

HOMELESS ADVISORY BOARD MEETING MINUTES

March 5, 2012 – 11:30am

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

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

Members absent: Darrin Smith, Jill Franken, Traci Jensen, Jim Meyer.

Others present: Gary Helder, Community Outreach; Melanie Bliss, Sioux Empire Homeless Coalition; Julie Becker, St. Francis House; Tim Nicolai, Arena Motel; Brett Johnson, Southeastern; Candice Cummings, VA; and Stacey Tieszen, HAB Coordinator.

I. Business

A. Approval of Minutes – 02/06/12

- Upon motion by Michelle Erpenbach, and seconded by Shirley Halleen, the HAB approved the minutes of the 02/06/12 meeting as provided. Carried unanimously.

B. Public Input on Non-Agenda Items

- Candice Cummings with the Homeless Outreach program of the Veteran's Affairs (VA) shared information about potential funding with a new grant per diem. Its emphasis is on keeping people housed when their time in the transitional housing program has expired. The grant is approximately \$36/day per person. The application is due the end of May.

II. Program

A. Safe Home

- Carol Muller provided a brief update on how things have been progressing at Safe Home. She said there are currently 27 individuals housed and they are continuing to move additional individuals in as planned. She said one has been temporarily terminated for repeated violations of program rules. She said that they like to do puzzles so donations are welcome, and they drink a lot of coffee and milk. Staff has not been tracking general inquiries about program admittance. Trips to detox with program participants have slowed and they currently have two at Safe Home working to remain sober.

B. Winter Plan 2012 – 2013

- Reviewed with Board members buildings or locations in Sioux Falls that the committee has looked at for potential warming sites as well as for a long-term solution. Members of the Committee did meet with his Most Reverend Bishop and his staff to discuss the possibility of using the Little Flower School. The response was no at this time. Wesley United was open to discussing the possibility of being a warming site location but needs more information and would have several more steps before an agreement could be reached (their Board approval, talking with the Whittier Neighborhood Assn., etc.). Discussed potential funding options, but there is much more work to be done before funding can be pursued. Commissioner Barth mentioned the Labor Temple as a potential location for the "No Wrong Door" concept that we have been discussing. It is located at 101 N. Fairfax so is in a great location. He said it isn't currently on the market, but there might be a possibility to discuss. He went down and got the latest property information from the County. Barth was going there after this meeting so invited me along. The Board agreed that we continue to pursue all options, but that a final decision will need to be reached soon.

C. Housing Trust Fund

- Discussed what we have Insight Marketing working on for the Housing Trust Fund. Mary Brooks, our national expert, will be back in town on April 12. The next Housing Trust Fund meeting is on March 9.

D. Legislative Day in Pierre – Homeless Awareness

- Several members of the Housing for the Homeless Consortium gathered in Pierre on February 21 to host homeless awareness day at the Capitol. Five booths were set up addressing specific categories of homelessness including

domestic violence, Veterans, contributing factors, a “Day in the Life,” and solutions that are working. The contact with legislators was much better than last year. Additionally, numerous people walking by stopped and asked questions.

E. Community Trends Dashboard

- Reviewed data from the dashboard. Shared the latest numbers of the Salvation Army warming site.

III. Information

- National Women and Girls’ HIV/AIDS Awareness Day training is on March 8th at Our Savior’s Lutheran Church.

IV. Adjournment

- The meeting adjourned at 12:35pm.