

**CITY OF NORWALK
COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES -APRIL 22, 2026
VIA ZOOM VIRTUAL CONFERNECE**

ATTENDEES: Nicol Ayers, Broderick Sawyer, Anne Wennerstrand, Jan Degenshein, Jesse Buccolo.

STAFF: Julienne Foy, Keenan McMahon, Deanna D'Amore.

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting of the Community Services Committee of the Common Council for the City of Norwalk was called to order by Chair Nicol Ayers at 7:00 PM.

II. ROLL CALL

Ms. Ayers noted the presence of Councilperson Broderick Sawyer, Councilperson Anne Wennerstrand, and Councilperson Jan Degenshein.

III. ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES

A. Regular Meeting: March 25, 2026

**** MR. DEGENSHEIN MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MARCH 25, 2026, REGULAR MEETING.**

****THE MOTION WAS SECONDED.**

****THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY. THE MINUTES WERE APPROVED AS PRESENTED.**

IV. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There was no public participation.

V. NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business.

VI. DISCUSSION

A. New Chief of Community Services, Julienne Foy

Ms. Ayers welcomed the new Chief of Community Services, Ms. Julienne Foy, to her first official meeting with the committee. Ms. Foy introduced herself, noting it was her third day in the position, that she had hung things up in the office, and that she was excited to partner with

the committee and everyone to do really great work for the City of Norwalk. Ms. Wennerstrand welcomed Ms. Foy and stated that the committee has her back. Ms. Ayers acknowledged the welcome and noted that the committee was there to work with Ms. Foy, not against her, for the citizens of Norwalk.

B. Presentation of Community Partners Providing Services to Norwalk Children and Youth by Human Services Director, Keenan McMahon.

Ms. Keenan McMahon presented on how the community supports young people in Norwalk. She highlighted the Community Services Department, which is comprised of human services, the Health Department, and Library Services. She described collaborations formally and informally within the department, including monthly integration meetings to discuss pressing issues and identify solutions, and work with Norwalk Public Schools to ensure students' basic needs are met. She explained that the department fosters partnerships with a dedicated network of community nonprofits through interdisciplinary teams and coalitions that target identified needs. Ms. McMahon noted that the collective goal for children and youth is to create a community in which they can thrive academically, socially, and personally, with services related to developmental needs, age-appropriate issues, mental and behavioral health, mentorship, career readiness, after-school supports, and enrichment activities. She provided examples of coordination including the community resource hub and navigators who assist residents with multiple issues such as housing instability, food insecurity, mental health issues, and educational needs by triaging issues in a calm manner, prioritizing them, and making warm handoffs to appropriate community partners or colleagues in the health department. Additional examples included a representative from youth services attending expulsion hearings for Norwalk Public School students and connecting families and students to diversion services, counseling, and family care coordination. Ms. McMahon noted that city staff across the Community Services Department are involved in various outside boards, commissions, committees, and coalitions.

Ms. Wennerstrand asked for more details on the level of coordination and examples. Ms. McMahon elaborated on the examples of the resource hub and expulsion hearings. Mr. Sawyer inquired about funding issues and whether a lack of federal funding had affected what Husky and Husky Dental can do. Ms. McMahon acknowledged that funding is an issue across the board, including health coverage and housing, and noted the recent successful job fair hosted in collaboration with the Department of Labor. Ms. Degenshein asked if the general public knows that the department exists and has these resources, and whether there is follow-up after directing a client to services. Ms. McMahon discussed goals to increase awareness through community provider calls with up to 65 to 70 different providers, events such as the job fair, and strong relationships with organizations that allow for natural follow-up opportunities. Ms. Ayers added that there are weekly calls for providers where providers learn about other available resources, case studies of families with difficult problems are sometimes discussed with everyone unmuting to assist, the Summer Youth Employment Program which is very important for young people to gain work experience, and mini-grants given to local nonprofits serving young people. Ms. Ayers thanked Ms. McMahon for the presentation. Ms. McMahon thanked the committee and the City Council for making young people a priority.

VII. ACTION ITEMS

A. Authorize the Mayor, Barbara C. Smyth, to execute any and all agreements, documents, instruments, or amendments as may be necessary with Mankin Consulting, LLC in an amount not to exceed \$15,000 (from grant account number 362002-5258-G0044) for billing consultation services.

Ms. Deanna D'Amore explained the travel clinic where the Health Department provides consultation services to patients traveling abroad, including vaccines and medications such as for malaria. She described the program as both a revenue opportunity and an important community service for communicable disease control. She noted challenges navigating insurance contracts, fee schedules, and billing, and stated that the consultant would provide expertise to evaluate contracts, negotiate new ones, review the fee schedule, and make recommendations to city leadership and the Board of Health. Ms. Wennerstrand asked how Mankin Consulting was identified. Ms. D'Amore explained outreach to the state health department and that the new medical director, through her connections in the federally qualified health center sphere, recommended them. Ms. Ayers asked about the long-term plan once the grant ends. Ms. D'Amore confirmed it was for a defined set time period for the consultant only and not leading to a full-time employee. Mr. Buccolo asked about utilization of the program and revenue generated. Ms. D'Amore reported approximately 400 patients per year and revenue of about \$130,000 to \$160,000 in recent years, noting the consultant could help increase it. Mr. Buccolo suggested the committee hear the recommendations and next steps after the consultation.

****MR. SAWYER MOVED TO APPROVE THE AUTHORIZATION FOR THE MAYOR TO EXECUTE AGREEMENTS WITH MANKIN CONSULTING, LLC AS DESCRIBED.**

****THE MOTION PASSED. THE AUTHORIZATION WAS APPROVED.**

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

**** MR. SAWYER MOVED TO ADJOURN THE MEETING.**

****THE MOTION PASSED. THE MEETING WAS ADJOURNED AT 7:33 PM.**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:33 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Courtney Baldwin
Recording secretary