

SOUTHEASTERN CONNECTICUT COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

5 Connecticut Avenue, Norwich, Connecticut 06360

(860) 889-2324/Fax: (860) 889-1222/Email: office@seccog.org

Southeastern Connecticut

Regional Human Services Coordinating Council

A steering committee of the Southeastern Connecticut Council of Governments

Draft Minutes

January 19, 2024, 8:30 AM

Conducted via Zoom

Attendees: Co-Chairs: Kathleen Stauffer (The Arc of Eastern CT), Dina Sears-Graves (United Way of SECT). Cathy Zall (New London Homeless Hospitality Center), Amanda Kennedy (SCCOG), Jennifer Granger (UCFS), Patrick McCormack (Uncas Health District), Lisa Otto (Child & Family Agency), Jen Muggeo (LLHD), Kate Milde (Norwich Human Services), Krista Veneziano (CT DPH), Stephanie Guess (CT DMHAS), Erin McBride (Office of Sen. Murphy), Julie Way (Office of Rep. Courtney), Gino DeMaio (Sound Community Services), Carrie Dyer (Reliance Health), Josh Kelly (TVCCA), Keith Furness, Laura Crews (Senior Resources), Krista Veneziano (CT Dept of Public Health), Keith Furniss (CT Judicial Branch), Laura Crews (Senior Resources), Tina Falck (Griswold), Jeanne Milstein (New London).

1. Call to Order

Ms. Stauffer called the meeting to order at 8:31.

2. Welcome and Introductions

Ms. Stauffer introduced Dina Sears-Graves as her new co-chair and thanked for accepting the role. Attendees introduced themselves.

3. 2024 Legislative Session

Ms. Stauffer asked for input on what the RHSCC's legislative agenda should be this year, and pointed them to 2023's. Ms. Sears-Graves recommended drilling down to specific recommended actions. Ms. Granger recommended comparing the resources in SE CT against those elsewhere in the State. Ms. Dyer stated that the 2023 items are similar to the Alliance's and we could

SOUTHEASTERN CONNECTICUT COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

5 Connecticut Avenue, Norwich, Connecticut 06360

(860) 889-2324/Fax: (860) 889-1222/Email: office@seccog.org

supplement their work by showing how the items are relevant to SE CT. Discussion regarding minimum wage and how it impacts agencies. Ms. Otto mentioned the Alliance's call to index service payments to inflation. Ms. Stauffer wondered whether there should be a refresh of the nonprofit economic impact study done a few years ago. Discussion of how that work was funded and who participated. Ms. Kennedy asked who would like to be involved- Ms. Otto and Ms. Sears-Graves did. Ms. Kennedy offered to meet with Ms. Stauffer on potential funding sources.

Discussion regarding Alliance agenda and how RHSCC might amplify it. Ms. Dyer suggested providing local detail regarding how issues affect local agencies.

Legislative sessions are being held by Reliance Health and Senior Resources. Ms. Zall thanked Ms. Way for joining, who was with St. Vincent de Paul place before joining Courtney's staff.

Ms. Kennedy clarified next steps and asked attendees to send agency-specific points related to the Alliance's agenda. Ms. Stauffer reiterated next steps for the economic impact study.

4. Adjournment

Ms. Sears-Graves adjourned the meeting at 9:26.