

# Facilitating Innovation Through Developing and Implementing Best Practices: A Review and Suggested Process

Wednesday, May 5, 2021, 12:00pm-1:30pm via webinar

A number of states have used best practices reviews of local government service with accompanying grant programs to speed up innovation. A panel of state or local governments arrives at a candidate set of services they could benefit from a best practices review. A working committee of government staff and content experts then arrive at a set of steps to improve services from snow and ice removal to juvenile justice. This presentation will look at the process, some examples of best practices reviews, and ways to move forward in CT.

- Welcome from UConn Public Policy, CRCOG, and CT ASPA: **Professor Mohamad Alkadry and Lyle Wray**.
- Remarks from **ACIR Chair Brendan Sharkey** on Local Government of Tomorrow and ACIR commissioned policy studies.
- Moderator **Mayor Marcia Leclerc**, Mayor East Hartford: Format review: Presentation, reactor panel, and questions and answers from the online audience.
- Presentation: Facilitating Innovation Through Developing and Implementing Best Practices: A Review and Suggested Process.

**Presenter: Ryan Miller, UGA**

## **Reactor Panel:**

**John Filchak**, ACIR member and Executive Director, NECCOG

**John Elsesser**, ACIR member and Coventry Town Manager

**Maria Capriola**, Simsbury Town Manager

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**Brendan Sharkey** is Chairman of the Advisory Commission on Intergovernmental Relations, appointed by Governor Lamont in August of 2020. Mr. Sharkey is a practicing attorney specializing in municipal law, land use and regulatory matters, and is the owner of AmeriZone, LLC, a renewable energy firm. Mr. Sharkey is a former two-term Speaker of the House in the Connecticut General Assembly, having retired in 2017 after 16 years representing Hamden, CT. During his tenure in the General Assembly, Mr. Sharkey became a statewide leader on the issues of smart growth, regionalism, and property tax reform.



**Ryan Miller** began his MPA coursework in the Fall of 2019 and intends to pursue a law degree after he graduates. He chose to focus on education administration because he believes that education is the most visible and impactful form of government to the majority of citizens and that schools are the best tool to promote a better future for all. Before beginning the MPA program at the University of Georgia, Ryan realized in his undergraduate studies that he wanted to do more for the area where he grew up. His history coursework revealed the depth and complexity of the inequities he had already observed, and he recognized that he wanted to do whatever he could to push his home, his state, and his country toward a more aware and equitable course.

### Moderator



**Mayor Marcia Leclerc** has been Mayor of East Hartford since 2010. She is a lifelong resident, leader, and champion for the community of East Hartford. Prior to her position as the Chief Elected Official, Marcia Leclerc served on the East Hartford Town Council for eight years from 2003 to 2011. While on the council, she served as Majority Leader and chair of Personnel & Pension, Fees, and the Budget Committees. During her time as Mayor, she has demonstrated an unwavering commitment to economic development, customer service, attention to detail and creating and ensuring a balanced budget.

### Reaction Panelists



**Maria Capriola** currently serves as Simsbury's Town Manager. She was appointed by the six-member Board of Selectmen on December 4, 2017 and began work as Simsbury's first Town Manager on January 29, 2018. As Town Manager, Maria oversees the day-to-day operations of the municipal organization and by Charter serves as the Personnel Director. She is responsible for implementing policies and initiatives of the Board of Selectmen.



**John Elsesser** has served as Coventry Town Manager since 1988 and has served in other CT Towns as an assistant since graduating from University of Hartford in 1982 with an MPA. He is a Credentialed Manager through ICMA. John serves in a leadership capacity at the regional and State level, including positions as President of the Tolland County Chamber of Commerce and on the Board of Directors of CCM, COST and Chairman of the Connecticut Interlocal Risk Management Agency (CIRMA). He also serves on the State E-911 Commission and the State Emergency Response Commission.



**John Filchak** has served as the Executive Director of NECCOG since 1995. NECCOG is a 16-town regional council of governments founded in 1987 where each municipality is represented by their respective chief-elected official. NECCOG is focused on achieving results for their member towns through regionalism, offering a range of voluntary, member initiated programs and services. This regional approach to problem solving enables their member towns to achieve efficiencies and economies of scale that individually would be difficult to realize. John was Deputy Commissioner of the CT Department of Agriculture from 1991-1995, and before that he served as the Director of Governmental Relations for The CT Farm Bureau.

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