

**Southeastern Connecticut
Regional Human Services Coordinating Council**

A steering committee of the Southeastern Connecticut Council of Governments

Friday, October 20, 2017

8:30 AM – 10:00 AM

Southeastern Connecticut Council of Governments

5 Connecticut Avenue, Norwich, CT

Draft Meeting Minutes

In attendance: Kathleen Stauffer, The ARC New London County; Deborah Monahan, TVCCA; Cathy Zall, New London Homeless Hospitality Center; Connie Hilbert, Mohegan Tribe; Jeanne Millstein, City of New London; Jennifer Granger, UCFS; Mary A. DeMarco, Town of Windham; Rick Calvert, Child and Family Agency; Virginia Sampietro, EWIB; Laurel Holmes, L&M Healthcare; Tomest Maskell, CT Department of Correction; Annie Stockton, United Way of SE CT; Dina Sears-Graves, United Way of SE CT; Joan Wessell, Senior Resources; Mayor Ron McDaniel, Town of Montville; Nancy Gentes, Madonna Place; Lee-Ann Gomes, Norwich Human Services; Carin Mancini, CT Department of Developmental Services; Nancy Cowser, seCTer; Jen Fournier, Sound Community Services; Allon Kalisher, CT Department of Children and Families; Jim Butler, SCCOG; Amanda Kennedy, SCCOG

1. Call to Order – *Deb Monahan/Kathleen Stauffer*
2. Welcome and Introductions – *Deb Monahan/Kathleen Stauffer*
3. Southeastern CT Economic Recovery Task Force – *Kathleen Stauffer*

Kathleen Stauffer presented the work of the Southeastern CT Economic Recovery Task Force, an initiative supported by United Way of Southeastern Connecticut, The Community Foundation of Eastern CT, TVCCA, and ARC. The report highlights the need for economic growth to improve outcomes for at-risk populations and for economic benchmarking to highlight how economic conditions for at-risk populations are changing for the better/worse. Traditional datasets reporting a region's economic well-being do not tell the whole story. The task force proposes measuring performance metrics that better describe on-the-ground conditions for the region's at-risk populations, including household income, business formations, unemployment, median age, etc. Highlights of the task force's recommended implementation strategies were presented.

Comments included the following:

- Human services community should focus on improving "bottom-up" access to opportunity for low-income residents- reducing barriers to employment that prevent very poor people from obtaining good employment.
- Agencies would benefit from a data system that is accessible to all agencies that tells the story of the agencies' impacts with data.

- Agencies can advocate for policies on behalf of other sectors. Example: advocate for policy changes that facilitate economic development. Create a human services voice in public policy issues.
- The region won't succeed if it can't fill the good jobs that are coming and it can't fill the good jobs unless it can access its full population—that means prepping low-skill/low-education workers for these career paths.
- State advocacy should happen before the session starts in February.
- Allying with like-minded groups on state legislation is important, but SE CT gets forgotten sometimes unless specifically advocated for.

The task force will work to update the benchmark measurements with current numbers. The most interest from participants was in focusing on developing a collective advocacy voice from the human services sector, in working on improving access to jobs, and in developing a few pilot projects to advance the report's recommendations.

4. Shared Services Study – *Jim Butler*

SCCOG has received funding from the State of Connecticut's Regional Performance Incentive Program to conduct a shared services study for human services in the region. The RFP for consulting services has been released with responses due November 17th. Ms. Stauffer and Ms. Monahan will serve on the consultant selection committee along with a few of the municipal CEOs. The consultant may be engaged by the next scheduled meeting (January 19th) and able to present to the RHSCC at that time. If not yet engaged, the next meeting may be rescheduled to allow the consultant to present to the RHSCC. It is anticipated that the consultant will be gathering data via survey or individual meetings. Members expressed a desire for the study to inform the following: how to manage geographic distribution of services, technology or shared technology that can result in savings, and shared financial services.

5. State Funding Environment - Deb Monahan/Kathleen Stauffer

Ms. Monahan briefed members on the current state of budget negotiations. Legislative leaders are currently sharing a bipartisan budget with other legislators with the hope of passing a budget next week. Providing services in southeastern CT is especially difficult given the transportation costs associated with serving at-need residents in low-density areas. It was noted that federal policy decisions will also impact service provision.

6. New Business

None.

7. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 10 AM.