

**Southeastern Connecticut  
Regional Human Services Coordinating Council**

*A steering committee of the  
Southeastern Connecticut Council of Governments*

**Draft Minutes**

**Friday, January 15, 2021  
8:30 AM**

Conducted via Zoom

Attendees: Gino DeMaio, Nancy Bulkeley, Deb Monahan, Kathleen Stauffer, Ron McDaniel, Jennifer O'Brien, Stephanie Turbes, Natalie Martinez, Jennifer O'Brien, Jeanie Milstein, Nancy Gentes, Emma King, Laurel Holmes, Jim Butler, Amanda Kennedy, Carly Holzschuh.

1. Call to Order

Ms. Stauffer called the meeting to order at 8:33 AM.

2. Welcome and Introductions

3. Regional Long-Term Recovery

Mr. Butler discussed the formation of the Regional Long-Term Recovery Task Force Steering Committee and Subcommittees. In the following weeks, the state will be rolling out a new process for reporting unmet needs at the local level up to the state. Ms. Monahan said that once the state Executive Orders expire, recovery will really ramp up – we are still in the waves of dealing with COVID. We will need insight from partners on where the service gaps are. Ms. Milstein shared that in New London, the priority will be on rental assistance, education (lack of internet connectivity with affordability barriers), and diapers, which are not covered by SNAP.

4. Shared Services: Board Engagement & Recruitment

Ms. Stauffer said that board recruitment needs to focus on access, equity, and inclusion among board membership. Developing a recruitment curriculum will help board members learn about board duties. Funding and support partners include Dominion Energy and Chambers of Commerce. Ms. Monahan brought up the need for service consumers to be present as board members for some agencies, and that these board members may need assistance with childcare and transportation.

#### 5. 2020/2021 Legislative Activity

Ms. Monahan said that due to the new incoming federal administration, there will likely be lots of activity and changes but currently at the state level there is a limited agenda during COVID focusing on emergency measures. Proposals discussed included a bottle bill for recycling, expansion of childcare credits and EITC, DesegregateCT's efforts to push state-wide minimum zoning requirements, Medicaid for telehealth, and fund flexibility for nonprofits.

#### 6. New Business

No new business.

#### 7. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 9:30 AM.