

Minutes

HOMELESS ADVISORY BOARD MEETING

September 15th, 2008 – 11:30am

Siouxland Health & Human Services Building

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

Members absent: None.

Others present: Brent O'Neil, Planning Department, Melanie Bliss, Sioux Empire Homeless Coalition, Shireen Ranschau, SF Housing, Darlene Monen, Homeless Advocate, and Stacey Tieszen, HAB Homeless Coordinator.

I. Approval of Minutes – 08/04/08 Minutes

Upon motion by Hugh Grogan, and seconded by Alan Graff, the HAB approved the minutes of the 08/04/08 meeting as provided. Carried unanimously.

II. Old Business

A. Site Committee

- The Site Committee met on September 4th and discussed two potential properties. The meeting focused on the development of an operating cooperative agreement, on funding sources, the need to focus on the chronic as the most expensive, while realizing there are other homeless needs in the community and on other Housing First programs. Stacey Tieszen was asked to present on these new Housing First programs to the City Council. Additional information was asked in regards to specific property locations that may be available. The group will meet again on September 25th.

III. New Business

A. Business Plan Community Partnership Meetings

- Alan Graff discussed the meetings that have been held thus far and the responses we have received. Informational updates will be provided to the potential partners as needed. Discussed going through the Community Appeals process for funding as well.

B. Arena Motel – Wendy Giebink

- Wendy Giebink talked about Tim Nicolai and the Arena Motel's commitment to working with homeless people. Tim shared that he sees it as a familial obligation during his interview for the homeless video project. He would like to come talk with the HAB about potential ideas for creating additional housing. Agreed to invite Tim to the next HAB meeting on October 6th.

C. Southeastern Behavioral Healthcare Case Management

- Judy Buseman discussed that at tonight's City Council meeting the funding for the contract that the City Health Department has with Southeastern is targeted for elimination in the subsidy review process. This contract provides funding for needed homeless case management services, and if eliminated would also

eliminate a Federal government match. Judy Buseman requested the HAB's support for keeping the funds in place. Hugh Grogan made a motion giving the HAB's support for the contract between the City Health Dept. and Southeastern Behavioral Healthcare, stating it is very important to maintain those services. Tam Baker seconded the motion. Randy Bartunek mentioned that Inter-lakes Community Action with its Heartland House and TESS programs are up for a reduction in funding and asked for the HAB's support as well. Hugh Grogan amended the motion to include ICAP's two programs. Tam Baker again seconded. All members present were in favor of the motion.

D. Pettigrew Heights Neighborhood Updates

- Brent O'Neil from the City's Planning department presented on changes that have taken place in the neighborhood and discussed some what the future plans are for that area. He also talked about the Housing Resource Center that is being planned. They are waiting to here about funding yet, but it may be located in the Bowden Youth Center. They will also be conducting a survey of the Pettigrew Heights Neighborhood.

E. SF Housing Receives Funding for Veterans

Shireen Ranschau informed members that SF Housing has received funding for 35 homeless veterans that may be available as early as October 1st. They are provided through HUD and are known as VASH (Veteran's Affairs Supportive Housing) vouchers. The VA will find the veterans in need, and will have to provide case management services to the veterans. There will be no wait list. Congress will monitor this program very closely.

IV. Homeless Coordinator Progress Report

- Stacey Tieszen provided an update of the accomplishments and activities since the last HAB meeting. Discussed the Conference in Salt Lake City and some of the Housing First programming they are doing there as well as items pertaining to 10 year plans. Will be participating in a meeting at Wesley United Methodist church in regards to their becoming a Shalom Community.

V. Committee Reports

A. Program Committee – Hugh Grogan

- Homeless Family Focus Need Surveys were done on August 12th. 14 families completed the survey. Additional surveys will be done Sept 16th at the Banquet.

B. Faith-Based Community Committee – Tam Baker

- Soul Connections Workgroup meeting is on September 16th at Noon at First United Methodist Church.

C. Finance Committee

- No report.

VI. Adjournment – the meeting adjourned at 1:05pm.