



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

Meeting Notes from:

September 12, 2016

9:00 a.m. – Sioux City Public Museum

Present: Jason Allen (Launch PAD Children’s Museum); Michael Amman (Hopesprings Community of Faith); Larry Besch (Citizen); Erin Binneboese (SHIP); Terrie Binneboese (United Way of Siouxland); Katie Colling (Women Aware); Rita DeJong (Sioux City BOOST-FF); Marty Dougherty (City of Sioux City); Sara Doyle (Sioux City Public Library); Jen Gomez (Sioux City Community School District); Kevin Grieme (Siouxland District Health Department); Stacy Gritten (Siouxland Community Health); Pete Groetken (Sioux City City Council); Jerry Hernandez (Mercy Medical Center); LaDonna Holstein (ATLAS); Pastor Paul Johnston (Micah Project); Mary Jordan (VA); Melissa Juhl (Child Care Resource & Referral); Alison Justice (Center for Siouxland); Julia Kleinschmit (University of Iowa); Nicki Knowles (VA); Frank Lamere (Four Directions); Deb Lang (Orpheum); Karen Mackey (Sioux City Human Rights Commission); Susan McGuire (Center for Siouxland); Ben Nesselhuf (Jackson Recovery Centers); Gary Niles (Juvenile Court Services); Rob Ouellette (The Salvation Army); Michelle Parker (Ho-Chunk Community Development Corp); Patty Erickson-Puttman (Sioux Rivers Regional MHDS); Jim Rixner (Siouxland Mental Health); Katie Roberts (Siouxland Habitat for Humanity); Nicky Solomon (ATLAS); Brittany Stearns (Siouxland Mental Health); Betsy Thompson (Sioux City Public Library); Amy Tooley (Sioux City Housing Authority); Joe Twidwell (Warming Shelter); Elaine Walker (ATLAS, Americorp, Motherhood Is Sacred); Shane Walter (Sioux Rivers Regional MHDS); Nitausha Williams (DHS); Barb Wingert (Women Aware); Cindy Wood (MHA Siouxland); Suzanne Woodruff (American Indian Council); Doug Young (Sioux City Police Department)

Facilitators: Lisa Claeys (Sioux City Police Department); Ragen Cote (Downtown Partners); Matt Ohman (SHIP)

Agenda:

1. Introductions
2. History of project
3. Committee Report Outs
 - A. Detox
 - B. Super Shelter

- C. Organization Reporting & Retooling
- D. Screening & Intake
- E. Research
- F. Education & Community Awareness
- 4. Public Service Announcement
- 5. Other topics and discussion
- 6. Next steps
- 7. Future meetings

1. Introductions

2. History of project

Matt Ohman gave a brief overview of the Siouxland Street Project and reminded everyone that the Project has its own page on the SHIP website:

<http://siouxlandship.org/the-siouxland-street-project/>.

3. Committee Report Outs

The six subcommittees reported out on the progress they have made since the last community meeting.

A. Detox

Frank Lamere reported that he was joined by Mona Zuffante (Winnebago Tribal Health Department), Darla LaPointe (Chairwoman of the Winnebago Tribe of Nebraska) and Matt Ohman and Erin Binneboese (SHIP) at a meeting with Indian Health Services (IHS) in Rapid City on August 31st. The group campaigned for funding for Detox and halfway house services in Sioux City for the urban Native American population – 47% of the “homeless” people interviewed for the Siouxland Street Project identified as Native American. (The Street Project Interview report was shared with everyone present at the meeting, about 20 IHS officials). Indian Health Services funds and manages a detox center in Winnebago (DDU), but the Tribe does not utilize it nor send referrals to it, as they do not feel that the center is effective or well managed. If IHS were to reimagine and reorganize DDU, it could be utilized by the Tribe and Sioux City. Or, IHS could identify other funding to start a Sioux City detox center and halfway house. Either option would not be limited only to Native Americans – partnerships could be made with other entities and funding could follow people of other races or ethnicities. IHS listened to all of the points everyone made, and stated that they would review the request and prepare a response. Initial reactions were positive. One IHS employee mentioned that she is working on a new project with SAMSHA on urban Native American homelessness and would like to connect with Street Project on potential future funding. The Detox committee will keep the large group updated on any new developments resulting from this meeting.

B. Super Shelter

Alison Justice shared the Super Shelter Committee’s recommendations:

SUPER SHELTER PRIORITY LIST

1. Continue to sustain the Warming Shelter at current funding levels, so that the shelter can be open evenings from November 1st – April 30th of each year.
2. Add additional months of service to the Warming Shelter.
The monthly cost of operating the Warming Shelter in the evenings is \$24,000 a month. If additional funding is secured, the committee's recommendation is to open the shelter one month earlier (opening in October rather than adding a month at the end, as the fall and winter months are the coldest).

If the community were to support the Warming Shelter being open every evening 365 days a year, the *additional cost* for 6 more months would be:

$$\text{\$24,000} \times 6 = \text{\$144,000}$$

The committee's recommendation is that additional months should only be added if funding is sustainable.

3. Add a day shelter. The purpose of this would be:
 - A) The homeless population has shelter from the elements 24/7
 - B) The homeless population has access to showers during the day so that they can clean up and be more presentable for job-hunting
 - C) There is less panhandling and loitering in front of businesses since the population now has a place to go during the dayThe cost of a day shelter would be approximately \$50,000 a year.
4. Agencies provide outreach and services to the homeless population at both Warming Shelter and day shelter.

The total cost of funding every recommendation of this committee would be \$194,000 a year. The committee recommends at least a 2-year commitment to show outcomes.

Response to these recommendations was mostly positive – suggestions made were to ensure City Council, Woodbury County, Hard Rock and other businesses were aware of this proposal. Next steps are simply to get the information out to the community.

C. Organization Reporting & Retooling

Katie Colling presented an updated mission statement for the Siouxland Street Project:

The Street Project for the Homeless is a coalition of concerned citizens and organizations that serves to coordinate services provided to homeless individuals and to promote safe, decent, affordable, appropriate housing. This will result in a healthy, viable community that has safe shelter, housing, and provides compassionate services through information, funding and networking.

No one present objected to this mission statement, so it will be adopted and placed on the Street Project website and all meeting materials moving forward.

Katie also shared a flowchart for homelessness with the group, which helps to educate and inform the public about the services and resources available if they encounter a homeless person seeking services. The flowchart will be posted on the website on the Reporting & Retooling page: <http://siouxlandship.org/organizational-reporting-and-re-tooling/>

D. Screening and Intake

Lisa Claeys announced that the Screening and Intake Committee has results from the agency survey that was sent out. Representatives from the Institute for Community Alliances (Dr. Stover-Wright and Julie Eberbach) compiled the surveys and those documents will also be located on the website, on the Screening and Intake page: <http://siouxlandship.org/screening-and-intake/>

Additionally, a resource guide will be built and added to the webpage in a way that is easy to navigate. For example, someone looking for an agency that offers showers to the homeless would click on the “showers” box and bring up a list of all of the options. Also, someone looking for all of the resources provided by any one agency can click on that agency’s name and bring up details. This is a work in progress, and will be contracted out to Chatterkick to construct. The community will be updated when this is added.

E. Research

Julia Kleinschmit announced upcoming research projects:

- Detox centers and their effectiveness in other communities
- Urban Native American population and tribe affiliation

F. Education and Community Awareness

Ragen Cote reported that the Education Committee temporarily joined with the Super Shelter Committee to brainstorm ideas on a public service announcement.

Pastor Paul Johnston suggested that the Street Project (through the Education Committee) do an outreach event to the faith community of Siouxland to some of the area’s churches on board. Funding

recommendations from Super Shelter could be shared with this group as well. Pastor Paul recommended having food available and doing a short presentation, as well as allowing for some question/answer.

4. Public Service Announcement

The Super Shelter and Education committees met for a brainstorming session, and then formed a separate, temporary committee to formulate plans for a public service announcement. KTIV will be producing the :30 spot that will focus on and localize the homeless issue in Sioux City and encourage viewers to donate, rather than give directly to panhandlers on the street. A script from KTIV was shared with the group.

Some of the responses from those present:

- Opposition to discouraging giving to people on the street
- Concern that giving directly to those on the street contributes to severe substance abuse issues that could have deadly consequences (“one drink away from death”)
- Ensuring that viewers know that homelessness can happen to anyone – it could be a friend, a family member
- Funding – the original intent was to encourage viewers to donate to various agencies serving the homeless population, but the group would rather there be a mechanism on the website so that people can donate to a Siouxland Street Project fund.
- The group recommended a Finance Committee form to discuss the funding issue further – whom would be in charge of donations and what would be done with them.

5. Other topics and discussion

Matt Ohman talked about a presentation made by a representative from Keystone Treatment Center at the last CINCF (Community Initiative for Native Children and Families) meeting. The presentation detailed “tall boys” with very high alcohol content that are being priced as low as \$1.49 at local businesses and convenience stores. Many of these are consumed in 5 minutes or less and are the equivalent of drinking 4 regular beers. These products are being targeted to the young and those of very low income by being priced so low. Rather than force excise taxes or demand that businesses not sell these products, a “minimum unit pricing” regulation would force retailers to price these at least the same as other “tall boys” of lower alcoholic content – such as Bud Light and Coors Light. If priced higher, these products would be less attractive to the most vulnerable that abuse it the most. This has been brought to some legislators’ attention and will be followed up on.

Joe Twidwell gave an update on the Warming Shelter. The Warming Shelter closed on April 30th and will re-open on November 1st. Much work has gone into

making the Shelter safer. A new requirement will be that anyone entering the Shelter cannot return after 8 PM. A smoking area has also been built in the back of the shelter, but there is no exit so people cannot leave that area and come back. All of the beds in the Shelter have been replaced with bunk beds to create more room. The Warming Shelter will continue to accept private donations only.

6. Next steps

- The PSA will move forward taking into account the group's recommendations.
- A resource guide will be put together and available on the website.
- The Super Shelter recommendations will be circulated for funding.
- The committees will continue to meet.
- A Finance Committee will form – many present volunteered to be a part of that committee.
- Outreach to the Faith Community will occur.

7. Future meetings

The subcommittees will continue to meet, and the next community meeting will be in early January – date to be determined.