

CITY OF NEW HAVEN HOMELESS ADVISORY COMMISSION

March 11, 2021

Meeting Minutes

Attendance

Members: Present: D. Ecton, C. Spears, E. Robinson, M. Krasniqi

Ex-Officio: V. George, N. Torres

Staff: V. George,

Guests: N. Brussel- Faria, T. McGuire, S. Greenberg

Members Absent: - C. Phillips Jr.

Chair D. Ecton called meeting to order at 6:03pm.

She welcomed new board members and guests then proceeded with introductions.

New Business:

Youth Continuum Update:

T. McGuire, Director Housing Operations of Youth Continuum Inc. shared that the COVID -19 Pandemic temporarily impacted their crisis beds capacity to half. The CARES funds allocation allowed them to make necessary physical adjustments which allowed them to return to their census of 12 beds. He shared that throughout the pandemic they saw the youth's natural supports step up so there was no marked increase in the youth shelter wait list. Despite the limited availability of units, and landlord's reticence to rent to youth, they were still able to house 40- 45 youths with subsidies and case management.

Y2Y Update:

S. Greenberg Co-Founder and Director of Y2Y shared that they are finalizing the design of their 13,000 sqft youth led, overnight, 20 unit youth shelter. This shelter will be located on the top floor of the Youth Continuum building on Grand Avenue. They are also finalizing their youth leadership team which will come from the surrounding universities – SCSU, Yale, UNH and Quinnipiac. They are hoping to add students from Gateway and Albertus. Y2Y will be collaborating with Clifford Beers Center for behavioral health services for clients at the shelter. Sam shared that their groundbreaking occurred in December 2020 and hope to open this shelter later this year.

Shelter / Cold Weather Update:

V. George shared that shelter beds and warming center beds remain full with close to 250 people. During the extreme temperatures they opened 200 Orange Street ground floor to accommodate the unsheltered homeless. There were over 100 people that cycled through 200 Orange St during those cold nights. She also shared that the homeless service providers created an impressive network of warming locations for daytime hours even on the weekends. The soup kitchens generously pitched in to feed folks at these warming locations.

CAN Update: Not available this meeting.

YHHAP Update:

M. Krasniqi shared that the feeding program Kitchen to Kitchen continues to operate despite a few challenges. She also shared that YHHAP will be sponsoring a clinic for writing testimony to support Bill – HB6531. This bill ensures tenants receive proper representation at housing court during eviction proceedings.

Meeting adjourned 7:10pm.