

**Southeastern Connecticut  
Regional Human Services Coordinating Council**

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

**Draft Minutes**

**Friday, April 22, 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), Kia Baird (Ledge Light Health District/Health Improvement Collaborative), Selectman Kevin Lyden (Town of Salem), Mayor Ron McDaniel (Town of Montville), Maryam Elahi (Community Foundation), Carl Asikainen (Community Foundation), Amanda Kennedy (SCCOG), Lee-Ann Gomes (SCCOG).

1. Call to Order

Ms. Monahan called the meeting to order at 8:34 AM.

2. Welcome and Introductions

3. Board Recruitment/Engagement Program

Jennifer O'Brien reported that the Community Foundation conducted their board engagement training earlier this year. She will reach out to Megan Gilbert at the Chamber of Commerce of Eastern CT for an update on the board recruitment component and then reconvene the subcommittee working to advance this item.

4. American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Municipal Funds

Lee-Ann Gomes has been assisted SCCOG towns with meeting compliance requirements for the use of ARPA funds and has assembled the allocations of local funds so far. After the meeting, SCCOG will distribute this information to RHSCC members, as well as information Lee-Ann has collected on whether and how municipalities are accepting additional requests for ARPA funding. Deb Monahan stated

that NECCOG-area municipalities are using a standardized request form.

#### 5. Legislative Session

Kathleen Stauffer reported on legislative issues including a request for additional funding to support social services.

#### 6. Child Care Industry

Deb Monahan reported that the child care industry is in true crisis with a lack of staff to meet the demand for child care. Participants discussed the link between child care availability and labor force engagement, and how legislators can be motivated to vote for more funding for child care. Hourly wages must be raised in order to stand up all needed classrooms. Construction funds are still not available. There is a request to the legislature for \$700 million to support various childcare initiatives.

#### 7. Non-Profit Staffing

Kathleen Stauffer discussed methods to help managers attract and recruit staff. They have had success placing ads on SEAT buses. Participants discussed how to motivate legislators to be champions for additional funding. Mayor McDaniel mentioned the environmental report card as a best practice for motivating legislators to vote in favor of supporting social services organizations.

#### 8. New Business

No new business.

#### 9. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 9:37 AM.