

Human Services Coordinating Council Meeting
Tuesday November 9, 2021, 2:00 pm
Meeting held remotely via Zoom

Name	Organization
Helen Rubino-Turco	West Hartford
Astrid Calderon	West Hartford
Lt. Douglas Antuna	City of Hartford Police Dept.
Tom O'Brien	Hartford Community Court
Carl Asikainen	CT Coalition to End Homelessness
Jackie Zea-Edgar	West Hartford
Samantha Inness	West Hartford
Lt. Aaron Vafiades	West Hartford Police Dept.
Officer Jim Barrett	City of Hartford Police Dept.
Jo-Ann Dorn	East Hartford
Deanna Deshpande	West Hartford
Patricia McIntosh	City of Hartford
Staff	
Dr. Lyle Wray	CRCOG
Pauline Yoder	CRCOG
Aaliyah Miller	CRCOG
Cheryl Assis	CRCOG
Laura Quintiliani	CRCOG
Karen Stewartson	CRCOG

Ms. Pauline Yoder from CRCOG started the meeting at 2:03 pm. Ms. Helen Rubino-Turco, Director of Leisure Services and Social Services for the Town of West Hartford provided a brief summary of concerns on panhandling in the Town of West Hartford and neighboring Towns. Ms. Rubino-Turco mentioned that Mr. Thomas O'Brien, Senior Assistant State's Attorney from the Hartford Community Court would provide more information on this issue. Based on Attorney O'Brien's research he explained that "panhandling is a social problem and not a criminal problem."

Carl Asikainen of CCEH offered to reach out to Journey Home, a non-profit organization working to end homelessness in the Capital region of Connecticut. It was mentioned that Journey Home would be a wonderful resource to be included in these discussions. The group also shared that they would like to see examples of sample signage and community education pieces to compare to their current tactics and possibly find room for improvement or changes to the current work being done. Several "choke points" were discussed as well, including phone lines only being open during inconvenient hours and not enough available beds in various shelters and detox locations. It is hoped that the folks at Journey Home can help answer those questions and assist in resolving those issues.

Ms. Yoder stated that CRCOG will convene another meeting and will also coordinate with Matt Morgan, Executive Director of Journey Home, or someone on his team, to attend the meeting and discuss the role they may be able to play here. CRCOG will also reach out to their Municipal Services Committee members to see what signage and other public service announcements have been used in the past and/or are currently being used within our region. The meeting adjourned at 3:01 PM.