

Hartford Ad Hoc Committee on Coronavirus Response Meeting Minutes 9/30/20 @ 4:00 PM | Via Zoom

Committee Attendance: Kristi Clemens (Chair), Simon Dennis (Secretary), Becky Chollet, Brett Mayfield, Martha McDaniel, Deborah Scribner, Dan Fraser, Barbara Farnsworth, PJ Skehan, Scott Cooney, Sue Buckholz, Andrea Davis

Kristi called the meeting to order at 4:04 and took attendance and called for Changes to the minutes.

August 19, 2020, Martha moved approval, Becky seconded, all were in favor and the motion carried.

September 16th Minutes, it was noted that Vital Communities was misspelled as Kital Communities. Brett moved approval as above amended, Martha seconded, all were in favor and the motion carried.

Town Reports

Brett reported that Hartford is holding its own. Positive test results are reported in the state of official residency rather than where people actually reside. The School District has been receiving kudos to outstanding work in controlling the spread. Hanover and Lebanon continue to have 1-4 cases. Businesses are complying very well. Restaurants are doing a fantastic job thinking about how expansions can happen.

Andrea reported that the District is screening students before they arrive in the morning. Kids and parents are complying well and the process is going well.

Kristi asked if there is something that we could do to support the work of the district.

Simon reported that the Selectboard had held off on funding the budget in the hopes that this effort would be funded by Vital Communities. The Selectboard is happy to revisit the budget when we can learn if VC wishes to support the town in this way.

General Direction

Kristi asked for reflections on what is the essence of our work over the next three to six months. Brett suggested that mental health is surfacing as a significant impact of the pandemic.

Martha said that she is worried about housing, income, food, and community mental health. Economic recovery for businesses is also a major concern. In summary, Martha feels that it is precious for us to be able to communicate to see where these

Barbara said that she is not sure what is the role of the committee with regards to mental health because the asks of mental health providers will be beyond what we can offer. She is less concerned about food because the community is so well supported by various non-profit organizations.

Becky said that she is feeling that we spend a lot of time updating each other and giving reports, and she is not sure how much we as a committee is doing. We are currently monitoring more than taking action. Martha said that a) the committee is providing ~30 masks/day, and perhaps monitoring.

Barbara said that there are several mutual aid groups that are no longer meeting.

Brett feels that as someone who is in the community providing direct support, he is benefiting from the support of the committee.

P.J. said that he has benefitted from meeting.

Barbara suggested that the committee might benefit the community more by distributing the notes on our conversations more broadly. Becky said that it might make sense for us to distribute encouraging communications weekly. Martha seconded. Simon and Dan also supported this idea. Becky suggested that each workgroup could submit two nuggets. Kristi said that she could send out bullets on Friday. **We agreed that each subgroup would send out two or more bullets to Kristi before 9:00 AM on the Friday following our Wednesday meeting.**

Slow-the-Spread

Martha gave a shout out to the mask distributors within the Slow-the-Spread Subgroup.

Economic Support and Recovery

PJ reported that businesses are being supported through a \$10K grant that will translate to \$18K of dollars circulating in the community.

Food Security

Barbara said that the everybody eats program is moving to 2500 meals per week at \$10/meal. One restaurant closed one hour early because they could make more money with the volume. As of 2 weeks ago, there were 79 individuals housed in the local hotels through the state voucher program.

Communications Subgroup

Becky reported that they are waiting to hear back from VC about funding and asked if it still makes sense to push the #MasksOnHartford campaign. Deborah said that she felt that we should continue to reinforce this message. It may be more important than ever. Martha agreed. Perhaps the message could include some of the latest sentiment about keeping up the effort

Community Connections and Wellness

HADCCR's next meeting will take place via Zoom at 4:00 PM on Wednesday, October 14th.

Becky moved to adjourn, Deborah seconded, that the meeting adjourn at 4:55 PM.
Submitted by Simon Dennis, Committee Secretary.