

**Southeastern Connecticut
Regional Human Services Coordinating Council**

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

Draft Meeting Summary

Friday, January 21, 2022 8:30 AM

Conducted via Zoom

Attendees: Deb Monahan (Thames Valley Council for Community Action), Kathleen Stauffer (The Arc), Stephanie Turbes (Colchester Social Services), Dina Sears-Graves (United Way of Eastern CT), Cathy Zall (NL Homeless Hospitality Center), Tara Booker (Norwich Human Services), Mayor Kevin Lyden (Town of Salem), Claire Silva (Madonna Place), Jennifer Granger (UCFS), Patrick McCormick (Uncas Health District), Angela Fournier (Windham), Jen Muggeo (Ledge Light Health District), Jen O'Brien (Community Foundation), Stephanie Guess (SEMHA), Connie Hilbert (Mohegan Tribe), James Butler (SCCOG), Amanda Kennedy (SCCOG), Carly Holzschuh (SCCOG).

1. Call to Order

Ms. Monahan called the meeting to order at 8:30 AM.

2. Welcome and Introductions

3. 2022 Legislative Session

Ms. Stauffer and Ms. Monahan said that with a short legislative session there will not be many changes. Senator Osten has been a champion of human services, and the CT Alliance is pushing for more funding. Raising the minimum wage and wage compression have been issues for hiring.

4. Shared Services: Board Engagement & Recruitment

Ms. O'Brien gave an update on a board training event held in early December held by the Community Foundation and the Chamber of Commerce. There will also be a recruitment event in February. The

Chamber of Commerce has a jobs board and a parallel volunteer board for service opportunities.

5. American Rescue Plan/COVID Recovery

Ms. Monahan and Ms. Kennedy reported that the ARPA grants now have extreme flexibility for municipalities to spend the funds. Mr. Butler announced that Lee-Ann Gomes will be contracted on a part-time basis by SCCOG to be an ARPA facilitator for towns in the region. Other continuing issues reported on were childcare deserts for working parents, loss of housing supports, skyrocketing rents and scarcity of affordable units.

6. New Business

No new business. The next meeting of the RHSCC is scheduled for Friday, April 22 at 8:30 AM.

7. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 9:25 AM.