

CITY OF NEW HAVEN HOMELESS ADVISORY COMMISSION

September 9, 2021

Meeting Minutes

Attendance

Members: Present: D. Ecton, C. Spears, R. Handler

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

Staff: V. George

Guests: D. Agosta, J. Pettinelli, S. Moscariello

Members Excused Absent:

Members Absent: - E. Robinson

Chair D. Ecton was in transit so V. George called the meeting to order at 6:03pm
V. George welcomed R. Handler the new YHHAP representative.

Minutes:

July 8, 2021 meeting minutes were reviewed. There was no quorum, so the vote on the minutes was postponed.

NEW BUSINESS:

Spotlight Agency: Liberty Community Services Inc. (LCS)

Executive Director J. Pettinelli and Program Manager S. Moscariello gave an overview of their services and fielded questions.

S. Moscariello shared that the agency's mission is to end homelessness in Greater New Haven. LCS offers services to those experiencing homelessness who are living with HIV/AIDS, mental illness and/ or addiction with the goal of reducing homelessness and increasing housing stability.

LCS guiding principles include meeting people where they are, urgent action, communication, and community. Their practices include harm reduction, housing first, critical time intervention and trauma informed care. LCS services include Outreach to the unsheltered, Next step resource center, Prevention/ Diversion services, Rapid Rehousing, Housing assistance for people living with Aids.

The Next Step resource center provides housing and employment resources, health care hours, computer lab, showers, laundry, and meal. Through their Prevention/ Diversion services they provide one-time rental assistance to women and families, shallow case management, housing search assistance, tenant education and landlord/ tenant relationship building.

Shelter Update:

V. George shared that FEMA extended the use of hotels as a non-congregate shelter option through December 2021 as long as there is an emergency order in place by Governor Lamont. She also shared that her office is currently requesting proposals for agencies willing to staff

additional cold weather beds (270 beds) for the warming center and overflow shelter for males, females, and couples. Her office is also seeking proposals for meal delivery to those hotel beds and a mobile shower trailer for the unsheltered.

CAN:

There was no CAN representation at this meeting. Nonetheless V. George shared there were 31 families matched to housing.

YHHAP:

R. Handler shared that they are preparing for their annual fundraiser and hunger week activities.

Announcements:

V. George shared that she was finally able to post the Community Outreach Worker position for her office.

V. George also shared that she and Dr. Dalal had the privilege to present at a national USICH Webinar. The webinar featured two cities in the United States (New Haven and Indianapolis) and their COVID response to homelessness.

Meeting adjourned 7:03 pm