

HOMELESS ADVISORY BOARD MEETING MINUTES

August 1, 2016 – 11:30am

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

Members present: Joan Franken, Traci Jensen, Les Kinstad, Jim Meyer, Kari Benz, Jill Franken, Jeff Nelson, and Michelle Erpenbach.

Members absent: Jean Bender.

Others present: Chad Campbell, Bishop Dudley Hospitality House; Melanie Bliss, Community Advocate; Heather Miller, CASA; Candice Cummings, VA; and Stacey Tieszen, Coordinator for the Homeless Advisory Board.

I. Business

A. Approval of Minutes – 06/01/16

- Upon motion by Michelle Erpenbach, and seconded by Kari Benz, the Board approved the minutes of the 06/01/16 meeting as provided. Carried unanimously.

B. Public Input on Non-Agenda Items

- Julie Becker, Director of St. Francis House, shared that they have received a Bush Foundation Grant to help them conduct a feasibility study focused on expansion of their services. She stated that they have hired Cindy Elifrits from Maximizing Excellence to lead their study. She said that they wanted public input and would anticipate Elifrits making contact with HAB members if they were interested in sharing their thoughts.

Becker also shared concerns about her guests and bicycle safety issues in her neighborhood. She stated that it is a general concern for bicyclists because so many of her guests and guests of other housing providers like Glory House, the Arch, and Bishop Dudley also use bikes. She would like to have an educational piece for those guests so they aren't injured, know the rules of the road, and are making sure to share with the appropriate people if they are being harassed while riding. She shared specific incidents about women being grabbed and that it is a \$120 ticket if cited for riding on the sidewalk, even if done for their own safety.

II. Program

A. Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) – Heather Miller

- Heather Miller came to share about what CASA does and who it impacts. She shared about issues related to poverty and homelessness, including what some of their volunteers' biggest challenges are. Miller shared that motel rates are exorbitant including some that are upwards of \$1200 a month making it impossible for families to save up and get their own apartment or even stay afloat. Miller also said one of the biggest challenges for the volunteers is to know and be comfortable with the resources available in the community. She shared that there are currently 296 kids in foster care with 166 of those waiting for a CASA volunteer. She stated that they train new volunteers every quarter.

B. 2025 Plan to Address Homelessness

- Tieszen shared with the Board the goals and priorities of the Plan in a handout with updates in each of the action areas as applicable. Discussion was had on various items and targets. Joan Franken shared that the new National Housing Trust Fund money the state has received (\$3 million) has more restrictions and a larger emphasis on 30% AMI units being included in a development. Talked about unaccompanied youth and the stigma attached to their being homeless – their fears of being forced to return to an unsafe home environment, and HUD's focus on counting them during the 2017 Point in Time count. Discussed obstacles in the shelter programming as well as the open units at St. Francis House especially in the family units (3 units were open as of today).

C. Ending Veteran's Homelessness

- Tieszen discussed the criteria, benchmarks, and Vets@Home Technical Assistance being provided via bi-weekly conference calls with our CoC and Sally Luken. Also discussed case conferencing, obstacles in making further

progress, and the upcoming meeting we will have for Veteran service providers yet this month. Housing First is still the long-term plan for those dealing with chronic homelessness with the HUD-VASH program as a “best-fit” program for those willing to work with a case manager.

D. Sioux Empire Network of Care - Update

- Things continue to move forward with staff and participating agencies receiving training. Concerns have been shared about the use of a cloud device (the network) that contains personal information and appropriate liability insurance as well as indemnification language. Plans to have agencies live in the system have not yet come to fruition, but goals to have St. Francis House live and Community Outreach using it for donor funds is expected shortly.

E. Community Trends – Update

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

III. Information and Training Opportunities

- None.

IV. Adjournment

- Meeting adjourned at 12:40pm.