

# HOMELESS ADVISORY BOARD MEETING MINUTES

January 4, 2016 – 11:30am

Bishop Dudley Hospitality House (101 N. Indiana Avenue) – Conference Room

**Members present:** Kari Benz, Jill Franken, Jeff Nelson, Joan Franken, and Michelle Erpenbach.

**Members absent:** Jim Meyer, Traci Jensen, Tom Wingert, Jeff Barth and Darrin Smith.

**Others present:** Candice Cummings, Veteran's Affairs; Chad Campbell, Bishop Dudley Hospitality House; Brett Johnson, County Human Services; Melanie Bliss, Community Advocate; Shireen Ranschau, Sioux Falls Housing, and Stacey Tieszen, Coordinator for the Homeless Advisory Board.

## I. Business

### A. Approval of Minutes – 12/07/15

- Upon motion by Michelle Erpenbach, and seconded by Jill Franken, the Board approved the minutes of the 12/07/15 meeting as provided. Carried unanimously.

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

- Melanie Bliss shared an article dated December 21, 2015 from the *Christian Science Monitor Weekly* on homelessness with specific community examples including Minneapolis.

## II. Program

### A. Veteran's Homeless Outreach – Candice Cummings, Veteran's Affairs

- Candice Cummings shared about the work currently being done to end homelessness with Veterans. She stated that she started in 2006 as a social worker with half of her time spent on homeless issues. In 2008, her focus became exclusively homeless. Cummings talked through the increase in staff, the four caseworkers that help house homeless, eligible Veterans, and the programs such as Grant per Diem, Berakhah House, the Transition in Place program, and then the Supportive Services for Veterans and Families (SSVF) that is operated by Cornerstone Rescue Mission in Rapid City, but services the state of SD with two staff currently in Sioux Falls. She stated their initial emphasis was on the chronically homeless, but it has continued to expand as the needs of Veterans have evolved. She also shared about Veteran's Court which is currently at 9am on Wednesdays. It is new in Sioux Falls but has been in Watertown for about a year. The Federal Government is pushing very hard and putting millions of dollars into eradicating Veteran homelessness. The original target date was in 2015.

### B. Sioux Empire Homeless Coalition and the Homeless Advisory Board

- Per last month's discussion, reviewed the potential combining of the Coalition and the HAB. Reviewed again the diagram, the benefits, and the changes that would need to occur. The Coalition Board has not yet met to discuss further changing their Board structure or how they want to proceed. The true purpose of the Coalition is to be a key advocacy organization; however, with how their Board is currently comprised, the staff serving are limited in their official capacities. Tieszen will work with Brett Johnson, Board President of the Coalition, to continue to pursue combining in the most effective manner without jeopardizing the work of either entity or the non-profit status of the Coalition.

### C. Continuum of Care Grant and Policy Advisory Committee

- Tieszen shared the latest updates in the work of the Policy Advisory Committee, the grant status, the changes in the program, the final submission, concerns, etc. that may occur, as well as future monitoring of grant recipient agencies. Discussed reporting this information in a document as it is a challenging topic with funding streams, numerous partner agencies as well as committees.

### D. Bush Foundation Grant - Update

- Tieszen shared the work of the Steering Committee as well as the smaller working group on moving things forward to a launch date for the pilot. A job description has been created and released to hire a network coordinator who

will work with the agencies on their database as well as a variety of things to see the Network come together and be fruitful. The working group will meet over the next month to review various software to determine the best fit for Sioux Falls and the agencies we hope to have engage in this project. The working group also met with our Bush Foundation representative to apprise her of our progress, concerns, and future movement. She was impressed.

**E. 2025 Plan to Address Homelessness Action Team Updates**

- Reviewed the progress of the Teams and next areas of focus.

**F. Annual Homeless Count – January 26, 2016**

- Tieszen shared the progress on getting volunteers lined up and paperwork organized in preparation for the annual one day count. Additional volunteers are welcome and needed.

**G. Community Trends – Update**

- Tieszen shared the latest trends and data for agency providers pertaining to homelessness via the Snapshot document.

**III. Information and Training Opportunities**

- NAMI (National Alliance on Mental Illness) is hosting Mental Health Awareness Day at the Legislature in Pierre on January 21, 2016.
- Homeless Awareness Day at the Legislature is scheduled for January 27, 2016 with a poverty simulation hosted by Barb Garcia of Rapid City for participating legislators.

**IV. Adjournment**

- Meeting adjourned at 12:45pm.