

Duluth Human Rights Commission Meeting Minutes

April 9, 2014

5pm room 303 City Hall

Present: Rebecca Domagala, Cruz Mendoza, Bob Grytdahl- Staff, other concerned citizens

1. Welcome, Rebecca Domagala, Vice Chair
Vice Chair facilitated exchange of information
2. Introductions
3. Review of minutes from March 12, 2014.
4. Discussion of HDC Homeless Project
 - No housing options especially felonies- running out of options, housing programs don't meet the need of Duluthians with felonies
 - Section 8 is now moving
5. Discussion of current homeless situation in Twin Ports
 - Now that it has gotten warmer out, more people are put-out from couch surfing and many in mental health crisis
 - Too few outreach field workers to build trust/facilitate safer options
 - Barriers with waiting list/mental health
 - Many families and new contacts on the street
6. Discussion of AICHO
 - Is offering diagnostic assessments and has a worker but it takes time and they are working on getting an ARMHS worker.
 - Felony-friendly list focusing on harm reduction but landlords are concerned with three strikes penalties
7. Comparing last year and this year
 - Same resources but increasing homeless and less federal funding
 - Paper load increasing for case workers
 - People going into streets faster this year than last
 - Long wait accessing county financial workers barrier to housing
8. Ten Year Plan and Review Committee Meetings
 - Broader community involvement and focused priorities
 - Gaps in funding to figure out/supporting housing more cost effective than crisis responses
 - Next meeting to plan summit is April 14th from 9-11am in Cotton, MN
 - Only addressing funding issues through CDGB
 - Caught in an endless needs assessment/ bureaucracy barriers

9. Meeting with City Council

- Open the dialogue with chair of city council
- Clarity of council resolution 07-024OR. Are the quarterly reports available to Commission?
- Ask for a Committee of the Whole to review 07-0240R. Rebecca will send email to Linda Krug to set up meeting.

10. Reports from Subcommittees

- Housing- Housing Access Center critical need for housing stability-review of Housing Access Center history. Motion by Human Rights Commission to communicate value of Center to Council. Motion carries.
- Public Information- promote Ten Year Summit of May 28th community/council.
- Discharge- conference call with Stearns County on April 15th and meeting with case manager at federal prison tomorrow. Sister Volk was mentioned as someone to contact through Essentia. Idea- have it be required that places that receive state, city, county federal funding be required to extend housing until a discharge plan.

11. Homeless Bill of Rights

- Involve Citizen's Review Board-attend May 27th meeting-discuss current best practices of community officers as policy

12. Agenda Items for next meeting on May 14th

- Consider City Council/Human Rights Commission joint report annually State of Human Rights/homelessness/poverty/ on December 10th (National Human Rights Day)

Committees broke out for more planning.

Discussion ended 6:30PM- notes submitted by J. Hoffman