

# CITY OF NEW HAVEN HOMELESS ADVISORY COMMISSION

**April 8, 2021**

## **Meeting Minutes**

### **Attendance**

**Members: Present: D. Ecton, C. Spears, M. Krasniqi**

**Ex-Officio: V. George, N. Torres**

**Staff: V. George,**

**Guests: K. Fitzgerald**

**Members Absent: - C. Phillips Jr., E. Robinson,**

Chair D. Ecton called meeting to order at 6:03pm.

### **Minutes:**

There was an acknowledgement of March meeting minutes - there was no vote due to lack of quorum.

### **New Business:**

#### **New Haven Office of Housing & Homelessness 5 Year Plan – V. George**

This plan is designed to address the immediate and long-term needs of people experiencing homelessness in New Haven. It includes creating additional low-barrier service capacity (including shower / laundry facilities), and expanded outreach services to the unsheltered.

Our long-term goal is to transform the way the City of New Haven invests in programs to address homelessness, while providing 550 safe and deeply affordable housing units for people at risk of or experiencing homelessness.

Phase 1. CARES ACT Funds – 200 housing units

- ❖ The City of New Haven has allocated \$1.2 M to rapidly rehouse 190 household (families and individuals)
  - New Reach received \$400,000 to rehouse 45 families
  - Columbus House received \$500,000 to rehouse 115 individuals
  - Liberty Community Services received \$300,000 to rehouse 40 households
- ❖ Collaborate to with Columbus House and Department of Housing to purchase a hotel with 112 units. These units will initially be used to shelter up to 236 individuals. Site would partially evolve to a permanent supportive housing model with services.
- ❖ Increase outreach capacity to engage unsheltered homeless individuals and connect them to services and housing options.
- ❖ Increase number of drop-in centers and service hubs throughout the city where the unsheltered homeless could connect to services and address their ADL (activities of daily living) needs.
- ❖ Implement a compassionate set of protocols for cleaning up encampments.
- ❖ Create 50 emergency beds (prefer non-congregate to small congregate settings).

## Phase 2. American Rescue Plan – 350 housing units

- ❖ Build multiple Tiny House Communities throughout the city - 50 units
- ❖ Repurpose 2- 3 decommissioned schools to create:
  - Permanent Supportive Housing with 24-hour staffing and wrap around services for acute clients – 100 beds.
  - Create Single Room Occupancy (SRO) units with access to wrap around services for more independent clients 200 units.

### **Shelter / Cold Weather Update:**

V. George shared that the Columbus House Overflow Shelter closed April 5<sup>th</sup> and was shifting eligible clients to available shelter beds. She also shared that the warming center at the La Quinta was closing May 31<sup>st</sup>. There is a concerted effort to connect as many clients to housing and transfer eligible clients to any available shelter beds at Columbus House.

### **CAN Update:**

K. Fitzgerald shared that all 54 families in the Greater New Haven region were matched to housing. She also shared that the CAN saw an increase in homeless individuals (52) and families (7) on the By Name List (BNL). During the colder months they placed many more families in motels for extended stays as compared to previous years.

### **YHHAP Update:**

M. Krasniqi shared that YHHAP has connected with the DESK Drop-in Center. She also shared that their April fundraiser would benefit Youth Continuum, New Reach, and Loaves & Fishes.

Meeting adjourned 7:06pm.