

Minutes

HOMELESS ADVISORY BOARD MEETING

June 08, 2009 – 11:30am

Siouxland Health & Human Services Building

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

**Members absent:** Tam Baker and Shirley Halleen.

**Others present:** Greg Jamison, City Councilor; Kari Benz, County Human Services; Russ Sorenson, City Planning; Melanie Bliss, Homeless Coalition; Julie Becker, St. Francis House; Angie Marshall, HAB intern; and Stacey Tieszen, HAB Homeless Coordinator.

**I. Approval of Minutes – 04/27/09 Minutes**

Upon motion by Hugh Grogan, and seconded by Vernon Brown, the HAB approved the minutes of the 04/27/09 meeting as provided. Carried unanimously.

**II. Old Business**

- Carol Twedt shared an email received from Representative Herseth-Sandlin's office in regards to the THUD appropriation requested for the Safe Home facility. No real definitive answer yet available.

**III. New Business**

**A. Review of Mission Statement and 10 Year Plan**

- Discussion consisted of general dialoguing in regards to current community trends, needs, and issues in regards to homelessness. City Councilor Greg Jamison was at the meeting and introductions were held. He stated that he was here to learn. SF Housing wait list for Section 8 vouchers has increased to over 3,000 households. Sioux Empire United Way is focusing on homelessness as an issue for the first time and it will be the major component of the Women Unite event on July 29<sup>th</sup> where the Genesis program from Community Outreach will be highlighted as the 2010 initiative. Carol Twedt shared that she had received a call from a constituent who voiced concern that the chronically homeless will just move here if a facility is built. Carol Twedt shared with him that we have not seen that in this community thus far with Safe Home. Hugh Grogan agreed and said that when a person reaches a stage of chronic homelessness with chemical dependency they are not seeking to move to another community, but rather searching for where their next drink is coming from.
- Discussed the need for more solid data in regards to homeless numbers, especially with families. Discussed the number of agencies that provide services for homeless families and families that are precariously housed. Discussed trying to create a list of the chronically homeless families (similar to the singles) and discussed trying to create a release that would work for most agencies that serve families so that we really could get an accurate picture of the costs to the community. Judy Buseman discussed how we could make a strategic plan more user friendly and accessible so

that agencies could update their services and we could all see progress occurring in increments. Discussed the need for solution-based ideas, outcome measurements and a timeline to obtain the necessary data pieces. Councilor Jamison stated that perception is reality and that the community perception is that we are not spending money on homeless families. He shared that when we do presentations we don't focus on homeless family data or if we do it gets mixed in with other data about the singles so it gets lost. Discussed the need to clearly delineate what is spent, whether it is working, and what more needs to be done. With the over 1500 subsidized units in this community, \$10 million dollars is paid to local landlords for low-income households. Homelessness Prevention stimulus funds will soon be working their way into Sioux Falls which will provide a temporary cushion, but there is more to be done to create more affordable housing units. Randy Bartunek also mentioned the Furnace Replacement program that will be available with federal stimulus funds thru Community Development. Qualified households may receive up to \$3,000. Reviewed briefly some of the HAB strategy session from October, 2007. The final cumulative numbers for the SF School District Homeless Education Office was 1,024 kids (up from 820 last year) which consists of 574 families. Judy asked that all HAB members present provide one priority item they would like to see the HAB focus on in the upcoming year.

- Julie Becker, Director of St. Francis House, asked for the HAB's input in regards to the location of St. Francis House. She said they have been focusing on their strategic plan and looking to the next ten years. Wendy Giebink shared it is ideal from a school district's viewpoint because it is close to a school and near a bus route. Hugh Grogan said the location is central to services and cautioned against building any more shelters – that the focus needs to be on transitional housing. Randy Bartunek also cautioned against moving as it stirs up NIMBY issues. Julie Becker thanked the HAB for it's input.

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

- Stacey Tieszen provided updates on activities since the last HAB meeting. Discussed HPRP funds and the work of community agencies to collaborate as best as possible to use stimulus funds most effectively. Discussed the upcoming Continuum of Care funding. Also discussed the new Housing Resource Center in the Pettigrew Heights Neighborhood.

#### **V. Committee Reports**

- **Program Committee**  
Meets again on June 9<sup>th</sup>.
- **Faith-Based Committee**  
No report at this time.

#### **VI. Adjournment**

- Meeting adjourned at 1:10pm.