

HOMELESS ADVISORY BOARD MEETING MINUTES

March 3, 2014 – 11:30am

Minnehaha County Administration Building (415 N. Dakota Avenue) 2nd Floor – Commission Chambers

Members present: Jill Franken, Jim Meyer, Jeff Barth, Tom Wingert, Doug Morrison, Traci Jensen, Michelle Erpenbach, and Darrin Smith.

Members absent: Carol Muller.

Others present: Maria Krell, Good Shepherd Center; Candice Cummings, VA; Melanie Bliss, Sioux Empire Homeless Coalition; Shireen Ranschau, Sioux Falls Housing; Paul Flogstad, Fair Housing Program; Kim Questad, Sam Trebilcock, City of Sioux Falls Planning/Transit; Tim Nicolai, Arena Motel; Jason Phillips and Carrie Sorensen, from Southeastern; Julie Becker, St. Francis House; Major Thomas Riggs, Salvation Army, and Stacey Tieszen, HAB Coordinator.

I. Business

A. Approval of Minutes – 03/03/14

- Upon motion by Doug Morrison, and seconded by Tom Wingert, the Board approved the minutes of the 03/03/14 meeting as provided. Carried unanimously.

B. Public Input on Non-Agenda Items

- None.

II. Program

A. Board Membership

County Commissioner Jeff Barth is the new liaison to the Homeless Advisory Board replacing Commissioner Cindy Heiberger. Presented Jeff Nelson as a potential new Board Member. Mr. Nelson has served on several Boards in the City and is a Realtor with HJN Realty. Michelle Erpenbach made a motion to approve him as a new Board member which was seconded by Doug Morrison and approved unanimously by the Board.

B. Sioux Area Metro/Transit – Sam Trebilcock

- Sam Trebilcock presented on the work that is currently being done to make transit more sustainable as well as accessible. There is a Transit Taskforce reviewing all the services as well as the costs to operate. Fares have not increased for riders since 1996 and currently makes up less than 20% of the overall Transit budget. Paratransit demand remains high and is about \$4.5 million of the overall \$9.2 million Transit budget. They are currently looking to find ways to coordinate better and to utilize non-profits that may have idle vehicles. Transit has over a million riders annually with 150,000 paratransit riders. Mr. Trebilcock requested input from Board members and welcomed questions. Discussed the effectiveness of the Pass It On Program and how well it operated in 2013.

C. Salvation Army Warming Site – Major Thomas Riggs

- Major Riggs presented on how the season has gone so far at the warming site. It opened in the Salvation Army gym on December 15, 2013 and they plan to close currently on March 15, 2014. On opening night, there were 57 people in the gym. On March 2, they had 82 people. They have had as high as 102 people in the gym. They have provided 3,898 nights of bed space. Major Riggs shared about the Thrift Store closing and their plans for the building turning it into a Family and Social Services Center. They are averaging about 200 people a night for meals in their Night Watch program which operates on Saturday and Sunday evenings. In their Senior Meals program (commodity distribution), they serve approximately 600 people with food delivered to 120 of them. Jill Franken thanked Major Riggs and the Salvation Army staff for their services and suggested that the new homeless facility work with them to learn about their successes and struggles in operating.

D. Fair Housing/Tenancy Preservation – Paul Flogstad

- Paul Flogstad shared about a new program on Fair Housing he will be doing as part of the City of Sioux Falls' Community Development department. He provided a powerpoint and went through a small portion of what the services will include. It will officially launch in April (which is Fair Housing Month) and the plan is to take it to the

populations who need it – to go where they are rather than holding sessions somewhere and hoping people come. It will come with a 24 hour a day on-call service (an ombudsman). His goal is to have the material in a few languages and have it be specific to protected classes.

E. Mental Health Collaborative Efforts - Informational

- Discussed the plan to work with NAMI and Vanessa Sweeney to address some of the barriers that currently exist in mental health services which include access, co-occurring disorders (addiction and mental health), funding, and how we get the community to work together on brainstorming solutions. Jill Franken mentioned that the data generated from the Helmsley Foundation healthcare survey will provide great input about true needs and gaps. Discussed more integrated care and service delivery along with a better diagnosis from primary care providers. Staff from Southeastern Behavioral Healthcare also suggested that Crime Free Housing creates barriers to those with mental health issues. Jason Phillips said that they have dozens of clients who are currently residing at the Salvation Army warming site and he doesn't know where they will go when it closes for the season.

F. Helmsley Foundation Healthcare Survey – Informational

- Shared with the Board the work that has been going on to address the homeless populations they are wanting to reach in the survey. Their goal is to survey approximately 200 homeless individuals in Sioux Falls with a research assistant who will travel to local providers to meet with them one at a time. There will be a monetary incentive for people to complete the surveys.

G. JDAI Reception Center – Informational

- Discussed with the Board the Reception Center and the work a committee is doing to make it more useful as well as productive. Discussed the lack of services for unaccompanied homeless youth and how this has become a priority for Housing and Urban Development (HUD).

H. Community Transitions Housing Pilot (DOC) – Informational

- Shared with the Board the Request for Proposal that was released in regards to providing housing and supportive services for those on parole or probation being released from prison. Proposals are due by Noon on March 28. This is a housing pilot and their response to the housing plan originally suggested in regards to housing them in motels. If it is successful in Sioux Falls, they will launch it in other communities across the State. It is designed to be a 2-year pilot.

I. Community Trends – Informational

- Reviewed local data, concerns, and issues related to homelessness, poverty, and affordable housing in Sioux Falls.

J. Other

- Discussed the Board submitting a letter in support of the approval of a conditional use permit for the new Bishop Dudley Hospitality House located at 101 N. Indiana. Motion was made by Michelle Erpenbach and seconded by Jeff Barth to approve submitting a letter. The motion was approved unanimously.

III. Information

- None.

IV. Adjournment

- Meeting adjourned at 1:00pm.