

## DEMHS Region 4 Recovery Steering Committee Meeting

**Date:** Thursday November 19, 2020

**Time:** 10:00 a.m.

**Location:** Via Zoom video/teleconference. A recording of this meeting will be posted to the SCCOG and NECCOG websites: [www.seccog.org](http://www.seccog.org) | [www.neccog.org](http://www.neccog.org).

**Members Present:** Jim Bellano, Town of Windham/Eastern Regional Tourism District; Chuck Bunnell, Mohegan Tribe; Wendy Bury, Southeastern Connecticut Cultural Coalition; Jim Butler, Southeastern Connecticut Council of Governments; John Filchak, Northeastern Connecticut Council of Governments; Mark Nickerson, Town of East Lyme/SCCOG Chairman; Dr. Elsa Nuñez, Eastern Connecticut State University; Reverend Catherine Zall, New London Homelessness Hospitality Center.

**Others Present:** SCCOG: Sam Alexander, Carly Holzschuh, Amanda Kennedy; NECCOG: Delia Fey, Hoween Flexer, Alexis Meehan; McChrystal Group: Ryan Flynn, Caroline Kramer; DEMHS: Darlene Richards, Mike Caplet; Mike Licata, Region 4 Long-term Recovery Coordinator.

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### 1. Call to Order.

Co-Chairman Mark Nickerson called the meeting to order at 10:02 a.m.

### 2. Public Comment.

There was none.

### 3. Act on Minutes of 7/28/2020 Meeting.

John Filchak made a motion to accept the minutes of the July 28<sup>th</sup> meeting as presented. Wendy Bury seconded the motion. The motion passed with one abstention from Mark Nickerson.

### 4. Update on State Recovery Framework – *Mike Caplet, DEMHS.*

Mike Caplet reported on the State Recovery Framework, explaining that the structure to-date has remained largely the same: there is a Statewide Recovery Steering Committee and ESF 6/ESF 14 task force/working group; however, the framework now provides for additional involvement from the nine regional councils of governments and agencies serving as Community Resource Coordinators (short-term case workers whose mission is defined by the CT Department of Social Services (DSS) Scope of Work).

Mr. Caplet explained that the Mission of the Statewide Recovery Steering Committee was modified to make clear that the effort seeks to address short-term, immediate needs, in addition to long-term recovery. Mr. Caplet explained the process for coordination between the State and regional long-term recovery committees and process for consultant involvement from the Global Resilience Institute and McChrystal Group.

Mr. Caplet overviewed staff responsibilities for SCCOG and NECCOG staff.

**5. Review of GRI/McChrystal Group Regional Resiliency Analysis Research Process and Interview Perspectives, Real-time Survey of Steering Committee Members – Ryan Flynn, McChrystal Group.**

Ryan Flynn explained the work done so far by the McChrystal group to assist the State and regional long-term recovery efforts. The McChrystal group is currently conducting interviews with a representative list of subject matter and industry contacts across DEMHS Region 4, provided by the Councils of Governments and the Steering Committee, to form a baseline assessment of long-term recovery needs and challenges.

The purpose of the McChrystal's session under agenda item 5 is to ensure that the list of contacts is inclusive and broadly representative of the needs of the region's citizens. A more complete list will form a more complete baseline assessment.

Mr. Flynn led the Steering Committee through a series of prompts and exercises. Members of the Steering Committee strongly expressed the need to for equitable and inclusive engagement of community members, rather than simply engaging with the leaders of agencies, governmental departments, non-profits, and business leaders.

**6. Updates re: Establishing Economic/Natural & Cultural Resources Working Group and Community Planning & Capacity Building/Infrastructure Systems Working Group – SCCOG & NECCOG Staff.**

Delia Fey explained that a draft Economic/Natural & Cultural Resources Working Group invitee list was distributed to the Steering Committee prior to the meeting. Members should review the list and suggest additional participants in advance of this working group being convened.

Sam Alexander explained that a draft Community Planning & Capacity Building/Infrastructure Systems Working Group invitee list will be sent to the Steering Committee following the meeting. Similar to the Economic/Natural & Cultural Resources Working Group, staff is seeking input into the list prior to taking steps to stand up the working group.

Wendy Bury expressed concern over the make-up of the Economic/Natural & Cultural Resources Working Group list and a need to bring in more diverse perspectives. Steering Committee members and staff discussed different ways of engaging with members of the community and diverse voices. Steering Committee members and staff will work to incorporate additional names and perspectives into the Economic/Natural & Cultural Resources Working Group list.

**7. Results of GRI Live Survey – Ryan Flynn, McChrystal Group.**

In regards to the previous discussion Ryan Flynn explained that a good strategy, in the case of adding diversity to working groups, is to engage with middle-management or case managers of human services organizations, for instance, that may have a better idea of the day-to-day challenges of clients than executive management. Mr. Flynn explained that the goal of the resilience assessments for which GRI and McChrystal Group are collecting baseline data is to support fundable projects that will have a large impact on peoples' lives, and that conception of the types of projects put forward by the Steering Committee depends on the perspectives engaged in the planning process.

Mr. Flynn added that he and Caroline Kramer would distribute the survey results via email following the meeting. Mr. Flynn asked Steering Committee members to review the list and propose new names for interviewees to form the baseline assessment.

**8. Next Steps.**

Amanda Kennedy reiterated that Steering Committee members should review the two working group lists and provide input to staff.

**9. Adjournment.**

The meeting was adjourned by consensus at 11:08 a.m.