

Connecticut DESPP/DEMHS Region IV  
**Recovery Steering Committee**

**Health, Social Services & Housing Working Group**

April 20, 2021 - Meeting Notes

**Attendance:**

-Hoween Flexer	-Carly Holzschuh	-Joe Zuzel	-Cathy Zall
-Mickey Morabito	-Amanda Kenney	-Mike Caplet	-Emma King
-Deberey Hinchey	-Brianna DeVivo	-Susy Hurlbert	-Ian Matthew Harrington
-James Butler	-Mark Oefinger	-Deborah Monahan	-Anne Miller
-Dina	-Diane Manning	-Julie Savin	-Les King
Sears-Graves	-Dr. Carrie Pichie	-Esther Pendola	-Carol LaBelle
Blake	-Rhiannon McCabe	-Nancy Gentes	

**Panel Discussion**

• **Housing**

- Unite CT funding - purpose if the funding is to help those that are already housed and behind on rent and/or may be facing eviction due to finances. There is also funding to help with rental assistance for future rent payments.
- United Way in New London county has mobile units that can be scheduled to come out to Connecticut towns. The mobile units provide access to computers with internet to help with with applications.
- Access Agency helps with mortgage, rent, and utility assistance. Those that are seeking to apply are required to make an appointment at their local Access Agency office. Prior to arrival, it is important that applicants have access to a personal email, bring utility statements, mortgage statements, rental agreements, and at minimum 8 weeks of income/revenue statements.

• **Mental Health**

- Diane Manning, President/CEO - United Services, Inc. shared : In comparison to last year's data, Crisis Response Services are up 237% this year.
- Increase of referrals for psychiatric care from primary care providers and schools.
- Large increase in alcoholism - mental and physical effects of alcoholism are expected to linger beyond COVID-19 pandemic.

**Identified Unmet Needs Status**

- Some unmet needs that have been reviewed and are in progress are:
  - Reaching senior citizens who have not been able to utilize in person assistance and working on their individual needs.
  - Need for diaper banks resources currently in the works
  - Transportation challenges associated with vaccination clinic are in progress - NECTD and SEAT are provided prescheduled rides to those that have appointments for vaccines .
  - Efforts are the state and federal level to improve broadband access to individual households and communities

**Other Issues/New Unmet Needs**

- USDA Food Boxes are ending May 31, 2021. Information was sent out with Putnam distribution to all local agencies as to where people should call if they need help once food boxes are discontinued. [USDA Farmers to Families Food Box - Stakeholders Letter](#)

**Next Meeting**

- May 18, 2021 - 1:00pm via ZOOM