

HOMELESS ADVISORY BOARD MEETING MINUTES

January 9, 2012 – 11:30am

County Commission Chambers – 415 N. Dakota Avenue, Second Floor

Members present: Carol Muller, Kerri DeGraff, Michelle Erpenbach, Jim Meyer, Jill Franken, Jeff Barth, Shirley Halleen, Doug Morrison, Jesse Vavreck, and Matt Astleford.

Members absent: Darrin Smith.

Others present: Angela Hyde, Community Outreach; Melanie Bliss, Sioux Empire Homeless Coalition; Julie Becker, St. Francis House; Maria Krell, Good Shepherd Center; Brett Johnson, Southeastern Behavioral; Tammie Denning, ICAP; Shireen Ranschau, SF Housing; Tim Nicolai, Arena Motel; and Stacey Tieszen, HAB Coordinator.

I. Business

A. Approval of Minutes – 11/07/11

- Upon motion by Michelle Erpenbach, and seconded by Doug Morrison, the HAB approved the minutes of the 11/07/11 meeting as provided. Carried unanimously.

B. Public Input on Non-Agenda Items

- None.

II. Program

A. Safe Home Update

- Carol Muller shared that the Open House and Ribbon Cutting for Safe Home is scheduled for January 24, 2012 at 11:30am. Furniture is scheduled to arrive the week of January 16. New full-time staff have been hired. Jeff Yarbrough is the Program Supervisor, and Shannon Hemenway is the new Front Desk Coordinator. Randy Dobberpuhl and Lori Dearborn are the Caseworkers and have been with the program since its inception. All other staff to operate it 24 hours a day will be part-time. Participants will be moved in gradually over the next several weeks giving everyone time to adjust to the changes and to work out any issues that arise from a new facility. The remaining building of the Dakota House program will empty as the tenants move into the new Safe Home facility. It will then be boarded up and the utilities turned off – there is a possibility it could be remodeled or moved if an entity would be interested. The building is older and in need of some remodeling before it should be used as additional housing options for families.

B. 2011 Annual Report

- Coordinator, Stacey Tieszen, presented an initial draft of the Homeless Advisory Board's efforts over the last year summarized in an annual report. Feedback was requested from the Board and will be incorporated into the final draft.

C. Housing Trust Fund

- Mary Brooks and Michael Anderson of the National Housing Trust Fund Project (Center for Community Change) came to Sioux Falls on November 30, 2012. The training focused on framing and creating a message to encourage support of the trust fund as well as to devise ways to fund it. The Taskforce also sent out a Request for Proposals to hire a marketing agency to help relay the affordable housing message. Plans to select the agency are scheduled for this week. The Housing Trust Fund has funds made available through a grant from Citibank to help with marketing.

D. Establish 2012 Priorities

- The Board was in agreement that developing a winter plan for 2012-2013 was the top priority. Two more priorities, which include establishing the Housing Trust Fund, and enhancing the capacity of public transportation options were also identified. The development of a winter plan was discussed in detail. Could the Labor Temple, the Foyer in the Siouxland Health and Human Services building, or downtown churches serve as emergency options? Discussed involving the faith-based community and the community as a whole in developing this plan. Stacey Tieszen presented a tentative proposal involving a large scale plan that includes a facility and having other tenants

occupy the building in various ways throughout the day. A motion was made by Carol Muller to expand the committee having them put together a rough draft report in 60 days that will be finalized by June 1. Jeff Barth seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. The plan will be to have all options on the table and then narrow it down to what is needed and possible. Mayor Huether is interested in having a viable business plan as soon as possible.

E. Community Trends Dashboard

- Shared the local information provided by community service providers. St. Francis House has been at more than 95% occupancy the last six months. They are also giving away more sack lunches and blankets.

III. Information

- SD Housing for the Homeless Consortium is hosting a conference in Chamberlain on January 18 and 19th to discuss the homeless count, developing a statewide 10 year plan, homeless awareness day at the Capital in Pierre on February 21, and changes to the Emergency Services Grant.

IV. Adjournment

- The meeting adjourned at 12:50pm.