

Work Session on Vagrancy and Homelessness

January 5, 2016

Hosted by Sioux City Police Department, Downtown Partners and the Siouxland Human Investment Partnership

Overall Strategic Focus

“How can we, as a compassionate community, effectively deal with the issue of vagrancy in Sioux City?”

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Strategic Process Summary

Approximately 70 participants from the Siouxland community met in a three-hour facilitated session at the Sioux City Public Museum on January 5, 2016, to articulate a community response to the complex issues of homelessness and vagrancy. Participants included representation from the business community, local government, law enforcement, nonprofit and service agencies, Native community membership, medical and public health sectors, education and funders, among others. The overarching question guiding discussion was:

“How can we, as a compassionate community, effectively deal with the issue of vagrancy in Sioux City?”

The agenda guiding the work was:

- Welcome/Introductions
- Background context (framing the issue, summary of September 22 meeting and progress since)
- Identification of available community resources/assets
- Designation of key issues we can address as a “compassionate community”
- Solutions workshop (and accountability for action)
- Next steps - What, Who, By When?

This report documents the participant observations, insights and collective work products generated during the session. The process used to guide the work was based on the Technology of Participation facilitation methods developed by the Institute of Cultural Affairs. Questions regarding the process or resulting work products may be directed to the facilitator:

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Focus question: What is currently being done or provided to address the issue of vagrancy/homelessness in Sioux City?

Participants were asked to list as many answers as they could to the above focus question, then designate 3-5 assets that currently offer the most promise to make a real difference in addressing the issue of vagrancy/homelessness in Sioux City. The following community resources and assets were listed as most promising. (Numbers of table groups citing assets are listed in parentheses.)

- Warming Shelter (5)
- Gospel Mission (5)
- Soup Kitchen (3)
- Siouxland Mental Health - several programs (3)
- Four Directions Center (2)
- Hospitals - lobby open during freezing, cafeterias, tunnels (2)
- Transitional Housing
- Permanent supportive housing
- Addiction treatment centers
- Women and Children
- HCS Crisis Response - Crisis Funds
- CSADV - women and children - men in hotel
- Food Bank
- Sioux City Police Department
- Center for Siouxland - Bridges West, Payee

Other community resources and assets listed by the table groups were:

- Welcome home
- Brain Food (Library)
- Skywalk, stairwells, parking ramps
- Heartland counseling crisis response
- Shesler Hall
- Churches
- Bridges West
- Henry Hall
- CAAS - Crossroads
- Habitat for Humanity
- Mary Treglia
- Section 8
- Oakleaf
- CHI
- SIMPCO
- W. IA Housing Trust Fund
- HOME - funded
- Meal sites and food pantries
- Community Health Center
- Mary's Choice (diapers, food, etc.)
- Private security?
- Tribes
- Homeless Coalition
- HCS - Crisis pantry
- Haven House
- Community Action Agency
- Friendship House
- Sioux City and South Sioux libraries
- The Life Center - South Sioux
- CSADV's food pantry
- Food assistance programs
- Jackson recovery
- Bargain Center

Community Asset Inventory continued:

- Salvation Army (Safe and permanent supported housing, food pantry)
- District Health Department
- Low income tax credits/ HOME - funded housing (rental)
- Henry Mueller Hall
- Youth for Christ
- Junior League Discovery Shop - clothes, job prep items
- Bars (citizens helping other individual homeless)
- Jail
- Transitional housing
- Ponca Tribe programs
- Women Aware
- Consumer Credit counseling
- Goodwill Connection Center - IWD, vouchers, educational training
- DHS
- Veteran's Administration
- SHIP
- Trees, parks
- St. Paul's Indian Mission
- Gas stations, vacant buildings/lots downtown
- Crittenton Center
- Security Deposit program
- VASH vouchers
- SCEH
- Disability Resource Center
- Woodbury County Sheriff's Department
- Iowa Legal Aid - maintain housing
- Coat Tree
- Claire Guesthouse
- Castleman
- Siloh
- Public schools

Focus Question: What are some actions we CAN take, as a compassionate community, to address the issue of vagrancy in Sioux City?

Participants were next asked to discuss the above question in their table groups and list their top three (3) answers. Possible actions that emerged from the exercise were:

- Data screening intake (gather key data, developing survey piece, how we use data and is it successful, engagement)
- Safe 24/7 shelter for everybody (culturally competent case management and security on site)
- Assess ourselves - how are we treating those in need?
- Funding infrastructure already there - we can use open buildings
- Capital campaign to expand and sustain Warming Shelter
- Warming shelter and police screening to help referrals to agencies collaborating with one-on-one solutions
- Detox program with immediate availability - at mental health program perhaps?
- Commitment & organizational buy-in - "I Believe"
- Capital campaign (sustainable and ongoing)
- Street outreach initiative - coordinated with 24/7 shelter, City services, churches, non-profits
- More halfway houses - men and women with mental health issues, coming out of prison, drug/alcohol addiction issues, don't meet homeless definition
- Coordinating services
- Warming Shelter PLUS -
 1. Full service shelter
 2. Outreach/case workers who know the continuum of coordinated services and can initiate contact with clients and help them follow through with appropriate services and resources
 3. Funded by community and providers
 4. Do cost/benefit analysis to "find" funds, e.g. how much are hospitals and SCPD spending on this with minimal results?
 5. Community education on need for benefits from Warming Shelter PLUS
- Low income housing and permanent supportive options
- Educate general public on "giving" - public awareness campaign
- Services connector - "Super Caseworker"
- Transportation - includes transportation to other programs - if transit cannot solve the problem, we must solve it
- Immediate needs - warmth, safety, food, clothing
- Aggressive case manager familiar with all the resources. Case managers, helpers need the ability to connect to the individuals in need. Cultural competence
- Develop organizational plan (mission statement, vision, goals & objectives, measurable outcomes). The Plan includes: 1) 24/7 shelter and services, 2) Development of affordable housing, 3) Community education - eliminate barriers

- Community education and case management for V... population
- PSA's - education regarding panhandling
- Quit enabling - We have services & programs that are successfully helping the homeless who want to improve their situation & break the cycle of homelessness. And we have programs that meet the needs & enable those who maybe aren't truly homeless or who don't want to change their lot in life because they have /get what they need. If you build it, they will come - a bigger warming shelter/more vagrancy
- Local detox & crisis center options
- Business accountability - alcohol sales to intoxicated individuals
- Research what other cities do for solutions and we know we do not have all the answers
- More halfway houses - men and women with mental health issues, coming out of prison, drug/alcohol addiction issues, don't meet homeless definition
- Foster cooperation - tear down traditional barriers
- Research what other cities do for solutions and we know we do not have all the answers
- (transportation, food, utilities, rental deposit, medical services, etc.)
- Education -
- Community - who, why, where from, agencies and services available, PSA about panhandling
- Transients - resources available
- Data collection @ intake to help understand the problem (history)
- Outreach - direct them to resources and engage businesses for job training and employment opportunities
- Facebook page
- Subgroup meetings
- Coordinating services
- Communication and collaboration

The participants then prioritized key actions that could be taken, as a compassionate community, to make a positive difference. These action priorities were clustered by common theme and named into six areas of strategic focus (listed in no order of priority):

- **Super Shelter (with housing options and funding)**
- **Detox**
- **Screening and Intake (Data)**
- **Education and Community Awareness**
- **Organizational Reporting and Re-tooling**
- **Research (Data and Forecasting)**

A compilation of the group's work may be found on page 7 of this document.

What are the priority actions we CAN take, as a compassionate community, to address the issue of vagrancy in Sioux City?

Super Shelter (with housing options and funding)	Detox	Screening and Intake (Data)	Education and Community Awareness	Organizational Reporting and Re-tooling	Research (Data and Forecasting)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Capital campaign to sustain and/or expand warming shelter • Street outreach coordinated with nonprofits, churches, city services 24/7 • Emergency housing with resources • 24/7 shelter accessible immediately for homeless stocked with basic needs & knowledgeable staff • Full service “warming shelter PLUS” • “Super case worker” • Transportation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Detox program 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Warming Shelter and police screening to help referrals to agencies collaborating with local solutions • Centralized intake/ “community response” • Data collection @ contact points - ER, shelter, PD • 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Business accountability around alcohol sales • Educate public awareness campaign (give to organizations not individual) • Culturally specific education - Police Department • Education - community PR, clients/homeless/ etc./resource agencies • 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop an organizational plan (and community education) that everyone commits to • Define levels of homelessness • Greater good, better <u>collaboration</u> • Retool services to meet need • Take off agency “hats” • Cost analysis of individual services • MICAH - territorial issues 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Low income housing and permanent supportive options research •

Solutions Workshop Notes (Participant names listed when they were provided for documentation)

Strategic Topic	Why important	Related Issues	Focus Issues	Possible Actions	Chosen Actions
<p>Organization: Reporting and Retooling</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Every group is held accountable to the common goal • 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ID the Mission Statement that will guide our work • ID levels of homelessness • Help ID strategies for each level/type of homelessness ID'd (mental health, domestic violence, chronic by choice, financial crisis) • Organizations self-identify around the level of homelessness and be part of strategy • Defined case worker(s) for each level of homelessness (dig into cause of cycle, create individual strategy, coordinated referrals) • It would help with educating the community for buy-in • Help educate/empower the responders • Collective reporting 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ID Mission Statement • Create/define the levels of homelessness • ID appropriate responses to each type/level 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leadership on Mission Statement • Acquire data...from agencies screening...to ID types of homelessness • Linage/sharing homeless clients...everyone plugged in • Flow chart - facilitates referrals • Use process & some data Comprehensive Strategy employs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Find remnants of MICAH Project, involve Sunnybrook and other churches (who had a mission statement) Kevin Neegard - Sunnybrook, Paul Johnson - Trinity Lutheran, Johnny Helton, Convoy of Hope - Morningside Assembly • Create Mission Statement ... GOAL... by end of 2016 • Instrument to collect, filter data to ID types of homelessness

Strategic Topic	Why important	Related Issues	Focus Issues	Possible Actions	Chosen Actions
Research (Julia Kleinschmit, Linda Phillips, Sara Doyle, Janet Ryan, Amanda Kappler)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Find out what options are and what has worked in other areas - trending and impacts 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> HUD Guidelines Transportation (hours of operation, ADA, funding) Processes Permanent support options Million Dollar Murray 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Find model programs Cost analysis Trending and impact on Siouxland specifically 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Network people we know Research ND comparison Compare Million Dollar Murray to us Research processes - HUD sites, transportation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> What research has already been done and can we utilize it Collect HUD information (City, County, Chamber, their website, their processes)

Strategic Topic	Why important	Related Issues	Focus Issues	Possible Actions	Chosen Actions
Super Shelter	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community need IMMEDIATE Lack of affordable housing ** Solution based - Super Shelter Case management/ collaboration 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Affordable housing Lack of landlords taking HUD Supportive housing - permanent Funding - where is it coming from? Skilled leadership (social-service based) Crisis intervention - mental health/addiction Case management Organizational plan/ mission Capital campaign Agency resource list Private partnership Business partnership "Not in my backyard!" Bank - Community re-investment Faith community partnership 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Emergency shelter Lack of housing - available/ affordable Partnerships - community/ business/ nonprofit/private 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SHIP - develop organizational plan/mission statement Local government Local business - education, data collection, who collects it, where does it go? Create a central contact person to refer to other agencies Look at what cities are doing nationally - what is working what isn't (model) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Start with SHIP - get organizational plan mission statement Partnership with Homeless Coalitions Research "Super Shelter" models - why is it successful? Research "Housing Models" transitional, supportive, temporary, permanent

Strategic Topic	Why important	Related Issues	Focus Issues	Possible Actions	Chosen Actions
<p>Data Screening & Intake/ Street Outreach/Agency Coordination</p> <p>(Kevin Grieme, Diane Daby, Jill Wanderschied, Marty Dougherty, Jim Anderson, Lori Twohig, Terrie Binneboese, Darin Daby, Gary Niles, Shane Frisch, Richard Closter)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To understand the scope of the needs • Identify who we are working with • The ability to forecast and allocate resources • 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Law enforcement is often 1st point of contact • Mental health • Engagement of the person (lack of trust) • Participation of the screeners (training, etc.) • Addiction • Coordination of resources • Speed of services • Demographics (cultural differences) • Where does the data go? What are we going to do with it? • How do we develop benchmarks & success? • Less traditional/ formal ways of intake: street outreach • Tracking I a timely way • Best practices from other communities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Engagement • Logistics/ responsibilities • Use of data 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identifying current intake processes • Build relationships for outreach • Gather abstract data (arrest, key measurements) • Drill data to identify individuals and better understand • Agency confidentiality standards/ access for staff and list of agencies - who does it • Develop questionnaire/same questions are asked • Best practices from communities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gather key measurements by researching other best practices from communities and within ours • Start the survey process - develop survey (SHIP/PD) with all agencies

Strategic Topic	Why important	Related Issues	Focus Issues	Possible Actions	Chosen Actions
<p style="text-align: center;">Detox</p> <p style="text-align: center;">(Pete Groetken, Jim Rixner, Karen Mackey, Frank LaMere, Doug Young, Jerry Hernandez)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Substance abuse affects many homeless people 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Indian Health Service \$\$ How many Natives in S.C. Detox program available to all races/ethnic groups/ sexes Need data on “need” (arrests, ER visits (substance abuse) Winnebago IHS will not do “detox” - sent to local ERs “DDU” is for treatment (Winnebago IHS) Detox for anyone - hospitals - looked at, released, arrested - 250 breathalized SMH staff at hospitals - ½ x spent on chemical abuse issues Local detox facility - no jail (Native specific) Medical detox 48 - 72 hours - 1st 12 hours, intensive care, then out the door. Most don’t get into hospital Vets, Natives greatest need > 50% arrests 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Data Detox Center Post detox facility 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Comprehensive approach to data collection (including SCPD, hospitals, IHS, etc.) JUSTIFY! Find \$\$ (Congressional trip) - Chamber of Commerce Get support from senators, Reps - contact local reps Identify stakeholders Get Native community to support Get data from “Vets” Center Get Julia K (BCU) to help with data 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Make “Detox program” an issue at the Washington Dinner Data! (comprehensive)

Strategic Topic	Why important	Related Issues	Focus Issues	Possible Actions	Chosen Actions
<p style="text-align: center;">Education and Community Awareness</p> <p>(Betsy Thompson, P.J. Jennings, Anne Westra, Scott Knutson, Michael O'Connor, Leah Lyons)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Multiple groups of people are in need of education - address root issues of "who, what" Facilitates community engagement - links to overall support campaign 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cultural awareness sensitivity - getting below the surface of homelessness, addictions, poverty. These are symptoms of a deeper, more complex issue Community/law enforcement relationships Community/ care provider relationships Resource allocation - where is the best place to allocate our resources (Awareness of organizations such as Four Directions, an organization that needs the support) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cultural awareness Law enforcement/ government/all community partners/Native Task Force 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Public service announcement Task Force/Committee to go and interact at ground zero in a positive educated way - help to distribute resources - compare these firsthand experiences to the data List of community resources that is easily distributed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ** Cultural/ Awareness/ Sensitivity ** Native American Task Force Community awareness campaign (Million Dollar Murray - funding issue, stats) Creation of a task force/committee Education, training for everyone involved moving forward - Law enforcement, care providers, general populace, city government, officials, mayors

Next Steps:

- Document all work products from today's session
- Establish central communication system to coordinate community response
- Schedule small group and large group meetings to continue progress

Respectfully submitted,
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