

City of New Haven
Homeless Advisory Commission
December 14, 2023

Attendance:

Members Present: L. Hardy, U. Muley, J. Huettner

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

Staff: S. James

Guest: D. Diaz, A. Rivera

CAN- M. Lefever

YHHAP-

Members Absent: C. Spears, C. Mendez,

Excused Absent: T. Ficklin, S. Bass,

The meeting was called to order by V. George at 6:04pm.

Minutes: The group reviewed November minutes. Minutes were voted on and accepted unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS:

V. George – James introduced D. Diaz and A. Rivera - McKinney Vento (MKV) Liaisons from the New Haven Board of Education. Both Diaz and Rivera shared that 672 students were identified as eligible MKV resources. They described who are eligible for MKV resources:

Children and youth who are....

- “Double-Up” - Sharing housing with other persons.
- “Sheltered” - Living in emergency or transitional housing.
- “Unsheltered” - Primary residence is not designed for sleeping, cars, parks, public spaces, abandoned buildings, substandard housing, bus or train stations, or similar settings.
- “Unaccompanied Youth” - Migratory children.
- Youth living in hotels / motels.

The following is New Haven Public School responsibilities to unhoused youth:

- School liaisons serve as the primary contact between homeless families, school staff, district personnel, shelter workers, and other service providers.
- Liaisons ensure that homeless children are enrolled in school and can succeed academically.

Liaisons, teachers, and school staff:

- Help identify homeless students at their schools.
- Coordinate activities with other entities and agencies.
- Make families aware of programs like Head Start, Early childhood and other early intervention services.
- Provide referrals to health, dental, mental health, substance abuse programs, housing, and other appropriate services.
- Keep parents informed of all educational opportunities available to their children.
- Inform parents of all transportation services.
- Assure Public Notice of Rights is posted.
- Assure all siblings are enrolled in school.
- Help school personnel identify homelessness indicators.
- Complete McKinney Vento Intake once family self identifies as homeless.

Updates:

V. George shared that the Foxon Emergency housing program is scheduled for a soft launch on December 20, 2024, at 1pm. V. George invited the commissioners to the upcoming press event for New Haven's first non-congregate shelter in the region.

V. George shared the locations of the 3 warming centers in New Haven: Varick Church, The 180 Center, and Upon This Rock at 130 Orchard St. All New Haven warming centers will operate from 7pm-7am seven days a week. V. George also shared that all warming centers have been operating at or above capacity.

Meeting adjourned 7:02