

City of New Haven
Homeless Advisory Commission
February 8, 2023

Attendance:

Members Present: J. Edwards, J. Huettner, S. Bass, A. Jaramoga

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

Staff: S. James

Guest: Y. Chauca,

CAN- M. LeFever

YHHAP- J. Simmons

Members Absent: T. Streeter

Excused Absent: U. Muley,

The meeting was called to order by V. G. James at 6:08pm.

Minutes:

Review December 2023 minutes. J. Huettner made motion to approve, J. Simmons seconded. Motion carried.

Review January 2024 minutes. J. Huettner made the motion to approve, J. Edwards seconded. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS:

Operation Full Court Press (OFCP)

V. G. James shared Operation Full Court Press goal is to pool resources to assist unsheltered individuals back on their feet. This initiative coordinates resources and streamlines efforts as a game changer in how unsheltered homelessness is addressed in our community. More specifically, OFCP is geared to providing targeted services to the unhoused population at warming centers. A recent survey of people in the three New Haven warming centers revealed that of the 121 people staying at the warming centers nightly, 82 of them desire to obtain gainful employment. In addition, only 32 of the 121 reported having income. We all know, to maintain housing one needs a source of income. More importantly, warming centers are scheduled to close on April 15th, thus the urgency.

To date, the CAN has ramped up visits to the warming centers so more people are completing CAN assessments and opting to go into shelter. The Foxon Emergency Housing Program is steadily ramping up admissions to get folks off the streets and out of warming centers. This office is reaching out to Adult Ed and several employment programs to assist with this initiative. We are also collaborating with navigation hubs to connect folks to employment and housing.

Supreme Court Hearing on Encampments:

J. Huettner share a New York Times article regarding the use of public spaces for encampments. The article explored the role of the 8th Amendment of the US Constitution on camping on public lands. The supreme court is scheduled to hear this case by the end of February.

Shelter Updates:

V. G. James shared that all New Haven warming centers have been running at or above capacity since they opened. All New Haven warming centers operate from 7pm-7am seven days a week. V. G. James shared that New Haven first family triage for families experiencing homelessness recently opened and is located at 209 Terminal Lane. There are no walk-ins – it is by referral through the CAN only.

CAN Update:

M. LeFever shared that in the Greater New Haven CAN By Name List there were 716 households or 871 people which includes 80 families and 50 youth (18-24). Households are spending 130 days in shelter even with vouchers. In the last 90 days 259 households were housed.

YHHAP Update:

J. Simmons- shared updates from last fall efforts:

- YHAPP completed 8 projects – 7 service projects and 1 advocacy project (a letter writing campaign).
- 250 students volunteered
- Elmcity Echo Publication – shared stories from people experiencing homelessness
- VITA group completed taxes
- The completed 4 clothing closet runs
- Yale community kitchen provided 13,000 meals
- Kitchen to Kitchen completed 26 runs

Announcement:

M. LeFever shared that Youth Continuum Warming center for youth 18-24 opens tonight at 943 Grand Avenue.

S. Bass shared that at the last meeting, the 9th Square Bathroom Initiative was exploring wedding bathrooms as an alternative solution to porto pottys on the New Haven Green. The next meeting is March 20th at 12pm on Zoom.

Adjourn– 7:09pm

