

MEETING NOTES OF 5/13/20 TELECONFERENCE OF THE
SOUTHEASTERN CONNECTICUT COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

PRESENT: Council Representatives: Mary Bylone, Colchester; Mark Nickerson, East Lyme; Keith Hedrick, City of Groton; Todd Babbitt, Griswold; Timothy Sharkey, Jewett City; Kevin Cwikla, Lebanon; Fred Allyn, III, Ledyard; Tom Sparkman, Lisbon; Ron McDaniel, Montville; Michael Passero, New London; Mike Uργο, North Stonington; Sandra Allyn Gauthier, Preston; Cheryl Blanchard, Sprague; Jeff Callahan, Borough of Stonington; Danielle Chesebrough, Town of Stonington; Rob Brule, Waterford. Council Alternates: John Burt, Town of Groton; John Salomone, Norwich. Tribal Representative: None. Military Liaison: Captain Todd Moore U.S. Naval SUBASE; RADM William Kelly. Staff: James Butler, Amanda Kennedy. Other: Steve Mansfield, Ledge Light Health District; Patrick McCormack, Uncas Health District. Chairman Nickerson called the teleconference to order at 8:33 a.m.

The Chairman said he wished to call on Admiral Kelly first, due to the fact that the Admiral has to leave the call early.

Admiral Kelly said the Academy would hold a virtual graduation next Wednesday. He said he and his staff were studying the Governor's re-opening guidance for higher education institutions. He stated that in the Coast Guard, mental health is increasingly becoming an issue due to the pandemic.

Captain Moore reported that the DOD will be easing restrictions later than states. He noted that the Navy's participation in Memorial Day events may have to be curtailed. He said that this week the SUBASE was participating in a hurricane planning exercise.

Steve Mansfield provided a case update in the LLHD; commented upon what sufficient contact tracing will consist of; LLHD has been holding Zoom meetings with towns on the planned re-opening of facilities on May 20th; reported that the Governor has replaced the DPH Commissioner with an Interim Commissioner; and that LLHD continues to do PPE provision to certain entities.

Mr. McCormack said he has been receiving a number of calls regarding PPE; receiving calls from school districts regarding virtual graduations; that on May 11th the Governor's office noted there will be testing of all incarcerated persons; and reported on testing sites.

The Chairman relayed a chat question concerning the beach/park signs. Mr. Mansfield said this order has been placed with a local printer based on the email request to the towns sent by the SCCOG Executive Director; the signs are expected to arrive the day after tomorrow.

The Chairman relayed a chat question concerning number of hospitalizations. Mr. Mansfield said the number of hospitalizations is on a downward trend.

Mr. Uργο commented on reporting on the number of cases, with WEB EOC being ahead of what the health districts are reporting. Discussion took place.

The Executive Director reported on three items: 1) the formation of a DEMHS Region 4 Regional Recovery Steering Committee; 2) reminded of his email last week for the designation by each municipality of a Local Recovery Coordinator as requested by the State; and 3) reminded of the Community Foundation mask offer, and asked any town wanting to masks to let him know before the end of the day.

Mr. Sparkman asked if anyone has vetted these masks. The Executive Director responded in the negative, but noted that this same person had donated masks to LLHD and they were viable masks.

Mr. Mansfield commented upon the Governor's Re-Open CT Committee. He said that the state's health directors are adamant in taking note of the fact that there are no health directors on this committee.

Mr. Salomone stated that Norwich was in the process of preparing for opening of outdoor restaurants, and asked if any town had spare Jersey barriers to please contact him.

Ms. Bylone stated that yesterday her town held a Zoom meeting with hair salon owners, who noted to her that it will be difficult to turn a profit with the restrictions that have been placed on their re-opening.

The Executive Director brought up what he knew about beach re-openings. Discussion took place.

The teleconference concluded at 9:25 a.m.

Note: The recording of this teleconference is posted on the SCCOG web site.

Meeting Notes Taken By:

James S. Butler

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