

# CITY OF NEW HAVEN HOMELESS ADVISORY COMMISSION

**February 11, 2021**

## **Meeting Minutes**

### **Attendance**

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

**Ex-Officio: V. George**

**Staff: V. George,**

**Guests: M. LeFever, S. Rodriguez, D. Diaz, N. Brussel- Faria**

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

**Staff Absent: N. Torres**

Chair D. Ecton called meeting to order at 6:05pm.

She welcomed new board members C. Spears and M. Krasniqi (YHHAP) and proceeded with introductions.

### **New Business:**

D. Diaz gave an overview of the McKinney Vento (MKV) Act. He shared that MKV recognizes families and individuals that are doubled up, displaced, or couch surfing as homeless. This Act requires school districts of origin to provide transportation and education within 20 miles to protect continuity of education. The family has a choice of staying in their school of origin or enrolling in the new school district. Through the MKV, students are connected to services and supports. They currently support 300 students within the New Haven public and charter schools. MKV also provides a homework hotline through Yale University. They are currently working on providing scholarships for Saturday Art & Music Academy.

During the COVID pandemic, they provided 140 free portable Wi-Fi access, food baskets & gift cards to 380 families, clothing, PPEs, and other gift cards for personal items. They encountered many COVID positive families.

D. Diaz shared that request for transportation is usually an indicator of housing insecurity. He is anticipating a sharp rise in request for transportation post COVID due to loss of housing.

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

V. George shared that due to COVID precautions, the congregate shelters and warming center remain in the hotels. There are 187 beds at one hotel and 60 at another hotel for a total of 247 beds for individuals. During the month of January, 200 Orange St was opened as an overflow warming center during extreme cold weather protocol.

### **CAN Update:**

- M. LeFever shared that they are experiencing an increase in request for shelter - CAN appointments are being scheduled for less than a week out.
- They are steadily increasing the number of verified homeless.
- The By Name List increased from 400 to 450 people
- There are 70 people matched to housing

- During the month of January 12 people were housed
- Since March 2020 they have housed 550 households.

**YHHAP Update:**

M. Krasniqi shared that most programming is on pause with the exception of the Community Kitchen, the Clothing Closet, and No Closed Doors.

She also shared that they have a planned fundraiser for April with a goal of \$15k.

Meeting adjourned 7:10pm.