

Minutes
HOMELESS ADVISORY BOARD MEETING
September 21, 2009 – 11:30am
Siouxland Health & Human Services Building

Members present: Kerri DeGraff, Wendy Giebink, Randy Bartunek, Tam Baker, Shirley Halleen, Judy Buseman.

Members absent: Carol Twedt, Vernon Brown, Hugh Grogan.

Others present: Jim Meyer, Target National Bank, Shireen Ranschau, SF Housing; Kari Benz, County Human Services; Russ Sorenson, City Planning; Julie Becker, St. Francis House; Angela Hyde, Community Outreach, Clarence Kooistra, Tim and Nancy Nicolai, Arena Motel, and Stacey Tieszen, HAB Homeless Coordinator.

I. Introductions – Jim Meyer, Target National Bank

- Jim Meyer will soon be a new Homeless Advisory Board member and attended the meeting today.

II. Approval of Minutes – 08/31/09 Minutes

Upon motion by Wendy Giebink, and seconded by Shirley Halleen, the HAB approved the minutes of the 08/31/09 meeting as provided. Carried unanimously.

III. Old Business

- None brought forward.

IV. New Business

A. Affordable Housing Development

- Randy Bartunek provided a brief initial update as Vernon Brown was unable to attend today's meeting. There is discussion to amend the 2009 budget to allow funding for an affordable housing study of Sioux Falls. Shireen Ranschau expressed the need to look at the whole picture which would include affordable apartment units as well as home ownership. Angela Hyde agreed confirming the need to look at the entire continuum. Discussed the HAB making a recommendation to this committee in support of the study looking at all aspects of affordable housing in the community, especially focusing on those with incomes below 50% of AMI. Talked briefly about the townhouses on 10th and Menlo and how they were designed to be affordable homeownership, but due to a variety of circumstances they became rentals with 4 out of 5 of them now occupied.

B. "Back to School" Homeless Data Review

- Reviewed recent community data from a variety of agencies/organizations examining trends and what they represent. Julie Becker shared that the new addition of the St. Francis House has hit an obstacle in regards to their parking lot situation and will need to request a variance from the City which may slow up the completion which they had been anticipating as late October. Julie Becker also shared about the increase in the number of sacked lunches they serve to people in need that are not current guests of St. Francis House (36 sacked lunches were given out in one day that week). Shirley Halleen discussed the Lunch is Served program and the requirement has to be that they are going to work to get the sack lunches. They serve two days a week and have 4 locations. They have a new Director, Terri Peters, and are always looking for more drop sites. The Backpack program is starting the school year where it left off in May with 2400 students. There has been some shifting of schools and it is difficult when kids move. Tim and Nancy Nicolai talked a bit

about the second airing of the Oprah show and additional funds they have received working to build or develop the Nicolai House project. Discussed the vacancy rate for apartments and Shireen Ranschau said that the subsidized apartments are experiencing only about 1.2% vacancy while higher end units are, according to the Multi-Housing Authority study in July, experiencing about 9.8% vacancy. As a result, landlords are raising rents in the lower priced units because of an increase in demand. Angela Hyde from Community Outreach shared that their money for September was gone in just 3 days and they only focused on families in crisis that were working. Clarence Kooistra discussed the Veteran's Stand Down that will occur on Friday, September 25 from 9am to 3pm at the Salvation Army. He also mentioned the Veteran's Affairs commitment to ending homelessness among veterans.

V. Homeless Coordinator Updates

- Stacey Tieszen provided updates on activities since the last HAB meeting. Reviewed information on the Homeless Count on September 24. Volunteers will start at the Good Shepherd Center at 6:45am that morning and continue on thru the night finishing up at the County Detox about 10pm. Over 35 volunteers and 40 agencies in the Sioux Falls community will work to make this count successful.

VI. Committee Reports

- Program Committee

No report at this time.

- Faith-Based Committee

No report at this time.

VII. Adjournment

- Meeting adjourned at 1:00pm