



# FOUR DIRECTIONS COMMUNITY CENTER

*"WHERE PEOPLE COME  
TOGETHER"*

9/15/17

Dear Colleagues, Street Project Partners,

During our visit this week to the City-County Alcohol and Drug Program (CCADP) in Rapid City, SD we were able to discern much in our three hour visit and tour of the facility there. Rapid City and Pennington County have partnered to address the need in Rapid City for detox, alcohol and drug abuse prevention, homelessness, and advocacy among the disaffected and addicted population there, most of which are Native Americans.

I plan to return for a follow-up visit there and perhaps tour a facility in San Antonio, TX that the CCADP is modeled after. I was impressed by their commitment, experience and resolve to further connect with those they seek to serve. It is a model program but I believe it would be hard to measure the impact on the community as the magnitude of the problems they face is so great. But, they have tried!

I gleaned several things during our confab that I feel are of great import to me and which should be considered by all who want to make a change in our community. They are seemingly simple things but must be considered if we are to gain momentum for any initiative we may agree on and pursue.

Pennington County and the city of Rapid City split the costs of operation of the CCADP equally with their budget being supplemented by a host of local groups, most notably the local hospital and the McArthur Foundation. It seems that there is little buy in from the Indian Health Service and little trust but I see that as a situation that can be remedied through real collaboration and congressional action.

The long and the short of their collective effort at CCADP which is a complex mix of federal, state, local and private supporters and funding, is that the community saw a critical need that impacted the whole community and they acted out of necessity rather than wringing their hands! That is my assertion but it was very clear to me that the business community sought to step up as the quality of life there as well as the economy of the area needed to be protected. They acted to try to make their community well rather than letting the addicted and homeless languish and the greater community decline. They can be a good example for us as we work to make the Street Project successful.

I have said many times that Sioux City has the "horses to meet our needs" when we tear down our silos and make ourselves uncomfortable. We have the assets, the people, the vision and the need to address our serious problems. Now we need the nerve.

I observed a number of young Native women in Rapid City taking up detox and safe beds at the CCADP. They were young, weathered, resigned and seemed to only exist. My thoughts were that they should be home raising families and building futures! I thought to myself that we are better than this be it Rapid City or Sioux City! Now we will see what we are about.

The business community brought us here and when we coalesce with the many other stakeholders in Woodbury County and the area we will have a good start! There are no right answers, no wrong answers, only questions and those who will ask them! That is us! Let us get about our work! I am ready!

Respectfully,

Frank  
LaMere