

City of New Haven

Homeless Advisory Commission

April 13, 2023

Attendance: Present: L. Hardy, U. Muley, S. Bass, D. Diaz, A. Rivera, N. Braimah
Absent: C. Mendez, C. Spears, N. Torres,
Ex-Officio: V. George,

Call to Order

V. George called the meeting to order at 6:05pm as Chair C. Mendez had a family emergency and was unable to attend.

NEW BUSINESS

McKinney Vento (MKV) Act Presentation

D. Diaz and A. Rivera gave an overview of the MKV Act. They began with the definition of homelessness which included people at risk of homelessness, families that are doubled-up and individuals that are couch surfing. The MKV program receives between \$50k to \$100k in federal funds with lots of donations and in-kind services to operate the program. D. Diaz office trains school staff to identify students who are homeless or at risk of homelessness. In addition, this office coordinates activities and services, and makes referrals to health/ dental providers for the entire family. Through MKV Act, they provide school transportation, parent transportation, school supplies and hygiene kits for families. The cost for transportation is split between the New Haven Board of Education and the town of residence. During this current school year, the MKV staff has identified 649 students or 250 families that are homeless or at risk of homelessness. These families are either doubled up, in shelter, or staying in a hotel. D. Diaz office found that the families associated with the MKV program have less absenteeism than the general student population. Of the families they served this year, 64 families reported finding permanent housing. Of these families housed, half of them had to leave New Haven to find permanent housing.

CAN Update

There was no representative present at this meeting.

YHHAP Update

N. Braimah shared that YHAP will be raising funds to support the Sunrise Café, New Reach, Project Access, and New Haven Inner City Enrichment Center. Last year they raised \$17k. This year, they hope to surpass the \$17k.

Announcements

V. George invited members of the Commission to attend the Office of Housing & Homelessness Strategic Planning Session on April 19, 2023, at 1pm at 165 Church St. Meeting Room 1&2.

Adjournment – 7:15pm