

# HOMELESS ADVISORY BOARD MEETING MINUTES

May 5, 2014 – 11:30am

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

**Members present:** Carol Muller, Jim Meyer, Jeff Barth, Tom Wingert, Traci Jensen, and Michelle Erpenbach.

**Members absent:** Jill Franken, Darrin Smith, and Doug Morrison.

**Others present:** Maria Krell, Good Shepherd Center; Melanie Bliss, Sioux Empire Homeless Coalition; Shireen Ranschau, Sioux Falls Housing; Tim Hamel, Tim Nicolai, Arena Motel; Julie Becker, St. Francis House; Amy Carter, Children's Inn; Will Leaver, Redemption Technology, and Stacey Tieszen, HAB Coordinator.

## I. Business

### A. Approval of Minutes – 03/03/14

- Upon motion by Michelle Erpenbach, and seconded by Carol Muller, the Board approved the minutes of the 03/03/14 meeting as provided. Carried unanimously.

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

- Shireen Ranschau, Director of Sioux Falls Housing and Redevelopment Commission, presented information related to a news story that aired recently about the Housing Choice (Section 8) Voucher program with Sioux Falls Housing. Ms. Ranschau discussed that there are 1700 households currently receiving vouchers and they must all be below 50% of the Area Median Income (AMI) which is \$25,300 for a one-person household and \$36,100 for a family of 4. There currently is a five-year wait to obtain a voucher. She stated that there is a payment standard and it is reflective of fair market rents. Units must also meet housing quality standards, and the landlord has to be willing to accept payment through the voucher program. The average monthly payment is \$450. The emphasis of the program is housing stability. She shared that of the 1700 households, only 4 of them were above the income limits. For 6 months after a household no longer meets income eligibility, they will remain in the program in case something happens (loss of employment, change in income, etc.), but they do not receive rental assistance. She stated that each household is responsible for paying 30% of their income towards their rent. Ms. Ranschau shared that they have received additional funding for 2014 so will be sending out notification letters during the second week of June.

## II. Program

### A. Salvation Army Warming Site – End of Season Report

- The Salvation Army operated its warming site from December 15, 2013 until March 28, 2014 for a total of 104 days. They averaged 81 people per night with 591 unduplicated persons utilizing this safety net. Last winter, they averaged 46 people per night. They were open from 7pm to 7am. The Salvation Army has agreed not to open their warming site for this upcoming winter provided the Bishop Dudley Hospitality House is open and operating to serve this vulnerable population.

### B. Community Transitions Housing Pilot (DOC) – Julie Becker

- The St. Francis House was awarded the contract in Sioux Falls for the housing pilot program with the Department of Corrections. They are currently still finalizing all of the details. Julie Becker, Director of St. Francis House, shared with the Board that the services the St. Francis House currently provides will be similar to those the DOC participants will be receiving. She said that they will have 9-12 parolees at a time with a maximum of 18. There will be a part-time case manager assisting with this. There is a risk assessment matrix that is used and only those who are low-risk will be housed at St. Francis (no violent offenders or sexual offenders will be accepted). There is a disciplinary team that will determine who is released to the St. Francis which will take males, females, and families in an effort to work towards reunification. She stated that not all will be Sioux Falls residents.

### C. Redemption Technology – Will Leaver

- Will Leaver presented on a new workforce development program known as Redemption Technology. Their emphasis will be on working with more challenging individuals to teach them strong employment habits such as

being to work on time, getting along with co-workers, and handling stressful situations in conjunction with job training especially with computer literacy. They will do an initial assessment, provide the training, and then also help some with resumes, obtaining interviews, and then do some follow-up to make sure their clients stay employed. They plan to officially open on June 9<sup>th</sup>, 2014. They are open to tours and meeting with other non-profits to see how they may best work with their clients.

**D. Helmsley Foundation's SD Healthcare Survey - Informational**

- Stacey Tieszen shared the progress on completing the surveys. The surveys focus on healthcare issues including access and contain approximately 74 questions. They have been mailed out statewide. There is also a specific emphasis to reach Native American populations, homeless, and refugees. They have hired research assistants to help with this. These individuals will be going household to household on the reservations or to agencies that frequently serve these populations to have people complete the surveys. In Sioux Falls, they would like to have 150 homeless people surveyed by the end of August and another 100 or so in Rapid City. They have hired Randy Doppelpuhl to complete the surveys for Sioux Falls. There are monetary incentives available for those willing to complete the survey.

**E. Sioux Falls Tomorrow 2014 - Informational**

- Shared with the Board the progress that has been done this far on creating the next 10 year vision for Sioux Falls. Stacey Tieszen is a member of the Social Services KPA. SF Tomorrow's plan is to have the final report out in early July. Affordable housing, diversity, better paying jobs, and access to behavioral health services have been determined as key focus areas.

**F. Community Trends - Informational**

- Provided the latest numbers on the Snapshot of Economic Indicators. Reviewed local data, concerns, and issues related to homelessness, poverty, and affordable housing in Sioux Falls.

**G. Other**

- Discussed having Lisa Bondy from the SD Housing Development Authority in Pierre present at the July Board meeting to familiarize members with requirements and expectations for the Continuum of Care as well as the Emergency Solutions Grant which are federal programs that provide funding for homeless programs.

**III. Information**

- On May 14, the Bishop Dudley Hospitality House will be hosting a community-wide input session from 2pm-4:30pm to discuss gaps, access to services, and the vision that will be the new facility.
- SD Housing for the Homeless Consortium's Annual Summit is in Chamberlain on June 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup>.
- Good Shepherd Center's Fundraiser is on May 8<sup>th</sup> at Avera's Prairie Center.

**IV. Adjournment**

- Meeting adjourned at 12:40pm.