



**Siouxland Human Investment Partnership (SHIP)  
Siouxland Street Project  
Community Meeting**

**Meeting Notes from:**

May 17, 2016

9:00 a.m. – Sioux City Public Museum

**Present:** Mike Bell (Sioux City Journal); Erin Binneboese (SHIP); Terrie Binneboese (United Way of Siouxland); Marcia Carlson (Siouxland Mental Health Center); Katie Colling (Women Aware); Darin Daby (U.S. Bank); Amanda Diorio (Disabilities Resource Center); Sara Doyle (Sioux City Public Library); Dave Drew (Woodbury County Sheriff's Office); Julie Eberbach (Institute for Community Alliances); Ashlee French (Hard Rock Hotel & Casino – Sioux City); Erin Grace (Connections Area Agency on Aging); Kevin Grieme (Siouxland District Health Department); Pete Groetken (Sioux City Council); Jeff Hackett (Boys Town); Kerri Hall (SHIP); Jerry Hernandez (Mercy Medical Center); Tierra Hodges (Center for Siouxland); Ed Huff (Crittenton Center); Jason Jackson (Sunnybrook Church); Jennifer Jackson (Heartland Counseling); Reverend Paul Johnston (The Micah Project); Alison Justice (Center for Siouxland); Julia Kleinschmit (University of Iowa); Nicole Knowles (VA Medical Center); Frank Lamere (Four Directions Community Center); Deb Lang (Orpheum); Jean Logan (Community Action Agency of Siouxland); Karen Mackey (Sioux City Human Rights Commission); Mike Manthorne (Sioux City Police Department); Susan McGuire (Center for Siouxland); Leesa McNeil (District Court Administrator); Gayle Miille (United Real Estate Solutions); Ben Nesselhuf (Jackson Recovery Centers); Michelle Parker (Ho-Chunk Community Development Corp); Marcia Pauling (Siouxland Mental Health Center); Jim Rixner (Siouxland Mental Health Center); Monica Rosenthal (Crittenton Center); Kim Schroeder (Childcare Resource & Referral); Sara Staver (Jackson Recover Centers); Betsy Thompson (Sioux City Public Library); Amy Tooley (Sioux City Housing Authority); Revathi Truong (Mercy Medical Center); Joe Twidwell (Warming Shelter); Anne Westra (Sioux City Economic Department); Barb Wingert (Women Aware); Suzanne Woodruff (American Indian Council); Erika Worrell (Siouxland Mental Health Center); Dr. Ehren Stover Wright (Institute for Community Alliances); Doug Young (Sioux City Police Department); Harold Youtzy Jr. (The Gospel Mission)

**Facilitators:** Lisa Claeys (Sioux City Police Department); Matt Ohman (SHIP)

**Agenda:**

1. Introductions
  - A. Recap history

- B. Institute for Community Alliances
- C. Website
- 2. Interview Project
- 3. Committee Chair Report Outs
  - A. Research
  - B. Data Screening & Intake / Agency Coordination
  - C. Super Shelter
  - D. Organization Reporting & Retooling
  - E. Detox
  - F. Education and Community Awareness
- 4. Next steps & future meetings

## 1. Introductions

### A. Recap history

Lisa Claeys went over the history of the project, including the first two community meetings (in September 2015 and January 2016), the collaboration between the Sioux City Police Department and SHIP to facilitate the project, and the six subcommittees that have been meeting and working since the last meeting in January.

### B. Institute for Community Alliances

Julie Eberbach, the Associate Director of the Institute for Community Alliances, spoke about her organization and its role in the community. ICA is a non-profit located in Des Moines that is becoming more active in the Sioux City area. ICA engages in research and produces reports on homelessness and related issues. ICA works to inform regional and national efforts to end homelessness, and provides support for the HMIS (Homeless Management Information System), a database that collects client-level data and provides reporting capabilities on behalf of homeless continua of care (CoC). Julie also informed the participants that ICA has received funding to implement a Coordinated Entry system for persons experiencing homelessness in Siouxland (Sioux City/Woodbury Co./Dakota Co.). This project expects to begin sometime this summer or early fall. This system is required by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

### C. Website

Matt Ohman showed the group the web pages on the SHIP website dedicated to the Siouxland Street Project. The web pages were built to serve as a resource to the community as well as members of the initiative. There is a main page with community meeting info and minutes, as well as a page for each of the six subcommittees. The subcommittee pages show the group's membership and also list upcoming meeting dates and meeting minutes. The report from today will be available on the website in the near future. The website is located at: <http://siouxlandship.org/the-siouxland-street-project/>

## 2. Interview Project

Julia Kleinschmit (University of Iowa) and Sara Staver (Jackson Recovery Centers) reported out on a project they completed for the Siouxland Street Project: in February and March of 2016, 10 volunteers with human services experience and training interviewed 97 homeless and very poor people that spend the majority of their time in public places in Sioux City. The purpose of these confidential, 60-question interviews was to better understand the experiences and characteristics of this population. This project was sponsored by Mercy Medical Center. The 23-page report of the survey findings and the 2-page executive summary were handed out at the meeting and will be posted on the website. Some sample data:

- Majority of those participants were Native American and male. Average age was 43.94.
- 68.4% wanted to change their current situation. Primary changes desired were housing, employment, stop using alcohol or drugs, improve relationships with family and friends, and increase stability in their lives.
- 10 participants had housing, 74 were in shelters (primarily Warming Shelter), 6 with family or friends, and 7 on the street, under a bridge or in other public spaces.

## 3. Committee Chair Report Outs

The six subcommittees that were formed at the January meeting reported out on the progress they have made since that meeting.

### A. Research

Julia Kleinschmit, also the Research Committee Chair, reported that there are more research projects upcoming, including a contrast between how Sioux City and Sioux Falls do detox – she will touch base with the Detox committee to inform this process. Also, some students will be doing a study of the Native American population in Sioux and around Sioux City.

### B. Data Screening & Intake / Outreach / Agency Coordination

Lisa Claeys, the coordinator of this group, reported that this group is working on gathering information about what services currently exist and whom they are provided by. A survey will be sent out to agencies that are providing services.

### C. Super Shelter

Alison Justice shared that the goals the Super Shelter Committee are working toward include:

- **Short Term Goal:** To sustain and support the Warming Shelter for the time being, with potential to look at transitioning to a different facility. Move towards keeping the Warming Shelter open 24/7 during cold weather
- **Middle Term Goal:** Find a bigger facility (possibly St. Boniface), and secure funding for renovations
- **Long Term Goal:** Achieve a year around homeless shelter open 24/7 with separate room for families – comprehensive surround services would also be available to residents

The Super Shelter Committee visited emergency shelters in Sioux Falls and Omaha.

There was much discussion at the meeting about the needs for a 24/7 emergency shelter versus building actual housing, and the costs to the community for both.

There is also a need for a Housing Committee, but rather than duplicate efforts already being made by the City, facilitators told the group they'd look into how we can support and coordinate those efforts and report back to the group.

#### **D. Organization Reporting & Retooling**

Katie Colling, Committee Chair, shared two documents with the group detailing the Slouxland Street Project's proposed mission statement, and the levels of homelessness, as determined by the committee. She asked that the large group approve both of these documents or suggest changes by June 13<sup>th</sup>. These will be send out via email to the community group for approval.

#### **E. Detox**

Leesa McNeil shared a handout from the Detox Committee that detailed the cost of *not* having a detox center in Sioux City. Sioux City Police Department: average cost per year for intoxication arrests: \$33,546.15; Woodbury County Jail costs per year: \$116,712 This handout will be shared on the website. Frank Lamere reported that he has been talking to Indian Health Services representatives about restoring some funding to Sioux City that went away several years ago. Mr. Lamere hopes to meet with IHS in Washington D.C. to discuss this matter and invited community leaders to join him.

#### **F. Education and Community Awareness**

Betsy Thompson reported that the committee's discussions have revolved around a public service announcement appealing to the general public to donate money to organizations that serve the homeless, not individuals on the street. The committee has researched what other communities do to collect "spare change" that can be re-routed to organizations providing those services.

#### **4. Next steps & future meetings**

The committees will continue to meet and work on next steps. The next community meeting will be in September, date to be determined.