

DEMHS REGION 4 REGIONAL RECOVERY STEERING COMMITTEE

Community Planning & Capacity Building/Infrastructure Working Group
Economic/Natural & Cultural Resources Working Group
Health & Social Services/Housing Working Group

September 23, 2021

DRAFT Steering Committee Meeting Summary

Members Present: Mayor Fred Allyn, Town of Ledyard/SCCOG Chairman (Co-Chair); Tracey Hanson, Town of Voluntown (Co-Chair); Jim Butler, Southeastern Connecticut Council of Governments; John Filchak, Northeastern Connecticut Council of Governments; Mark Oefinger, seCTer; Reverend Catherine Zall, New London Homeless Hospitality Center; Wendy Bury, Southeastern CT Cultural Coalition; Elsa Nuñez, Eastern CT State University.

Others Present: SCCOG: Carly Holzschuh, Amanda Kennedy; DEMHS: Mike Caplet, Darlene Richards; City of New London: Mayor Passero, Sybil Tetteh; Town of Stonington: Danielle Chesebrough, Leanne Theodore; City of Norwich: Deanna Rhodes, John Salomone; Town of Pomfret: Maureen Nicholson, Derek May; FEMA Region 1: Katherine Larrivee, Cassandra Thomas; Mayor Hedrick, City of Groton; Patrick McCormack, Uncas Health District; Jim Bellano, Windham; Jo-Ann Chenail, TEEG; Paige Bronk, Town of Groton; Megan Brown, TVCCA; Jennifer Granger, UCFS Health Care; Allison Blake, Child and Family Agency of SE CT; Maureen Nicholson, Pomfret; Dina Sears-Graves, United Way of Southeastern CT; McLoughlin, Coventry; Jerry James, Columbia; Melinda Wilson, seCTer; John Duca, The Connection; James McLoughlin

1. Call to Order

Ms. Hanson called the meeting to order at 9:00 AM.

2. Roll Call

Nine members were in attendance.

3. Update on Long-Term Recovery Effort

Mr. Caplet reported on the State's recommendations for transitioning the recovery efforts from responding to immediate unmet needs to long-term recovery. State staff have issued

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recommendations for COVID recovery activities to work through pre-existing regional efforts organized by COGs as well as by DEMHS regions.

4. COVID Long-Term Recovery Structure and Information Request re Potential Projects for Recovery Funding Applications

Ms. Cassandra Thomas, FEMA Federal Disaster Recovery Operations Officer, provided a briefing on the structure being followed by FEMA Region 1 and the State of Connecticut in addressing the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. Current efforts are focusing on matching needs with funding opportunities. FEMA is working with state agency staff and members of the State Recovery Steering Committee to develop recovery support strategies (essentially, “business plans” the State commits to working on). Ms. Thomas described the process by which FEMA and the State are soliciting project requests and working to match needs with available assistance (which could be funding or technical assistance). Project concepts are being solicited (due October 8th) and the Statewide Steering Committee will review them to prioritize further actions. Anyone can submit a project for potential assistance. The slide deck will be emailed to attendees.

5. Discussion of Future Steering Committee Meetings

The Committee discussed moving to a quarterly meeting schedule but was encouraged by FEMA staff to meet monthly in the near term. The Committee agreed to meet again in one month, with the tentative meeting date of October 28th (4th Thursday of the month).

6. Other

No other business.

7. Next Steps

The tentative date of next regular meeting will be determined (late October).

8. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 9:45 AM.