

Memorandum

TO: Municipal Services Committee
DATE: March 21, 2023
FROM: Pauline Yoder
RE: Background on Human Services Coordinating Council

In 2014, the legislature designated all Councils of Governments to create regional human services coordinating councils, to encourage collaborations that would foster the development and maintenance of a client-focused structure for the health and human services systems in the region.

Per the statute, membership in these councils was to include Commissioners of Developmental Services, Social Services, Children and Families, Mental Health and Addiction Services, Correction, Education and Public Health, or said commissioners' designees, and the executive director of the Court Support Services Division of the Judicial Branch, or the executive director's designee. Additional members were at the discretion of the executive director of each COG.

CRCOG convened the Human Services Coordinating Council (HSCC), starting in the spring of 2015 and covered a range of topics. Attendees were primarily human services employees from the CRCOG towns. No state officials have attended the CRCOG HSCC meetings. In 2016, CRCOG researched dial-a-ride inventory and potential consolidation opportunities. Beginning in 2017, the HSCC met once or twice a year primarily focused on presentations of interest. Past topics have included hoarding, human trafficking, opioid crisis, general mental health issues and panhandling.

We are seeking advice and input from the Municipal Services Committee regarding the future role and organization of the HSCC.

Attachments: Relevant Statute Establishing Regional Human Services Coordinating Councils

Sec. 327. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2013*) (a) On or after January 1, 2015, there shall be established a regional human services coordinating council for each planning region redesignated pursuant to section 16a-4c of the general statutes to encourage collaborations that will foster the development and maintenance of a client-focused structure for the health and human services system in the region.

(b) Membership on the regional human services coordinating councils established under this section shall include the Commissioners of Developmental Services, Social Services, Children and Families, Mental Health and Addiction Services, Correction, Education and Public Health, or said commissioners' designees, and the executive director of the Court Support Services Division of the Judicial Branch, or the executive director's designee. Additional membership shall be determined at the discretion of the executive director of each regional council of governments. Such membership may include, but not be limited to: (1) Municipal elected officials, (2) workforce development boards, (3) nonprofit agencies, and (4) family advocacy groups.

(c) Each regional human services coordinating council established under this section shall meet not less than twice annually to (1) ensure that regional plans and activities are coordinated with the human service needs of each region, and (2) develop approaches to improve service delivery and achieve cost savings in the region.