

**Southeastern Connecticut
Regional Human Services Coordinating Council**
*A steering committee
of the Southeastern Connecticut Council of Governments*

Southeastern Connecticut Council of Governments
5 Connecticut Avenue, Norwich, CT

Friday, April 26, 2019 8:30 AM

Meeting Summary

Attendees: Deborah Monahan, Kathleen Stauffer, Dina Sears-Graves, Jennifer Granger, Joan Wessell, Salem First Selectman Kevin Lyden, Nancy Gentes, Virginia Sampietro, Laurel Holmes, Lee-Ann Gomes, Anne Stockton, Jim Butler, Amanda Kennedy

1. Call to Order – *Deb Monahan/Kathleen Stauffer*
2. Welcome and Introductions – *Deb Monahan/Kathleen Stauffer*
3. Legislative Issues - *Deb Monahan/Kathleen Stauffer*

Organizations are concerned about the impact that minimum wage requirements would have on service provision. Given existing state funding, providers can't afford to pay additional wages, and would have to further cut benefits, hours, or staff.

Public Hearing 4/29 on bills including:

S.B. 1138: Community Restoration Funds. 1) Would enable the creation of "community development credit unions" and "community development corporations." 2) Would require tax-exempt organizations that own college/hospital property or maintain a pension/endowment or other significant savings to pay ¼ of the amount of exempt taxes, distribution of which will include the community development credit unions.

S.B. 1137: Similar to S.B. 1138.

S.B. 1141: Property Tax Reform. Would establish additional ½% sales tax that would fund a “municipal capacity fund” to benefit certain stressed municipalities.

4. Update on Human Services Shared Services Study
– *Jim Butler/Amanda Kennedy*

The Human Services Shared Services report has been revised based on input from participants. The most substantive changes are in the discussion of the United Way 211 database, since the original “Inventory of Services” extracted from the database included many errors. Appendix 4 (Inventory) has been replaced with a condensed list of (non-governmental) providers located in southeastern CT in 11 service categories. Recommendations re the use of the 211 system were modified to reflect accurate findings. Ms. Kennedy suggested that the 211 system is an underutilized resource for strategic planning of services. Ms. Sears-Graves, Ms. Wessell, and others suggested setting up opportunities in the region to learn more about how to use the system, including training sessions for RHSCC members and additional morning sessions for staff.

Mr. Butler reviewed next steps for implementation, which include bringing the Alliance in to present to RHSCC members, and setting up a working group to establish priorities and coordinate actions. The following members volunteered to be a part of the working group: Dina Sears-Graves, Deb Monahan, Kathleen Stauffer, Lee-Ann Gomes, Joan Wessell, and Cathy Zall (who had volunteered previous to this meeting).

5. New Business
None

6. Adjournment
The meeting adjourned at 9:20.