

Census Complete Count Committee

Homeless Advocates

August 7, 2009 City Hall First Floor

Melanie Bliss, Shireen Ranscau, Julie Becker, Candice Cummings, Fred Wilgenburg, Jeff Schmitt

Passed out a few copies of the advocates list and contacts, it's not an all encompassing list and it needs to be updated and corrected. Please make changes.

[updated list]

The U.S. Census is asking / telling us that the Census is in our hands.

What can we do between now and Thursday, April 1, 2010 to assist in getting a complete count of everyone who is in Sioux Falls.

A Census form was just mailed to the City and needs to be completed and mailed back with information on Targeted Non-sheltered Outdoor Locations. The group stated that this is not the best way to handle the Sioux Falls homeless population for many reasons. Have questions for Max [Partnership Specialist (ND & SD)] regarding staffing for this day.

Discussed personnel that would be good for this type of temporary housing count.

Need to work with all the shelters, facilities to communicate the importance of the count and the ability to complete the count.

Is there a way that forms can be supplied to "staff" at facilities for homeless to complete?

Brett Johnson mentioned that a undercounted population is those who are discharged on April 1 from Yankton and in transit to Sioux Falls. We also considered those recently released inmates.

Need to consider this transition, who's doing the count, where they were or where they are going?

Discussion grant possibilities to assist with homeless count; incentives for getting people out.

Assistance with mailing costs, newsletters, publication, media outreach.

In regards to the poster [branding the hand] – add a line of text each month as we draw people into the process.

FAQ – press release for newsletters

"I count" "I was Counted" stickers

Next meeting is Friday, August 28 at 9:00 – City Hall, First Floor, Commission Room