in on-site and scattered-site housing. The four participants were thanked for their willingness to come in and speak openly about themselves and the program. The idea of having the testimonials of the participants be video-taped to be used to help inform people of the importance of the Housing First model and about the success of Safe Home was discussed.

##### **- B. Army/Navy Reserve Building Update**

Randy Bartunek discussed construction costs for the building – primarily focusing on layout – should each of the units have a bathroom of their own or would there be communal facilities; should all 35 potential units be completed at one time, the benefit for the environment to remodel rather than to tear down and haul to a landfill. Carol Twedt referred to the letter that Minnehaha County Commissioners participated in and sent to the City. Minnehaha County would be willing to proceed with the project provided there is a Joint Powers Agreement

with an even split of costs for both the facility and program services between the two entities. Discussed the location, including the lack of NIMBY issues as well as the durability of the building. Melanie Bliss of the Sioux Empire Homeless Coalition mentioned a creative Housing First program in Duluth, MN. Judy Buseman recapped the discussion. Alan Graff talked about the original Business Plan that was shared with the City and County in February 2008 and the greater expenditure that would be needed for the Army/Navy building to be remodeled. Stacey Tieszen handed out a summary of several successful Housing First programs across the United States.

### **III. NEW BUSINESS**

#### **A. Local Continuum of Care Rankings**

- The statewide rankings will occur in Chamberlain on June 25<sup>th</sup>. The HAB has assumed the responsibility for completing the local rankings of proposals. The summary sheets for the proposals were handed out. Discussed having HAB members that sit on agencies with proposals recuse themselves from the meeting. Stacey Tieszen will follow-up with Lisa Bondy with the Housing for the Homeless Consortium Policy Advisory Committee that does the state rankings to obtain additional information and will work to establish a date and time for the rankings to take place. Hugh Grogan suggested that Stacey work with Melanie Bliss of the Homeless Coalition for guidance as the Homeless Coalition has completed the local rankings in the past. Discussed the format of the meeting and what the Federal priorities and local priorities are in regards to Housing.

### **IV. Adjournment** – the meeting adjourned at 1:08pm.