

# CITY OF NEW HAVEN HOMELESS ADVISORY COMMISSION

**February 13, 2020**

## **Meeting Minutes**

### **Attendance:**

**Members Present:** E. Robinson, D. Ecton, C. Phillips Jr.,

**Ex-Officio:** M. Dalal

**Staff:** V. George

**Guests:** B. Fields, M. Krasniqi, N. Conover-Crockett, S. Brown, B. West, D. Lawhorn, W. Potts, K. Kyles, R. Jackson, J. London

**Members Excused Absent:**

**Members Absent:** - N. Torres, A. Roth, E. Sabin,

D. Ecton called the meeting to order at 6:12

D. Ecton welcomed Dr. Mehul Dalal, the new Community Service Administrator to the Homeless Advisory Commission. Dr. Dalal shared a little about his background, reported that homelessness was a priority of Mayor Elicker, and that he was looking forward to supporting the work of the commission.

### **Minutes:**

January 9, 2020 meeting minutes were approved unanimously.

### **Shelter Update:**

V. George shared that the warming center ran by Omega Seventh Day Adventist Church opened on January 3<sup>rd</sup>. She shared that the warming center accommodates couples. To date they have seen 13 couples. The men and women shelters were not quite at capacity. And family shelters remain at capacity. CCA has a few units off line.

### **CAN Update:**

There was no CAN representative at this meeting.

### **YHHAP Update:**

N. Conover-Crockett shared that YHHAP is currently focused on inwardly facing activities for students, while involving these students in systemic and advocacy initiatives. She also shared that they are working on being more consistent in their involvement in community commitments i.e. the work of this commission. She also shared that student run organization No Closed Doors continue to offer free help with resume writing and editing.

Other Discussions:

There were several guests that attended to express various concerns and observations.

1. A few guests shared that the train station was not allowing people to stay inside if they did not have a train or bus ticket. V. George shared that the Omega Warming Center and ESMS were accepting walk-ins.
2. There was a discussion that Homelessness should be designated a “disaster situation” to trigger Red Cross assistance.
3. C. Phillips shared that the President signed into law the Perkins V: Strengthening Career and Technical Education for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Act
  - a. Increasing the employment opportunities for special populations.

Meeting adjourned.