

**CITY OF NEW HAVEN  
HOMELESS ADVISORY COMMISSION**

June 9, 2022  
Meeting Minutes

**Attendance:**

**Members Present:** D. Ecton, C. Spears, C. Mendez, S. Abdussabur

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

**Staff:** S. James- Marquis

**Guest:** B. Evans, J. Inabinet

**Members Excused Absent:**

**Members Absent:** R Handler

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

**Minutes:** The group reviewed the May's minutes.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

V. George spoke about the regional Outreach Worker's Training, which took place on June 9, 2022, from 9 am to 3 pm at the Harbor Pavilion at Lighthouse Point Park, located at 2 Lighthouse Road in New Haven, Connecticut. V. George gave a quick summary of the day's events. Greetings came from various personnel on behalf of the City of New Haven, State of Connecticut, Department of Housing (DOH), Department Mental Health Addiction Services (DMHAS), and United Way. V. George shared that the day's activities featured a variety of ice breakers to get people moving and engaged. V. George emphasized that this was a Greater New Haven regional training the first in the state which focused on standardizing outreach and engagement policies and procedures. There were various presenters, and attendees had the chance to ask questions throughout the presentations. The day culminated with the presentation of the first annual John Jessen Award (the late New Haven City Librarian), and the presentation outreach field supply kits to each outreach workers that attended.

**Homeless Services Update:**

V. George shared that annual request for proposals for next fiscal year is due within the upcoming week. V. George shared that the Homeless Services budget remained level with no increases. V. George shared that the CARES Act federal funds are coming to an end thus, hotel services will be no longer offered for the upcoming winter season. The city will be looking to partner with churches to provide warming center services for the unsheltered. V. George shared that the goal is to secure at least 3 warming centers with space to hold up to 30 individuals at each center along with and overflow shelter space for men. V. George shared that hub services will continue. V. George hopes to share RFP outcomes at next month's HAC meeting.

**Guest Presentation:** BJ. Evans- BHCARE HUB-Housing Program Manager.

BJ. Evans shared some of the services offered at the BHCARE HUB located at 548 Grand Ave since the start of operation 1 year ago in the Fair Haven neighborhood. BJ. Evans shared that operating the Hub gave the agency the opportunity in expanding their services in the New Haven area for the first time and was very surprised how easy it was working with everyone in fulfilling the mission of the agency. BJ. Evans shared the BHCARE HUB offers wrap around services to individuals experiencing homelessness. Services such as, basic needs, case management, housing referrals, computer access and behavioral health. BJ. Evans shared that BHCARE partnered with Cornell Scott to provide health care services, with SWAN to provide services to sex workers, and with MATTS van for addiction services. BHCARE Hub outreach workers provide ongoing outreach services. BJ. Evans shared that the BHCARE Hub practices an open-door policy for

visitation which serves an average of 6 clients daily and average of 110 clients monthly. BJ. Evans shared that the agency was in search of a larger space for the Hub. She shared that they looked at a store front on Grand Ave for a possible new hub space, however, the rent was too expensive, and the alders preferred to keep that space as commercial space. Consequently, they decided to move to a larger space within their current building at 548 Grand Ave.

**CAN: J. Inabinet**

J. Inabinet began by describing her role as Coordinated Access Network (CAN) Entry Manager. She oversees the entry part of the CAN, work with providers, shelters, individual and families experiencing homelessness and or at the risk of becoming homeless, and she manages various waitlists. J. Inabinet shared that 1,844 households called 211 during the month of May. There were 469 CAN appointments scheduled, 301 people showed up for their CAN appointments. She also shared that 131 people were wait listed and 84 people were diverted. There were 139 no shows, and 57 callers were not appropriate for services. J. Inabinet shared that the median wait time call for an appointment is 3 days. J. Inabinet also shared that there are 638 people on their By Name List, with 187 people matched to a housing resource. J. Inabinet shared that 45 people were housed in May and 20 housing resources distributed. There were 7 one-time financial assistance awarded and 18 clients self- resolved. She also shared that lack of affordable housing continues to be a challenge and all cold weather locations have closed. J. Inabinet shared that the My Home CT Program, a State funded program for homeowners to access mortgage delinquency sustained during the pandemic is now available and applications are being accepted.

**Concern:** D. Ecton shared some concerns regarding the rental crisis that is presently faced by many individuals and families seeking a deeply affordable place to live. D. Ecton also commented that there needs to be a better communication between Section 8 representatives and landlords when it comes to inspections, re-certification paperwork, rent payments and upkeep of unit.

**YHHAP:** R. Handler absent. V. George shared that she has not heard from R. Handler and will reach out.

**Meeting adjourned at 6:53pm.**