

**Southeastern Connecticut
Regional Human Services Coordinating Council**

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

Draft Minutes

Friday, October 21, 2022 8:30 AM

Conducted via Zoom

Attendees: Deb Monahan (Thames Valley Council for Community Action), Kathleen Stauffer (The Arc), Stephanie Guess (CT DMHAS), Dina Sears-Graves (United Way of Eastern CT), Selectman Kevin Lyden (Town of Salem), Joan Wessell, (Senior Resources - Agency on Aging), Jen Muggeo (Ledge Light Health District), Jennifer O'Brien (Community Foundation of Eastern CT), Gino DeMaio (Sound Community Services), Erin McBride (Office of Sen. Murphy), Ayanti Grant (Office of Rep. Courtney), Mayor Ron McDaniel (Town of Montville), Jennifer Granger (United Community and Family Services), Elizabeth Sanderson (CRCOG), Amanda Kennedy (SCCOG), Kyle Casiglio (SCCOG).

1. Call to Order

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

2. Welcome and Introductions

3. Board Recruitment/Engagement Program

Jennifer O'Brien suggested that the needs of the organizations and duties of being a board member be discussed prior to reengaging with the chamber. Kathleen Stauffer noted that boards should be more reflective of their communities, and suggested a board member training or guide be developed to assist newer/younger prospective board members. Deb Monahan noted

that this is done with their board members. Jennifer O'Brien will send out an e-blast with volunteer opportunities & contact info.

4. Non-Profit Staffing

Deb Monahan noted the difficulties in staffing and board recruitment posed by lack of & cost of childcare, stated that early childhood groups are competing with each other in a bidding war over scarce employees. Kathleen Stauffer brought up the value that non-profits have as demonstrated by past economic impact studies, reminding the group that there is more power as a block and suggested quantifying the benefits of human services to the region. Dina Sears-Graves identified the lack of a talent pipeline caused by the lack of exposure to the non-profit world in schools, noting that they're providing unique and different opportunities. Jennifer Granger noted that this subject was the most discussed item at her non-profit coalition, and suggested that organizations look at their education requirements and consider doing more on-job training. Deb Monahan reminded the group that these requirements were often legislated, not adopted voluntarily, and it may be an issue to advocate on. Ayanti Grant pointed out that there were programs such as public service loan forgiveness to offset the burdens imposed by educational requirements.

5. Legislative Update

Kathleen Stauffer updated the council on the upcoming elections, highlighting the CT Non-Profit Alliance Questions with the Candidates. Gino DeMaio reiterated the importance of engaging with elected officials about revenue, as the 8% COLA for his organization's clients is immediately eaten by inflation. Deb Monahan stated the need for permanent support rather than temporary chunks. After discussion it was suggested an extra meeting be called for December 16th at 8:30am in order to coordinate strategy for the upcoming legislative agenda, so that a unified voice could be presented to elected officials in the January meeting.

6. New Business

No new business.

7. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 9:37 AM.