

# HOMELESS ADVISORY BOARD MEETING MINUTES

May 6, 2013 – 11:30am

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

**Members present:** Jill Franken, Jim Meyer, Doug Morrison, Kerri DeGraff, Cindy Heiberger, Michelle Erpenbach, Carol Muller, Tom Wingert, and Lesa Jarding.

**Members absent:** Darrin Smith and Traci Jensen.

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

## I. Business

### A. Welcome and Introductions

- Tom Wingert was introduced as a new member of the Homeless Advisory Board.

### B. Approval of Minutes – 03/04/13

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

### C. Public Input on Non-Agenda Items

- None.

## II. Program

### A. Alliance

- Brett Johnson presented to the Board the new program developed by Minnehaha County Human Services to work with repeat offenders in the jail in an effort to curb recidivism rates. Mr. Johnson shared the services this program provides and discussed some of the data in regards to why Alliance was created. Minnehaha County provides the funding for the case management services and is collaborating with other community agencies to create the most effective solutions.

### B. Warming Site Season Wrap-Up

- Major Thomas Riggs shared details about how the Warming Site operated during the 2012-2013 Winter Season at the Salvation Army. The Warming Site opened on December 1, one month earlier than previous years, and stayed open into April because of the continued cold weather. In 2012, they served 250 unduplicated individuals and provided a total of 2,954 nights lodging. In 2013, they provided 6,142 nights (they were not done yet with calculating total number of unduplicated, but had 315 counted as unduplicated thus far). They had cots for approximately 75 a night and reached that. Trends noted were younger adults in their early 20's, and while they aimed to keep women more somewhat isolated from the men for safety purposes, the women didn't like that. Guests who were extremely intoxicated were referred to detox. The Salvation Army would like to operate the Warming Site again this winter with a similar time frame and hours of operation (7pm-7am). They will also put in place a policy about any guests who threaten to harm themselves or others. Those threatening to harm others will be unable to stay that evening, and if they bring in a weapon threatening others they will not be welcome back. The Board thanked Major Riggs, the Salvation Army, and their Staff for providing a much needed service.

### C. Build Up Sioux Falls

- Shireen Ranschau presented updates on the housing trust fund. She then read through the final recommendation that the Taskforce developed. The final recommendation summarizes the economic impact, the community benefits that would result because of the development of these affordable units, and the list of potential dedicated revenue sources that could fund Build Up Sioux Falls. She then requested that the Homeless Advisory Board approve the recommendation. If approved, the plan would be to present Build Up Sioux Falls to Mayor Huether as soon as possible. Doug Morrison made a motion to approve the recommendation and have it be taken to the

Mayor. Michelle Erpenbach seconded the motion which was then approved unanimously by the remaining present members of the Board.

**D. Establishing a Community Framework**

- Stacey Tieszen presented information in detail about establishing a community framework that focuses on a coordinated assessment approach to ending homelessness in Sioux Falls. Discussed prevention, diversion, centralized intakes, and the “no wrong door approach” to services. Discussed how transitional housing in most regards has become less of a focal point for services and that rapid rehousing was the new national emphasis. Continuum of Care’s that receive homeless funding from the Federal government will be encouraged to make this switch. Reviewed data and discussed the lack of affordable housing units in Sioux Falls as a primary reason that exacerbates our homeless issues. Requested that a new ad hoc committee be developed that will focus on creating this community framework. Michelle Erpenbach made a motion to create this workgroup and to have Stacey Tieszen and Jim Meyer determine who should be on it. Carol Muller seconded this motion which was then carried unanimously by the remaining present members of the Board. Tom Wingert volunteered to be on this committee. Because of changes required by the HEARTH Act of 2009, the Policy and Advisory Committee of the SD Statewide Continuum of Care will need to have new members that do not receive federal homeless funding. Stacey Tieszen, as Coordinator for the HAB, has been nominated to serve on this Committee and will know on June 5<sup>th</sup> if she will be elected to serve.

**E. Trends/Concerns – Informational**

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

**III. Information**

- On June 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup>, the annual Housing for the Homeless Consortium will be held in Chamberlain.

**IV. Adjournment**

- With a motion from Michelle Erpenbach and seconded by Lesa Jarding which was approved unanimously, the meeting adjourned at 1:00pm.