

HOMELESS ADVISORY BOARD MEETING MINUTES

September 10, 2012 – 11:30am

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

Members present: Jeff Barth, Kerri DeGraff, Michelle Erpenbach, Doug Morrison, Jim Meyer, Carol Muller, Lesa Jarding, and Traci Jensen.

Members absent: Jill Franken, Darrin Smith.

Others present: Gary Helder, Community Outreach; Melanie Bliss, Sioux Empire Homeless Coalition; Tammie Denning, ICAP; Candice Cummings, VA; Shireen Ranschau, Sioux Falls Housing; Julie Becker, St. Francis House; and Stacey Tieszen, HAB Coordinator.

I. Business

A. Approval of Minutes – 08/06/12

- Upon motion by Michelle Erpenbach, and seconded by Doug Morrison, the HAB approved the minutes of the 08/06/12 meeting as provided. Carried unanimously.

B. Board Member Update

- Matt Astleford has resigned from the Homeless Advisory Board as he and his family are moving to Green Bay, Wisconsin. Matt asked that h.

C. Public Input on Non-Agenda Items

- Melanie Bliss, Sioux Empire Homeless Coalition, spoke about the potential loss of affordable housing if Sanford Hospital is allowed to continue expanding its campus in Sioux Falls. Discussed briefly how many homes this entails and how many of the homes Sanford already owns. Melanie discussed the need to increase the ratio of demolishing to building/rehabbing units for affordable housing. Melanie strongly urged the Board to keep this potential loss of housing in mind for a community that already struggles with an adequate supply. Michelle Erpenbach stated that the City Council is aware of these concerns and conversations have taken place.

II. Program

A. Winter Plan 2012 – 2013

- Shared with the Board that the Salvation Army is now the lead agency and host site for the Winter Warming Center for the upcoming year. Stated that Major Betty Bender has agreed to have the Salvation Army host and that the City is working to develop a Contract for Services. New Majors will be joining the Salvation Army in September and I have requested that they come to the September HAB meeting to be introduced. Julie Becker presented information as to why St. Francis House is currently in a holding pattern in regards to being the lead agency. The proposed location has not yet received final approval from the entity that owns it. Additionally, the costs to remodel the location to meet City Codes are nearly \$215,000. St. Francis House Board members are cautious about this expense and question the true need for this level of a warming site. United Way Blackout timeframe makes it impossible to do fundraising at this time so the money wouldn't be available for the remodel. Julie also mentioned that they are submitting a grant to the SF Area Community for Community Engagement funds. The St. Francis House would like to do some research, host several focus groups, and have substantial input from the community that this is the best route for a future warming center. Julie stated that this will give them more time to gather information and to raise funds, as well as for the potential location owner to give a positive approval. Carol Muller asked if she had a timeframe on when this would all occur. Julie stated that the grant will be submitted this week and that if it is approved, then they will hire a consultant. Julie anticipates September – November 2012. Jill Franken shared that if additional technical assistance is needed she can make contact with the National Healthcare for the Homeless Council.

B. Housing Trust Fund

- Discussed the latest powerpoint and marketing materials that we have been working on with Insight Marketing. Advised that a timeline on how the campaign will all unfold is developed. Michael Anderson from the Center for Community Change will be in Sioux Falls on September 12 to train taskforce members on the best way to present our material. He has reviewed our powerpoint and offered suggestions. He states that we have very valuable data and that the powerpoint is very good.

C. Community Trends Dashboard

- Reviewed data from the dashboard. Discussion centered on a community issue related to homeless individuals being discharged from the Human Services Center in Yankton and being sent to the Union Gospel Mission, St. Francis House, or even the Arena Motel with no notification or an actual plan on what should happen next with them. Individuals are typically experiencing severe and persistent mental illness which also usually means they have several medications with them. Julie Becker stated that St. Francis House has received people from HSC with no notice and they typically have not had an opening so they were left with trying to find a place to house the individual in need. Julie mentioned a time that a person was brought to the St. Francis House in a cab with no warning. Jeff Barth asked if they were Minnehaha County residents. The response from those in attendance from agencies was not always – Sioux Falls has more resources.
- Tammie Denning shared numbers from their programs and that they have a new Master Lease program beginning on September 1 (Heartland House 3). They will be working with Dunham and Costello Property Management. ICAP will have 11 Master Leases in this program with an emphasis on 2 and 3 bedroom apartment units. Heartland House currently has a waiting list as does the Bright Futures program that ICAP has with the City. Jim Meyer mentioned that Target National Bank has struggled to find employees for their current openings. Discussed the credit/background checks that may eliminate potential applicants. Gary Helder from The Community Outreach mentioned their monthly numbers and shared that the households they typically help have much lower incomes and are frequently under-employed.

III. Information

- Homeless Count is September 25.
- St. Francis House Fundraiser is on September 24, 2012.
- Diversity Conference is in Sioux Falls on November 14.
- Discussed moving Homeless Advisory Board meetings to a bi-monthly status. The Board was in agreement. Will have the next meeting on September 10, and then the next HAB meeting will be in November.

IV. Adjournment

- The meeting adjourned at 12:30pm.