

HOMELESS ADVISORY BOARD MEETING MINUTES

February 6, 2012 – 11:30am

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

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

Members absent: Darrin Smith, Carol Muller, Kerri DeGraff.

Others present: Gary Helder, Community Outreach; Lesa Jarding, Wells Fargo Bank; Julie Becker, St. Francis House; Maria Krell, Good Shepherd Center; Shireen Ranschau, SF Housing; Tim Nicolai, Arena Motel; and Stacey Tieszen, HAB Coordinator.

I. Business

A. Approval of Minutes – 01/09/12

- Upon motion by Jeff Barth, and seconded by Michelle Erpenbach, the HAB approved the minutes of the 01/09/12 meeting as provided. Carried unanimously.

B. Public Input on Non-Agenda Items

- Julie Becker provided an overview of the 2011 guest statistics for St. Francis House. Total guests served was 292 with 283 of those an unduplicated number. There were 262 men and 30 women receiving shelter with an average length of stay at 57 days. They have 40 male beds but only 6 female beds which accounts for the drastic difference in numbers. Becker stated that they turn away between 3 and 5 people a day because they are at capacity. They work closely with the probation office to be a place that people can be discharged to. Becker also stated that they have had a significant increase in the number of guests with some form of dependency (alcohol, drugs, or gambling) issues. She stated they have also had an increase in the number of individuals on some type of psychotropic medication. The state of legal residence for 241 of the 292 guests in 2011 was South Dakota.

II. Program

A. Winter Plan 2012 – 2013

- Provided an overview of the work that has transpired since the last meeting that required a formal plan be made ready by the April 2012 HAB meeting. A community-wide meeting was held on February 1. Initial discussion focused on the homeless services provided by the agencies represented. We discussed local numbers, capacity, and need. Reviewed the number of guests that have been in attendance at the Salvation Army Warming Site (averaging 36 people a night with a range as high of 58 one evening). Decision was made to create a small subcommittee that would keep working on this topic and that would present back to the large committee in the near future once there was more information. An initial meeting of a few members of the subcommittee will be held on February 8 to discuss ideas that St. Francis House has about a potential plan. The entire subcommittee will meet on February 14. Discussed ideas the Board had as well as members in the audience. Thoughts of having the warming site be open about the same as the Transit Winter schedule which is October 15 to April 15 was considered. Also discussed the idea of it just being open from those months rather than temperature based to be consistent and to make it easier for those who need the services to know when it is really available.

B. Housing Trust Fund

- Have selected Insight Marketing to help develop the campaign. Have meet with them for an initial overview and expectations. Will gather additional information that was requested and get back with them. Have narrowed possible funding sources and will need to seek additional help to determine actual amounts available.

C. SD Housing for the Homeless Consortium Conference Update

- The Conference was held in Chamberlain on January 18th and 19th. There were several topics addressed including the annual homeless count, creating a statewide 10 year plan, legislative day at the Capitol, and changes to a federal funding source, Emergency Services Grant (which will now be known as the Emergency Solutions Grant). There was much discussion about the effectiveness of the homeless count survey, and what all the data collected is

used for. Questions were examined and no consensus was reached on what questions were vital or if there were a way to shorten the survey. A Committee was created that is to look at the survey and provide an alternative. Stacey Tieszen is on this Committee. Legislative Day in Pierre is slated for February 21. A committee was formed to create informational tables and to work towards making an effective display. Stacey Tieszen is on this committee and will be going to Pierre. Discussed other states that have 10 year plans and what the purpose of creating one for South Dakota would be. The Consortium would like a plan in place by the end of December 2012. A committee was formed to address the development of a statewide plan. Stacey Tieszen is on this committee.

D. Community Trends Dashboard

- Reviewed data from the dashboard. Numbers from the free and reduced meals were not correct so Doug Morrison will provide the latest he received at a School Board meeting. Did review the data from Union Gospel Mission and the fact that they are not at capacity but the Salvation Army warming site has a large number of people.

E. 2011 Annual Pass It On Report

- Provided the 2011 report that was submitted to the Public Transit Advisory Board which included the following:
 - 32,850 passes were issued to 14 participating agencies. This number is less than 40,000 as we did not have passes to issue during the 2nd quarter due to changes in the fare boxes and the additional printing requirements. In July, all the passes were received which were then distributed as usual, but because the second quarter passes were now available, additional passes were able to be distributed during the cold month of December when agencies ran out.
 - The program started 2012 with a holdover amount of 6,000 passes that will continue to be distributed as needed. There were also changes in agency participation so there were only 13 active agencies for a portion of the year.
 - 5,315 people were assisted with transportation and 29,532 passes were issued to these individuals 28,491 passes were redeemed through the fareboxes. The program had a 96.4% redemption rate.

III. Information

- Homeless Awareness Day at the Capitol sponsored by the SD Housing for the Homeless Consortium is on February 21, 2012.

IV. Adjournment

- The meeting adjourned at 12:30pm.