

Minutes
HOMELESS ADVISORY BOARD MEETING
October 19, 2009 – 11:30am
Siouxland Health & Human Services Building

Members present: Carol Twedt, Vernon Brown, Hugh Grogan, Wendy Giebink, Randy Bartunek, Tam Baker, Judy Buseman.

Members absent: Kerri DeGraff and Shirley Halleen.

Others present: Jim Meyer, Target National Bank, Shireen Ranschau, SF Housing; Melanie Bliss, Homeless Coalition, Russ Sorenson, City Planning; Julie Becker, St. Francis House; Angela Hyde, Community Outreach, Mike Huether, Candidate for Mayor of Sioux Falls, Tammie Denning, Interlakes CAP, Tim and Nancy Nicolai, Arena Motel, and Stacey Tieszen, HAB Homeless Coordinator.

I. Introductions

- Carol Twedt introduced Rae Burnette who works for Minnehaha County Human Services and is working on her Master's in Social Work. Introduced Jim Meyer to those who were absent from the last meeting and to the additional community members attending the meeting.

II. Approval of Minutes – 09/21/09 Minutes

- Upon motion by Vernon Brown, and seconded by Tam Baker, the HAB approved the minutes of the 09/21/09 meeting as provided. Carried unanimously.

III. Old Business

A. Safe Home Update

- Hugh Grogan provided an update in regards to the progress of the new facility for Safe Home. He shared that the Minnehaha County Commissioners did go forward with including funding for operating expenses beginning in July 2010, and were soon to meet and decide on funding for capital to build the new facility. Hugh Grogan also shared that they are continuing to meet with community partners to secure additional funding. Carol Twedt said that community partners are needed more than ever. The facility will include 32 single room occupancy units for the chronically homeless in the community.

B. HPRP Stimulus Funding Update

- Reviewed what organizations received HPRP funding and for what amounts. This funding will provide a variety of services throughout the state to help prevent homelessness or to get people rapidly re-housed along with credit counseling and basic budget skills. The money is to be used for those who are at 50% or below of the Area Median Income and are at risk of becoming homeless. Numerous local agencies are collaborating together to most effectively use the money that has been allocated.

IV. New Business

A. Affordable Housing Development

- Vernon Brown talked about the affordable housing study that will be conducted in the near future with the help of SECOG and a recent appropriation of funds from the City of Sioux Falls budget issued thru the Community Development office. The Housing study will be left very broad to cover the whole array of affordable housing needs from rentals to home ownership. There is no timeline on when it is expected to be completed. Communities similar to Sioux Falls have already done this type of study so this information will be reviewed and taken under advisement when selecting what type of data to incorporate that

would be the most effective. Tam Baker had attended the recent meeting about the study being done and the affordable housing development and shared that many of the City Councilors were unaware of the Ten Year Plan to End Homelessness Blueprint. Discussion focused on essential items that also need to be included in the study beyond what the current supply of affordable housing stock is.

B. Community Agency Updates

- Julie Becker of St. Francis House provided information about their current bed usage as well as the completion of the new 4 unit transitional housing. Unfortunately, they have a variance issue that must be granted approval before the facility will be operational and that hearing is scheduled for Tuesday. Tim and Nancy Nicolai of the Arena Motel shared that things have slow down for them some since the big rush in September, but feel that people are still falling through the cracks, especially singles. Hugh Grogan said that the County's big push has been to get families into permanent housing as hotel stays are more expensive per month. Candice Cummings of the VA had shared some information about some future potential housing options which were relayed to the Board. Wendy Giebink shared that the School District's Homeless Education numbers were at 550 as of today (non-duplicated count since the beginning of the school year in August).

V. Homeless Coordinator Updates

- Stacey Tieszen provided updates on activities since the last HAB meeting. Discussed the trend of homeless surveys completed over the last three years during the Statewide Count and provided a handout of this information. No homeless data from the count is presently available yet, but Lisa Bondy with the SD Homeless Consortium in Pierre, SD had said she hopes to have the numbers compiled by October 20. Carol Twedt discussed the concerns expressed by community members who think that if we build and provide more homeless services/housing that we will have an influx of homeless individuals coming to Sioux Falls. Discussed ways to try and validate that the majority of our homeless have been residents of Sioux Falls or are from other areas of Sioux Falls, but Sioux Falls does receive significant positive press so it may be enticing for others to seek employment here. Discussed how the definition of our homeless population can also be a bit confusing as one standard utilizes doubled-up individuals and families as a homeless indicator where as the primary HUD definition does not recognize that subgroup. Vernon Brown asked that we make a consistent definition for Sioux Falls. The program committee was tasked with creating this definition.

VI. Committee Reports

- Program Committee

Reviewed recently updated data in regards to Census Bureau statistics comparing 2006 and 2008 focusing on poverty, affordable housing and income trendlines in Sioux Falls. Discussed what Fair Market Rent means in regards to what's affordable based on income as well as Tax Credit apartments that usually do not go below 50% of Area Median Income. Will continue to work towards a family business plan and look to create an affordable housing trendline.

- Faith-Based Committee

No report at this time.

- Sioux Empire Homeless Coalition – Melanie Bliss

Melanie Bliss provided information on the upcoming Project Connect which is October 27 at the Salvation Army, and then also shared about the Coalition's upcoming activities during Hunger and Homeless Awareness week beginning November 16, 2009.

VII. Miscellaneous

- Mike Huether, candidate for Sioux Falls Mayor, asked the Homeless Advisory Board members about code enforcement and whether there is a need for stronger, pro-active enforcement of addressing issues with rental landlords. There was overall discussion about the complexity of the issue as well as understanding the people that rent those units, what can be done to provide case management services, and ultimately the affordability factor weighing heavy in where people can live.

Adjournment

- Meeting adjourned at 1:05pm