

HOMELESS ADVISORY BOARD MEETING MINUTES

November 3, 2014 – 11:30am

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

Members present: Carol Muller, Jill Franken, Joan Franken, Jeff Barth, Jeff Nelson, Jim Meyer, Traci Jensen, and Michelle Erpenbach.

Members absent: Darrin Smith, Tom Wingert.

Others present: Maria Krell, Good Shepherd Center; Melanie Bliss, Sioux Empire Homeless Coalition; Kari Benz and Brett Johnson, Minnehaha County Human Services; Tim Nicolai, Arena Motel; Denise Hanzlik, SD Multi-Housing Association.

I. Business

A. Approval of Minutes – 8/8/14

- Upon motion by Michelle Erpenbach, and seconded by Traci Jensen, the Board approved the minutes of the 8/8/14 meeting as provided. Carried unanimously.

B. Public Input on Non-Agenda Items

- Julie Becker shared that there is a ribbon cutting at 4:30 pm at 212 N Sherman Avenue for another St. Francis House building.

II. Program

A. Bishop Dudley Hospitality House - Chad Campbell, Executive Director

- Chad Campbell introduced himself as the Director for the new facility. He stated he has been in Sioux Falls since 2004 and had been with the Sioux Falls Police Department for 7 years. He then shared plans for the new facility discussing the work of the Taskforce as well as the Steering Committee. There will be room for 80 male beds, 20 female beds, and then 7 family units. The Good Shepherd Center will move into the facility and then merge to become part of the Bishop Dudley Hospitality House providing all of the same services as it currently does such as laundry, showers, and lunches while also expanding to provide more supportive services incorporating local entities/non-profits to come use the available office spaces to do so. There will be a strong security system including cameras throughout the facility as well on the outside of the structure. Length of stays were discussed. Mr. Campbell shared that the community response and support has been great. Plans are to open as soon as possible in early January 2015. Alcohol will not be permitted inside or outside of the facility if on grounds. Blood alcohol limits will be dependent on how well someone is able to care for themselves as well as their behavior. Discussed Hunger and Homeless Awareness Week including the toolkit that has been assembled and the hopes to have a strong ecumenical base to support and volunteer at the facility. Michelle Erpenbach praised Mr. Campbell in his role as the new Director stating that his experience will help greatly as this new venture moves forward. Jill Franken asked about data collection and measurement options stating it will be crucial in determining impact and progress. Questions were asked by Board members about school attendance for homeless youth as well as activities that will be provided for guests especially for the children. Jeff Barth asked about the neighborhood and how outreach has been going in regards to addressing any current concerns and then all future issues. Mr. Campbell shared that each guest will be evaluated on a case by case situation and if need be, asked to leave temporarily. Efforts will be made to assure the safety of the neighborhood with security, cameras, and better lighting. If someone does choose to leave after checking in, then they are not guaranteed a bed and must take all of their belongings with them. Lights will be out at 10pm. There will be internet available for school work and to seek employment, but otherwise it will be on a need to use basis.

III. Information and Training Opportunities

- Good Shepherd Center annual breakfast fundraiser went very well.
- Hunger and Homeless Awareness Week (November 16-22, 2014)
 - o Melanie Bliss shared activities she has planned including the annual memorial service on Friday as well as a conference.

IV. Adjournment

- Meeting adjourned at 12:30pm.