Region 4 Recovery Steering Committee Meeting

Date: Tuesday, July 28, 2020

Time: 1:00 p.m.

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

Members Present: Chuck Bunnell (Mohegan Tribal Council), Wendy Bury (Southeastern Connecticut Cultural Coalition), Jim Butler (Southeastern Connecticut Council of Governments (SCCOG)), Allan Cahill (Town of Hampton/NECCOG Chairman), Mike Caplet (DEMHS Region 4 Coordinator), John Filchak (Northeastern Connecticut Council of Governments (NECCOG)), Deborah Monahan (Thames Valley Council for Community Action (TVCCA)), Dr. Elsa Nuñez (Eastern Connecticut State University), Mark Nickerson (Town of East Lyme/SCCOG Chairman), Bishop Benjamin Watts (Shiloh Baptist Church of New London), Reverend Catherine Zall (Homelessness Hospitality Center New London), Mark Oefinger (Southeastern CT Enterprise Region).

Others Present: Sam Alexander (SCCOG), Amanda Kennedy (SCCOG), Darlene Richards (DEMHS Region 4), Hoween Flexer (NECCOG), Jim Larkin (NECCOG), Alexis Meehan (NECCOG), Diane Manning (United Services), Sue Starkey (Northeast district Department of Health).

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1. Welcome and Opening Remarks.

Allan Cahill called the meeting to order at 1:08 pm. Discussion on meeting minutes of June 24, 2020. Motion to approve by John Filchak, second Jim Butler. Minutes approved unanimously.

Public Comment None.

2. Discussion

a. Health and Social Services/Housing Working Group

Amanda Kennedy reported for the southern portion of Region 4 that invitations were sent to about forty people requesting an rsvp. Twelve responded with approximately a quarter of the original forty responding positively. John Filchak and Hoween Flexer reported for the northern section of Region 4. Invitations were sent although no responses were received to date. Hoween Flexer conducted a recent meeting of social services organizations at which they did discuss some of the challenges facing nonprofits in the northeast.

Jim Butler suggested a reminder be sent. Sue Starkey offered to help with invitations to groups in the northeast. Discussion and summary regarding the makeup of the steering committee and working groups for those who were new to the process.

Mike Caplet suggested the reminder include a date and RSVP as part of the next invitation.

Committee decided that the Tuesday 1:00 pm window worked best for all groups and that Mike Caplet could provide an update at the working group meeting on the process and what has been done so far.

John Filchak and Jim Butler expressed concern regarding the funding for Councils of Governments and their ability to perform the work needed to support the steering committees and working groups.

Mike Caplet has communicated these concerns and hopes to have some resolution in the near future.

First meeting of the Health and Social Services group will be August 18th 1:00 pm. The invitation list will be shared one more time with the steering committee for review.

Discussion of including members of the Faith Based Engagement group to participate in the Health and Social Services/Housing Working Group. Mike Caplet gave a briefing of the faith based coalition group working with the state and will add their contact information to all working group invitations.

b. Economic/Natural and Cultural Resources (E/NCR) Working Group

Wendy Bury reported that a group of six have started compiling names and contact information for the E/NCR working group, approximately seventy five have people/organizations have been added to date. Contact information includes town, business and potential role on the working group. Mike Caplet discussed the timing for standing up the working groups and the invitation and kickoff meeting format. Discussion on the need for the framework of the working groups from the State and issues with end of summer, vacations and back to school activities. It was requested that the invitation list be shared with the full steering committee for review to assist with filling in gaps within the contact information as well as types of organizations.

c. Faith Based Engagement- Review of Meeting

John Filchak expressed the need to include the faith based organizations in the process as they provide a unique perspective of the challenges faced by their members. Bishop Benjamin Watts, who also participated in the meeting on July 10th, agreed that the group could provide guidance to the working groups and thanked the committee for including them in the process. Discussion as to how the faith based groups would be included into the working groups. Mike Caplet provided a link to the July 10th meeting for those who wished to view.

Topic: Region 4 Recovery - Faith Based Engagement
Date: Jul 10, 2020 01:25 PM

Share recording with viewers:
https://zoom.us/rec/share/vvZtFL38zG9LHKeO-m7fQI0bB4_naaa8h3NI_fVfxEsH7BuRbaAWKIdETVVlhR1B

Password: 9d&v#d@S

3. Next Steps

Jim Butler offered to host, provide agenda and coordinate next meeting date of the steering committee. SECCOG and NECCOG directors and staff will discuss responsibilities. Discussion regarding the next meeting date, information from the state regarding the framework and the need for more clarification before moving to far forward. Meeting date set for August 25th at 1:00 p.m. Mark Oefinger expressed concerns and the need for thr framework before moving forward.

Discussion regarding the best practices to prevent disruptions during Zoom meetings.

Meeting Adjourned approximately 2:00 p.m.