

HOMELESS ADVISORY BOARD MEETING MINUTES

January 7, 2013 – 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 Darrin Smith.

Members absent: Traci Jensen.

Others present: Maria Krell, Good Shepherd Center; Brett Johnson, Southeastern Behavioral Healthcare; Melanie Bliss, Sioux Empire Homeless Coalition; Candice Cummings, VA; Shireen Ranschau, Sioux Falls Housing; Julie Becker, St. Francis House; Theresa Schwarzhoff, SD Multi-Housing Association, and Stacey Tieszen, HAB Coordinator.

I. Business

A. Approval of Minutes – 11/05/12

- Upon motion by Michelle Erpenbach, and seconded by Kerri DeGraff, the Board approved the minutes of the 11/05/12 meeting as provided. Carried unanimously.

B. Public Input on Non-Agenda Items

- Commissioner Barth stated that he was no longer the liaison to the Homeless Advisory Board for Minnehaha County. Cindy Heiberger will join the Homeless Advisory Board as the new liaison. Barth introduced Commissioner Heiberger, thanked the members of the Homeless Advisory Board, and discussed the progress as well as increased awareness of homeless issues that have happened through the Board's efforts. Members of the Board thanked Jeff for his commitment and service to the community.

II. Program

A. Winter Plan 2012 – 2013

- An update of the Warming Site was provided through anecdotal information received from an adjacent business, and other agencies. Salvation Army staff were not in attendance so did not have an opportunity to share or discuss with the Board how things have been progressing at the warming site. Major Bender did provide these numbers for the warming site as of today: December total 1204 (average 39 per night), Jan 2013 so far an average of 52. The overall average to date is 41 per night. The warming site opened for the first time on December 1 (a month earlier than in previous years). Julie Becker, Director of St. Francis House, shared that in the 7 years she has been with the agency, they have never consistently had 15 male beds open in December. Today they have 6 beds open. Female beds have remained consistently full. The Board requested information be obtained from the Police Department to determine the number of calls to the area, and whether there are any identifiable trends in the neighborhood that can be correlated to the warming site.

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

- Provided an update on progress since the last HAB meeting. Shared that the Citibank dollars provided for the creation of the Housing Trust Fund had to be spent by the end of the year. These dollars were allocated to Insight Marketing for additional materials as well as to provide materials for presentations to various organizations and associations in Sioux Falls. Insight will be creating folders, a brochure, enhancing the microsite and providing site maintenance for a year, as well as letterhead and envelopes for the fund. Plans will be to present Build Up Sioux Falls formally to the community in February.

C. Homeless Count

- Housing and Urban Development (HUD) is requiring a January homeless count and shelter bed count. South Dakota's count will be on January 29. Our last annual homeless count was done on September 25, 2012. Final numbers reflect a 26% decrease across the state. 55% of those surveyed in Sioux Falls were working full-time, but still homeless. Presented data for the last several years trending the information. The top four reasons given for becoming homeless from 2006-2012 include lost job, inability to pay rent, released from jail/prison, and alcoholism.

D. Trends/Concerns – Informational

- Presented an updated Snapshot of Economic Indicators reviewing year end data and additional highlights. Working with a group from the Tenancy Preservation Program and Housing Court trainings to identify systems in our community that overlap, duplicate, and that actually work in regards to housing. Discussed information from trainings or conferences that were held in November 2012.

III. Information

- Winter Homeless Count is January 29, 2013 (volunteers welcome).

IV. Adjournment

- The meeting adjourned at 12:35pm.