

Lincoln County Homelessness Task Force Meeting Minutes
February 16, 2017, 2017
Menard Resource Center

Attending: Dee Olsen-Merrill Area United Way, Art Lersch-UW-Extension, Diane Sennholz-NCCAP, Melissa Schroeder-NCCAP, Tammy Degner-Haven, Susan Christian-Calvary Lutheran Church, Kathy Gruett – Our Saviors, Don Heyel-Trinity Lutheran Church, Sue Norenberg-SVDP.

Welcome and Introductions:

Welcome and introductions were made.

Overview of Last Meeting:

No changes to the January minutes.

Homeless Counts:

Art gave the local counts for January.

NCCAP -2

HAVEN- 16

SVDP- 22

Our Sister's House – 8

Tomahawk Schools-69

Merrill Schools-6

Merrill Housing Authority

Update from Merrill Warming Center Committee: The Warming Center Group has met several times since November. Currently they are working on establishing a separate 501(3) (c) status. Nothing is expected to occur before the end of April due to fact we are into the tax season. Contact had been made with Our Sisters House regarding their application and if they would be willing to share their information as a starting point. Melissa was going to contact a couple of other organizations regarding sharing by-law documents. There was discussion on the possibility of working out the purchase of/or some other structured agreement with Park City Credit Union about LA Salons who is in foreclosure. There was also discussion of Habitat for Humanity-Lincoln County closing and possibly garnering their treasury to assist with the purchase of the Salon

The Salon has three components which would be of benefit. One area would be used for the warming center, another area would focus on family needs, and the other would be two apartments units.

The warming center committee meets next on March 9, 2017.

Program Updates:

HAVEN: They are almost at capacity, with only one room open. There is a total of 10 persons and one service dog housed. One family with four children, one family with two children and the rest being single.

SVDP: Showing an increase in numbers from last year. An equivalent to 144 beds would have been used if the warming center had been available. 18 individuals (no families) have been assisted.

Our Sisters House: Nothing at this time.

NCCAP: All ETH Prevention dollars and the ETH Rapid Re-housing funds are allocated. The two apartments in Merrill are full. HUD is scaling back; no additional dollars will be given for Section 8 housing. There is a two-year waiting list at this point.

University Extension: Art reported that the re-structuring is moving along; there are to be three positions termed 'Regional Educators/Specialists' state wide replacing the County Directors positions.

Point in Time: Melissa reported that no homeless people were found in Lincoln County that particular night, Diane reported that four individuals were found in Marathon County and there were no homeless found in Wood County. Dee brings up a valid issue in that during the winter months it is more likely that people will find shelter and a true homeless count is not being reported.

Other Items: HAVEN will be holding their annual Elvis Fundraiser on 2/18/2017 and their Guest Chef fundraiser is tentatively set for the Thursday after Easter. Our Sister's House is holding a Soup Fundraiser on 2/25/2017

Next Meeting: Next meeting is March 16, 2017 at the Menard Center beginning at 8:30am.