

DEMHS Region 4 Recovery Steering Committee Meeting

Thursday November 19, 2020

10:00 a.m.

Conducted via Zoom.

Recordings of this meeting are posted at www.seccog.org and www.neccog.org

Draft Minutes

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.

1. Call to Order

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

2. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

3. Minutes of 7/28/2020 Meeting

John Filchak made a motion to accept the minutes of the July 28th 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 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

McChrystal Group's Ryan Flynn explained the work done so far by the McChrystal group to prepare regional resiliency assessments. 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. Mr. Flynn led the Steering Committee through a series of prompts and exercises meant to identify perspectives and individuals who have not been engaged in the interview process but need to be included to ensure that the research process is inclusive and addresses important subject areas. 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

Delia Fey reported 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

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.