

Minutes

HOMELESS ADVISORY BOARD MEETING

April 6, 2009 – 11:30am

Siouxland Health & Human Services Building

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

**Members absent:** Tam Baker.

**Others present:** Kari Benz, County Human Services; Russ Sorenson, City Planning; Melanie Bliss, Homeless Coalition; Gene Rowenhorst, City Finance Director; Larry Crane and Ryan Kranz, Perspective, Inc.; Shireen Ranschau, SF Housing; Robert Wilson and Ken McFarland, County Commission Office; Cynthia Chase, Co. Human Services intern from USF; and Stacey Tieszen, HAB Homeless Coordinator.

**I. Approval of Minutes – 03/16/09 Minutes**

Upon motion by Shirley Halleen, and seconded by Vernon Brown, the HAB approved the minutes of the 03/16/09 meeting as provided. Carried unanimously.

**II. New Business**

**A. Safe Home Annual Report**

- Kari Benz, Assistant Director of County Human Services, presented the first annual report of the Safe Home program focusing on both the qualitative changes and quantitative savings associated with the participants engaged in the program. Carol Twedt asked if any of the participants were able to pay rent. Kari Benz shared that if participants have income, they would be expected to pay a portion of that towards rent. She mentioned that connecting eligible participants with Veteran's Benefits or Social Security Disability is something they have strived to do. Alcoholism alone is not sufficient to garner disability benefits, even when a person's health is seriously comprised if it can be correlated with abuse of alcohol. Those unable to pay rent do have a lien with the County Human Services office.

**B. Housing First Conceptual Design Overview**

- Larry Crane and Ryan Kranz of Perspective, Inc. presented information about the design of the facility; its ability to meet the specific needs of the chronically homeless; and its durability and flexibility along with the overall expandability of it. Construction costs as well as projected costs for the facility's completion were discussed.
- Hugh Grogan then presented on his estimated annual operations budget for the facility providing information on both a 24-unit and 32-unit facility. Randy Bartunek questioned the numbers in regards to after-hours staff costs. Vernon Brown asked if a committee needed to review the numbers in detail before they were presented to the public. Hugh Grogan stated that a committee has worked on this, but he could bring the group back together to review this budget.

- Carol Twedt then asked Ken McFarland to present about cost estimates and an appropriation request that the County has submitted. Ken McFarland then talked about the \$3.5 million Transportation, Housing, Urban Development (THUD) appropriation. Applications have been submitted to Herseth-Sandlin and Johnson's office and they were waiting to hear back from Thune's office in regards to his application process. The exact timetable to hear if it will be awarded is not known at this time. Ken McFarland talked about the three things the County was asked to provide at the Joint City/County meeting that took place in November which are: conceptual development and specific site, detailed cost estimates, and yearly operational costs. As these items have now been solidified, a briefing at the next Joint City/County meeting will be planned. Randy Bartunek reminded the Board that the initial cost estimates for the remodel of the Army/Navy Building caused concern because of the expense and the new facility estimated costs are even greater. The Board was asked to provide any comments on the estimated operational budget to Hugh Grogan and any other thoughts or comments about the facility to Stacey Tieszen.

### **III. Old Business**

#### **A. Homeless Advisory Board Membership**

Due to time constraints, this discussion was tabled until the next Homeless Advisory Board meeting on April 27.

### **IV. Homeless Coordinator Updates**

Stacey Tieszen provided updates on activities since the last HAB meeting. Provided the official results of the homeless count. Minnehaha County's numbers were down by 201 people. Will be attending the Annual Homeless Summit in Oacoma, SD on April 7 and 8.

### **V. Committee Reports**

- **Program Committee – Hugh Grogan**  
No report at this time.
- **Faith-Based Committee – Tam Baker**  
No report at this time.

### **VI. Adjournment**

- Meeting adjourned at 1:05pm.