

**Southeastern Connecticut  
Regional Human Services Coordinating Council**

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

**Draft Minutes**

**Friday, July 16, 2021 8:30 AM**

Conducted via Zoom

Attendees: Deb Monahan (Thames Valley Council for Community Action), Kathleen Stauffer (The Arc Eastern Connecticut), Mayor Ron McDaniel (Town of Montville), Nancy Bulkeley (Dominion), Stephanie Turbes (Colchester Social Services), Joan Wessell (Senior Resources), Scott Umbel (United Way of Eastern CT), Stephanie Guess (DMHAS), Angela Fournier (Town of Windham), Jennifer Granger (UCFS), Cathy Zall (NL Homeless Hospitality Center), Claire Silva (Madonna Place), Megan Gilbert (Chamber of Commerce of Eastern CT), Errol Maurice (Sound Community Services), Amanda Kennedy (SCCOG), Carly Holzschuh (SCCOG).

1. Call to Order

Ms. Monahan called the meeting to order at 8:32 AM.

2. Welcome and Introductions

3. Shared Services: Board Engagement & Recruitment

Ms. Gilbert (Chamber of Commerce of Eastern CT) presented on the development of a program to connect local leaders with service opportunities on non-profit boards. Based on Hartford's Leaders on Board program, it would provide a directory of non-profit boards, training sessions, and networking. A pilot program is planned to roll out this coming fall and winter in partnership with the Community Foundation of Eastern Connecticut. General conversation followed on the importance of talent matching, and the need for a diversity of backgrounds and strengths on non-profit boards.

4. American Rescue Plan/COVID Recovery

Ms. Monahan reported that work with the Region 4 Recovery Steering Committee resulted in a letter of support asking municipalities to consider focusing 30% of their ARP funds on addressing unmet needs in housing, childcare, and mental health. The hope is that these funds can help communities collectively work together for long-term systems change.

## 5. 2021 Legislative Activity

Ms. Stauffer presented on legislation which brings more money to human services systems, and SB 2037 which increases the bottle deposit to 10 cents, and enacts a 5 cent fee on nip bottles. Mayor McDaniel said that nips/roadside litter is second only to speeding as the chief complaint in his town. Ms. Stauffer and Ms. Zall both expressed interest in harnessing nip/recyclable collection as an income stream for both persons with intellectual disabilities and homeless individuals. Some discussion on whether there will be centralized collection points. There was also discussion on creating voter guides to highlight champions of certain efforts, and encourage non-profits to get more involved in voter information.

Ms. Granger presented on HB 5596 authorizing telehealth for the next two years, which has been instrumental during COVID. There is also a new program for state loan repayment for healthcare providers in qualifying health shortage areas.

## 6. New Business

Ms. Zall said that they have received fewer applications than expected for the UniteCT rental assistance program.

## 7. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 9:25 AM.