

HOMELESS ADVISORY BOARD MEETING MINUTES

March 4, 2013 – 11:30am

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

Members present: Jill Franken, Traci Jensen, Cindy Heiberger, Michelle Erpenbach, Carol Muller, and Lesa Jarding.

Members absent: Darrin Smith, Jim Meyer, Doug Morrison, Kerri DeGraff.

Others present: Maria Krell, Good Shepherd Center; Gary Helder, The Community Outreach; Melanie Bliss, Sioux Empire Homeless Coalition; Shireen Ranschau, Sioux Falls Housing; Julie Becker, St. Francis House; Tom Wingert, Wollman Insurance, and Stacey Tieszen, HAB Coordinator.

I. Business

A. Approval of Minutes – 03/04/13

- Upon motion by Michelle Erpenbach, and seconded by Cindy Heiberger, the Board approved the minutes of the 03/04/13 meeting as provided. Carried unanimously.

B. Public Input on Non-Agenda Items

- Melanie Bliss of the Sioux Empire Homeless Coalition shared information about Senate Bill 235 as it pertains to the South Dakota Housing Opportunity Fund. This Bill allows for the creation of a statewide housing trust fund that will be administered by the SD Housing Development Authority. The Fund is primarily designed to help with rural housing needs, but 30 percent of the fund can be used for cities with a population over 50,000. There will be more to share about how it will be funded and operate in the near future.

II. Program

A. Potential Board Member

- Discussed adding a new member to the Homeless Advisory Board that would replace a seat open when Jesse Vavreck resigned. Tom Wingert was in attendance and was asked to provide some information about himself as well as his interest in working on homeless issues in Sioux Falls. Tom Wingert has previously served on the St. Francis House Board. Carol Muller made a motion to approve Tom Wingert as a new member of the HAB. The motion was seconded by Michelle Erpenbach and carried unanimously. A formal resolution approving his appointment must be made to the Joint City/County meeting. Stacey Tieszen will coordinate this for the next available meeting.

B. Sequestration (Impacts/Concerns)

- Discussed the looming budget cuts that will officially start being implemented March 27, 2013. There is still much unknown about the total amounts to be cut so the numbers may be subject to altering. Shireen Ranschau of Sioux Falls Housing shared about the potential loss of Housing Choice (Section 8) vouchers. The wait list to receive a voucher could become five years. There could be a potential loss of up to 127 vouchers for the Sioux Falls area. Jill Franken shared information about potential impacts to Healthcare. Sequestration could negatively impact a large number of programs that serve low-income and homeless populations. As more information is verified, Stacey Tieszen will update the Board.

C. Build Up Sioux Falls

- Reviewed progress with Board members since the last meeting.

D. Tenancy Preservation

- Discussed the focus areas that the committee working on a tenancy preservation plan has been delving into. The potential creation of a housing court has been examined. More information will be needed, especially as it pertains to actual evictions and their impact on households as well as landlords. The group will continue to meet and are working on scheduling a meeting with the current judge of the Eviction Court. Reviewed the charts/graphs the Board has created thus far outlining our systems.

E. Ending Youth and Family Homelessness Conference

Carol Muller and Stacey Tieszen provided a brief overview highlighting areas of impact, interest, and national trends from the conference in Seattle, Washington on Ending Youth and Family Homelessness that was held in February 2013. A presentation will be made to the Joint City/County meeting in March 2013. Rapid Re-Housing has received much emphasis as a national best practice.

F. Trends/Concerns – Informational

- Presented an updated Snapshot of Economic Indicators reviewing current data and additional highlights.

III. Information

- None.

IV. Adjournment

- The meeting adjourned at 12:45pm.