**Human Services Coordinating Council (HSCC) Minutes**

**Tuesday, December 19, 2023**

**10:00 a.m. EST**

**Council Members and Attendees**

Matthew Morgan Journey Home CT (and HSCC Guest Speaker)

Matthew Cox Somers, Director of Human Services

Lisa Coakley Central CT Health District, Public Health

Jon Basso Red Cross, N Central Territory, Senior Director, Disaster Services

Mark White CT Judicial Branch, Director of Adult Probation

Michael Hines CT Judicial District, Asst. Director of Adult Services

Ann Hartman Central CT Health District, Asst. Director of Community Health

Paul Shipman Foodshare, Sr. Director of Network Services

Liz Buczynski West Hartford, Asst. Direction of Social Services

Joel Cox Manchester, Director of Human Services

Lori Fernand State of CT, Director of Outreach and Special Projects

Rebecca Stack Ellington, Director of Human Services

Matt Hellman Vernon, Director of Social Services

Cynthia Guerreri Enfield, Director of Social Services

Erica Texeira Wethersfield, CT, Asst Director – Social, Youth, & Senior Services

Danny Did not designate affiliation

**CRCOG Staff**

Robyn Nichols Principal Program Manager, Municipal and Admin. Services

Cheryl Assis Director, Public Safety and Homeland Security

Jacob Knowlton Community Development Planner

Aaliyah Miller Senior Communications Manager

**Guests**

Rebekah Lyas South Park Inn

Lisa Sciannella Helpsy

1. The virtual meeting was called to order by Robyn Nichols, CRCOG Principal Program Manager, at 10:02 a.m. ET.
2. Welcome and Introductions were done.
3. There was no Public Comment.
4. The September 19, 2023 Minutes were presented and approved.
5. Robyn Nichols, CRCOG, introduced the topic for discussion today – Homelessness and rising contributing factors.

Matt Morgan, Executive Director, Journey Home, discussed current trends impacting and contributing to homelessness in the Greater Hartford region. Journey Home offers many programs and services for those experiencing homelessness in our communities. For additional information, please visit Journey Home at <https://journeyhomect.org/get-involved/>.

Lisa Sciannella, Chief of Staff, Helpsy, discussed how textile recycling collection can provide a means of material reuse, waste reduction, and funds for municipalities (i.e., collection bins, clothing drives/fundraisers, curbside pickup). Helpsy’s Project Warmth also provided hundreds of new/gently used coats for men, women, and children to CRCOG communities, including East Hartford, Manchester, and Hartford (South Park Inn). Any municipalities who would like additional information about Project Warmth or to discuss textile recycling and collection services, please contact [lisa@helpsy.co](mailto:lisa@helpsy.co).

Rebekah Lyas, acting Executive Director, South Park Inn, discussed South Park Inn’s mission is to improve our communities by providing equal access to shelter and solutions for all people to make homelessness rare, brief, and non-recurring, ending homelessness, providing safe, healthy shelter for people and their pets and effective prevention services with dignity and respect to the people who need them; and promoting housing as a human right. For additional information on programs and services available, please visit <https://www.southparkinn.org/>.

Materials from today’s presenters will be made available to HSCC members.

1. The 2024 Human Services Coordinating Council (HSCC) was discussed. Meeting dates are as follows:

March 19, 2024

June 18, 2024

September 17, 2024

December 17, 2024

\*Quarterly on 3rd Tuesday at 10:00 a.m. ET. Meetings will be virtual unless designated otherwise. Topics to be determined. Please provide your ideas for group discussion to Robyn Nichols at [rnichols@crcog.org](mailto:rnichols@crcog.org).

1. Next Steps

i. Potential topics for group discussion in 2024. Ideas mentioned include: (1) Housing Insecurity; (2) Panhandling; and (3) Rise in Youth Crime. Next HSCC Meeting – September 19, 2023 @ 10:00 a.m. ET (Virtual) – Food Systems/Food Insecurity. Robyn Nichols will provide survey to HSCC members to finalize discussion topics.

1. The meeting was adjourned at 10:55 a.m. ET.

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Individuals may request auxiliary aids and/or language assistance by contacting (860) 522-2217 x4293 as soon as possible.

Un interprete estará disponible para esta reunión si usted lo solicita al 860-522-2217, x4293, lo más pronto posible. Jeśli potrzebujesz tłumacza na język polski, zadzwoń (860) 522-2217, x4293 jak najszybciej.

Esta es una reunión virtual. Para mayor información sobre la conexión, por favor contactar a Karen Stewartson al correo electrónico: [kstewartson@crcog.org](mailto:kstewartson@crcog.org)

To będzie zebranie zdalne. O informacji o odpowiednim linku internetowym poprosimy kontaktować Karen Stewartson na adres e-mail [kstewartson@crcog.org l](mailto:kstewartson@crcog.org%20l)ub pod numerem telefonu 860-724-4293