

Minutes

HOMELESS ADVISORY BOARD MEETING

June 29, 2009 – 11:30am

Siouxland Health & Human Services Building

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

Members absent: Wendy Giebink

Others present: Shireen Ranschau, SF Housing; Kari Benz, County Human Services; Russ Sorenson, City Planning; Julie Becker, St. Francis House; Andrew McDade, County Human Services intern; Angie Marshall, HAB intern; and Stacey Tieszen, HAB Homeless Coordinator.

I. Approval of Minutes – 06/08/09 Minutes

Upon motion by Hugh Grogan, and seconded by Shirley Halleen, the HAB approved the minutes of the 06/08/09 meeting as provided. Carried unanimously.

II. Old Business

- A. Review Priority List Suggestions

Discussed how to increase community awareness of homeless issues in Sioux Falls, including what services are being provided for both singles and families, as one of the top priorities. A variety of things were presented including talking with local service and community organizations, showing the video more, and utilizing Channel 16. Shirley shared an example of how challenging it can be to make people realize the depths of the homeless problem. Carol Twedt said a man at Target thanked her for the work the County is doing for the homeless. Julie Becker suggested finding someone who owns a business downtown who is happy with the current work being done with the homeless and how it has positively affected the downtown area to garner additional support from downtown business owners. The work United Way is doing with the Women Unite event as well as their focus on Genesis and homeless families will bring much attention to the issue as well. Another suggestion was having the Mayor issue a Sunday Homeless Awareness Proclamation to engage further the Faith-Based Community in working to end homeless. Discussed when would be the best time to do a strategic planning session and determined that we would try to do that with HAB members only during the next regularly scheduled HAB meeting but with extended hours from 11am to 2pm.

III. New Business

A. Donation updates from Tim and Nancy Nicolai

- Tim and Nancy Nicolai were unable to attend today's meeting, but asked that I share with the Board that as of last week they had received \$7,919 in cash donations that are now part of the Nicolai House Project. Oprah will re-air the show on August 12th.

B. Increasing community awareness

- Along with what was already discussed during the meeting today, also looked at creating a Community Awareness Implementation committee and developing a Toolkit of information that could be disseminated around the community that would maybe include the video and some frequently asked questions. Additionally, utilizing the HAB website more, and helping people understand that our homeless people primarily are residents of Sioux Falls, not people who have relocated here. Vernon Brown, Shirley Halleen and Julie Becker all offered to be on the implementation committee.

C. Affordable Housing Programs

- Discussed having a training that could explain in easy terms tax credits, HOME funds, what subsidized programs are available to communities, and how each works – an “Affordable Housing 101” type training. Discussed working with the Homeless Coalition to have them be the agency that coordinates such a training. Julie Becker mentioned that she believed the Coalition will be having such a workshop during their September meeting and that the cost would be \$10/person.

D. Board recommendations

- Continued discussion of what qualities the Board was looking for in new members. Several names along with their skills and background were mentioned. Hugh Grogan made a motion that 4 identified individuals be asked and that the necessary applications be sent to them. All new members would have to be approved by the City Council and the County Commission. Tam Baker seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously.

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. Grant applications are due on July 15, but there has been no mention of a concrete time period in which a decision will be made. The next Statewide Homeless Count will be on September 24, 2009.

V. Committee Reports

- Program Committee

Continued focus on working with families and establishing the necessary data to create a new business plan and to emphasize the work already being done in this community to support families in need.

- Faith-Based Committee

No report at this time.

VI. Adjournment

- Meeting adjourned at 12:50pm.