

HOMELESS ADVISORY BOARD MEETING MINUTES

November 5, 2012 – 11:30am

Siouxland Health and Human Services Building (Classroom 2) – 521 N. Main Avenue, Second Floor

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

Members absent: Darrin Smith.

Others present: Maria Krell and Tina Johnson, Good Shepherd Center; Brett Johnson, Southeastern Behavioral Healthcare; Major Tom Riggs, Salvation Army; Melanie Bliss, Sioux Empire Homeless Coalition; Candice Cummings, VA; Shireen Ranschau, Sioux Falls Housing; Julie Becker, St. Francis House; Tim Nicolai, Arena Motel, and Stacey Tieszen, HAB Coordinator.

I. Business

A. Approval of Minutes – 09/10/12

- Upon motion by Michelle Erpenbach, and seconded by Kerri DeGraff, the Board approved the minutes of the 09/10/12 meeting as provided. Carried unanimously.

B. Public Input on Non-Agenda Items

- Melanie Bliss, Sioux Empire Homeless Coalition mentioned Hunger and Homeless Awareness activities including Mikkel Beckman presenting some housing options/solutions on November 14th and 15th, 2012. Melanie also talked about homeless counts stating that they are people not points in time. She mentioned an organization working to create a 100,000 homes for homeless individuals and families (website: <http://100khomes.org/>). Melanie also mentioned that 585 households were served at a recent Friday food giveaway by Faith Temple Church. She states that most have housing, but because most of their money is going to rent, they need help with food.

Julie Becker mentioned a new book on homelessness by Danielle Steele called the “Gift of Hope”. Julie said it was great and a short read. Danielle Steele’s son has a mental illness.

Commissioner Barth discussed that the County’s detox program had suspended operations for a short time. People on an involuntary committal waiting for HSC are now separated and being housed in the jail. It can be a long wait to access chemical dependency treatment at HSC. Some families are hesitant to get their family member committed because they don’t want them housed in jail.

II. Program

A. Winter Plan 2012 – 2013

- Major Tom Riggs of the Salvation Army discussed their plans to open the Warming Site on December 1 (a month earlier than years past). He discussed that there is a camera on the front door, individuals will be breathalyzed before and after going outside to smoke, and that the hours of operation will be 7pm to 7am. He stated that they have ordered new cots and are currently interviewing staff. The funds from the City of Sioux Falls will help to defray the costs of staffing the program. He did also talk about some tentative future plans for building some transitional housing with a warming/cooling site located in it that would be behind the Thrift Store with up to two bedrooms in the apartments. Discussed how the article in the Argus Leader had impacted funding for St. Francis House and resulted in a change of focus. Major Riggs apologized for the confusion that was created. He reiterated that it was just brainstorming at this point. Provided Major Riggs with the Contract for Services that he needs to have the Salvation Army sign to access payment by the City. St. Francis House will now look at emergency shelter for families and Julie Becker stated that she needs to redo the grant and submit it to the SF Area Community Foundation. They hope to do some community conversations to discuss the location, needs, and viewpoints people have about this topic.

B. Build Up Sioux Falls (Housing Trust Fund) – Updates

- Provided an update on progress since the last HAB meeting. Did have a report completed by Elliot Eisenberg of the National Homebuilders Association that outlined the potential impact of Build Up Sioux Falls on the community. The microsite is in development and some additional print materials will also be completed. Focus groups were held to discuss the effectiveness of the powerpoint, information, and the overall concept.

C. Homeless Count

- Homeless Count was done on September 25, 2012. Final numbers are not yet available from the state.

D. Trends/Concerns – Informational

- Fair market rents have increased for 2013 with a typical 2-bedroom renting at \$681 (up from \$670). Mental health needs and challenging behaviors of tenants have become a local area of focus for landlords. Held a meeting with the SD Multi-Housing Association, a property manager, and others to discuss concerns and options. Mayor's Neighborhood Summit was held on November 3. Topics of concern included veterans and homelessness, bed bugs, code enforcement, lighting, bicycle paths, getting a park in Pettigrew Heights, and bad tenants.

III. Information

- SD Housing Development Authority's Annual Conference – November 13-14 (Pierre, SD)
Sioux Falls Annual Diversity Conference – November 14
Technical Assistance Training on Tenancy Preservation and Housing Court – November 13
Code Enforcement Technical Assistance Training (Challenging Tenants) – November 14
Mikkel Beckman, Executive Director, St. Stephens Human Services (Minneapolis) Wednesday, November 14 at 6:30p and Thursday, November 15 from 9a-3p
HSC Discharge Planning – November 19
Disaster Planning – Meeting the Needs of South Dakota's Children (Sioux Falls) – November 29-30

IV. Adjournment

- The meeting adjourned at 12:40pm.