

CITY OF NEW HAVEN HOMELESS ADVISORY COMMISSION

April 11, 2019

Minutes

Attendance:

Members Present: J. Huettner, N. Hogan, C. Gormley, C. Phillips Jr., E.Sabin, V. Wilson, A. Roth,

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

Staff: V. George

Guests: B. Huang, C. Kidd, K. Dubois- Walton, C. Brown, M. Mallory, A. Haley, P. Douglas, J. White,

Members Excused Absent: -

Members Absent: - E. Robinson, J. Hardy, D. Ecton,

0.0 J. Huettner called the meeting to order and continued with introductions.

He welcomed new commissioner – Eli Sabin.

1.0 Approval of March 14, 2019 Meeting Minutes was unanimous.

2.0 V. George shared that warming season is coming to a close. The warming center will be closing April 15th and the Over Flow Shelter will be closing on May 5th. Consequently, she is expecting an uptick in encampment activity.

NEW BUSINESS

3.0 J. Huettner gave a brief re-cap of the February Elderly Homeless Forum. He shared the goal for part 2 of this forum was to begin the conversation of providing a safety net for elderly individuals who find themselves homeless or unstably housed. J. Huettner referenced the data that K. Fitzgerald of the Greater New Haven CAN shared which indicated the overall number of homeless has declined, while the number of elderly homeless was trending upward. J. Huettner suggested that CAN review this data and make adjustments to their current priority process to accommodate the growing number of seniors seeking shelter.

3.1 V. George introduced guest speaker, P. Douglas who is a senior citizen who is currently homeless and couch surfing at friends and family homes. She shared that she worked all her life and was collecting a small pension and social security. This past year when the cost for Medicare Part B significantly decreased her social security check, and an unforeseen a family emergency set her back, she fell behind in her rent and was subsequently evicted. She has since been couch surfing because she cannot afford a market rate apartment. She also shared that she has completed applications with HANH

and other housing developments for seniors. She shared her confusion around HANH waiting list process.

K. Dubois -Walton commented that there are several factors that impact their waiting list (i.e. domestic violence, homelessness). She agreed to share HANH's preference list with this commission. K. Dubois – Walton went on to share that the CAN sets the priorities for homeless individuals and submit candidates for housing to HANH.

3.2 While discussing the need for a protocol for addressing the elderly that are unstably housed, C. Kidd shared that new standards need to be put in place specifically to address this population. She went on to state that the elderly are treated like they are invisible. C. Kidd also shared that even nursing home care can be deficient. She talked about the need for advocacy for seniors who find themselves in these precarious situations.

3.3 CONSIDERATIONS:

3.3.1 There is a need for more domain experts to address this issue and guide the conversations.

3.3.2 A need for new demands to be placed on existing systems in order change housing guidelines for the elderly

3.3.3 There is a need to restore prevention assistance for the elderly as those prevention funds were folded into the Rapid Rehousing Funds.

3.4 NEXT STEPS:

3.4.1 Define elderly

3.4.2 Make a list of priorities for the elderly

3.4.3 Invite New Haven Delegation to a commission meeting to hear stories from the elderly

3.4.4 Encourage advocacy

3.4.5 Initiate a regional conversation on the issue of homelessness and the elderly.

4.0 C. Gormley shared that YHAP is reorganizing their investments and working on their annual report to include impact reports from individual groups.

5.0 Meeting adjourned.