

Minutes  
HOMELESS ADVISORY BOARD MEETING  
November 17<sup>th</sup>, 2008 – 11:30am  
Siouxland Health & Human Services Building

**Members present:** Shirley Halleen, Carol Twedt, Wendy Giebink, Kerri DeGraff, Randy Bartunek, Vernon Brown, Hugh Grogan, and Tam Baker

**Members absent:** Judy Buseman

**Others present:** Alan Graff, First Premier, Russ Sorenson, Planning Department, Major Mike Mills, Salvation Army, Julie Becker, St. Francis House, and Stacey Tieszen, HAB Homeless Coordinator.

**I. Approval of Minutes – 10/27/08 Minutes**

Upon motion by Hugh Grogan, and seconded by Tam Baker, the HAB approved the minutes of the 10/27/08 meeting as provided. Carried unanimously.

**II. Old Business**

**A. Site Committee**

- Discussed that the Penn View location is not a viable option. Discussed several other options that have been reviewed. Also discussed the items that the Site Committee had as tasks to be completed before the next meeting which included designing a rough draft/sketch of the layout of the facility on the site locations. Carol Twedt expressed concern that the Site Committee was going beyond merely selecting a site. Request was made for the Site Committee to just come back to the HAB with a final site recommendation. Alan Graff asked why, since the Safe Home project has been so successful, that it just not continue in its present location. Hugh Grogan stated that it was a pilot project with a limited time frame that the County has agreed to, that the location does not have controlled access, the ability to have 24-hour staffing, and is simply not ideal for maintaining the greatest level of control. Scattered site locations are also a challenge for the case managers because of the lack of control and the extra time it takes to travel between those locations.

**B. Safe Home Report**

- The Safe Home year-to-date report will be presented to the Joint City-County meeting tonight. Hugh Grogan asked for feedback on the information that has been shared with the HAB.

**III. New Business**

**A. Salvation Army's "Warming Center" – Major Mike Mills**

- Major Mills discussed the increased need that staff at Salvation Army have been seeing especially in regards to the elderly and the homeless. He shared that the need is up 30% from last year. He said that the Warming Center would not be a shelter and that it would be only available at night if it were colder than 15 degrees outside. He shared that they have seen it as a need in the community and they are wanting to meet that need. He did not think there would be loitering in the neighborhood while people waited for it to open. It would be open during the cold times of the year only, its not a shelter, no drinking would be allowed on the property, and they would breathalyze people as needed. He

shared that people have cut way back on their heat so that they can afford to pay the bill. By providing the Warming Center during the day, people can come and be warm at the Salvation Army. He said shared that whether the center would be open that night or not would be spread by word of mouth and flyers. Hugh Grogan discussed that LIEAP funding was increased to \$25 million dollars this year so low-income people and families should be able to tap into that and to make sure that they are also being referred to appropriate resources for help such as County Human Services. Russ Sorenson mentioned issues with zoning if it is a shelter and also concerns that the Whittier Neighborhood groups may have. Russ suggested contacting them as well as the appropriate City departments. Carol Twedt discussed that more emergency shelter beds are not needed – that the focus needs to remain on creating more permanent housing. Major Mills stated that he had just wanted to share this information with the HAB.

#### **IV. Other**

- Tam Baker asked what was done with Dennis Nelson's complaint from the last HAB meeting. Hugh Grogan and Judy Buseman followed-up with him, but he was not yet ready to make a formal complaint. Discussion was had as to whether Doug Barthel should be invited to come speak at HAB about how things with the homeless are handled in law enforcement. Discussed whether this was a HAB issue or more of an advocacy issue, and as such should be deferred to the Sioux Empire Homeless Coalition. It was determined that the Coalition will follow-up on this further.
- Melanie Bliss discussed Hunger and Homeless Awareness Week activities that will culminate in a Candlelight Vigil on Friday, November 21.

#### **V. Adjournment**

- A request was made for the next year's HAB meeting dates to be scheduled. It was determined that the Board would continue to meet every three weeks. The meeting adjourned at 1:05pm.