

**CITY OF NORWALK
COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE
JUNE 18, 2025
HYBRID VIA ZOOM AND
COMMON COUNCIL CHAMBERS**

ATTENDANCE: Nicol Ayers, Chair; Anne Wennerstrand; Barbara Smyth; Dajuan Wiggins Sr.

STAFF: Lamond Daniels, Chief of Community Services; Dave Walenczyk,

OTHERS: Chrissy Mahanna

I. CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL

Ms. Ayers called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM. She called the roll as indicated above.

II. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There was no one present from the public for comment.

III. ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES

A. Regular Meeting: March 19, 2025

**** MS. SMYTH MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

IV. ACTION ITEMS

A. Authorize the Mayor, Harry W. Rilling to execute any and all agreements, documents, instruments, or amendments as may be necessary to accept funds in the amount of \$35,000 in connection with the CT Department of Children and Families JRB & Enhancement grant to support the Norwalk Juvenile Review Board (JRB).

Mr. Walenczyk stated this is the third year of the grant, which funds specialized mentoring for youth in the JRB. Last year, they used Critical Messenger as a subcontracted provider and plan to continue this year while exploring additional mentor programs.

**** MS. AYERS MOVED TO APPROVE THE MOTION.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

- B. Authorize the Mayor, Harry W. Rilling to execute any and all agreements, documents, instruments to accept DCF Youth Service Bureau (YSB) grant funds to support the operations and various programs within the Youth Services division. The funds are segregated into a Base grant of approximately* \$54,950; Supplemental funds \$27,578; and Enhancement funds of \$12,992 for a total amount of \$95,520.**

Mr. Walenczyk explained that the grant has been available since the State statute was established and is non-competitive; applicants automatically receive funding. He noted the exact dollar amount for this year is not finalized but should be close to previous amounts. Most of the base grant funds the Youth Service Bureau's operations, with supplemental funds covering a part-time victim support assistant who helps victims involved in JRB cases. Enhancement funds are used for programs such as the Peer Connection program for middle schoolers and to support a young staff member who manages social media and the department's webpage. While the grant requires a match, the Youth Services Department's existing budget exceeds this requirement, so no additional City funds are needed.

**** MS. AYERS MOVED TO APPROVE THE MOTION.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

- C. Authorize the Mayor, Harry W. Rilling to execute any and all agreements, documents instruments, or amendments as may be necessary with Compass Consulting & Coaching, led by Chrissy Mahanna, LCSW to design, coordinate and implement the Nonprofit Capacity Accelerator Initiative in the amount of \$30,000. Account # 012010-5A0620.**

Ms. Mahanna introduced herself as a licensed clinical social worker and Norwalk resident with 20 years in the social sector. She owns a consulting firm helping nonprofits with strategy, leadership, and performance, with experience in organizations both large and small. She emphasized using a cohort learning model paired with one-on-one coaching to help small nonprofits implement strategies and elevate their impact, with a focus on equity and strengthening community services.

**** MS. AYERS MOVED TO APPROVE THE MOTION.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

- D. Authorize the Mayor, Harry W. Rilling, to execute any and all agreements, documents, instruments, or amendments as may be necessary with Family & Children's Agency, 9 Mott Avenue, 4th Floor, Norwalk, CT 06850, in the amount of \$163,000.00, to provide Municipal Agent for the Elderly services for Norwalk residents for the period of July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2026. Account #: 012010-5298**

Mr. Daniels advised this is a continuation of the Municipal Agent for the Elderly grant, required by State law to support income-eligible residents aged 60 and over with benefits navigation and referrals. FCA received the grant through a competitive process four years ago, and this will be

the final year before the City goes out to bid again for a four-year term.

**** MS. AYERS MOVED TO APPROVE THE MOTION.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

- E. Authorize the Mayor, Harry W. Rilling, to execute any and all agreements, documents, instruments, or amendments as may be necessary with Mid-Fairfield Community Care Center, located at 100 East Avenue, Norwalk CT, in the amount of \$200,000.00 to support the Latinx Integrated Care (LINC) Program for the period of July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2026. Account #: 012010-5298**

Mr. Daniels discussed funding for specialized services for minors through Midfield, which began about four years ago to support students facing trauma. Last year, the budget was reduced by 50%. He is seeking approval for the requested \$200,000 to continue the program in the Norwalk Public Schools for the upcoming fiscal year.

**** MS. AYERS MOVED TO APPROVE THE MOTION.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

- F. Authorize the Mayor, Harry W. Rilling, to execute any and all agreements, documents, instruments, or amendments as may be necessary with the Norwalk Senior Center, located at 11 Allen Road, Norwalk, CT 06851, in the amount of \$400,000.00, to provide ongoing senior services for Norwalk residents for the period of July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2026. Account #: 012010-5A0620**

Funding for the Norwalk Senior Center was reviewed. Mr. Daniels requested approval for \$400,000 for their operational budget, continuing the City's annual support and allowing the center flexibility in how the funds are used. The Senior Center was praised for its programs and responsiveness to the community.

**** MS. AYERS MOVED TO APPROVE THE MOTION.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

- G. Authorize the Mayor to extend the term of the Agreement with Connecticut Institute for Communities, Inc. (CIFC), located at 11 Ingalls Avenue, Norwalk, CT 06854 (Ely Center), for support of the Greater Norwalk Head Start and Early Head Start programs services for period of three years, from July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2028, in the amount of \$500,000.00 per year, to satisfy the non-federal share requirement under DHHS Award Number 01CH010527-04-00, in accordance with Section 640(b) of the Head Start Act and CFR §1303.4. Account #: 012010-5A0620**

The Committee reviewed the Head Start legacy grant, administered by the Connecticut Institute, which provides services for about 130 Norwalk children. The City's required federal match is \$500,000 per year. Approval was requested to extend the grant to a three-year term, rather than annually, to streamline administration while maintaining oversight and

compliance checks.

**** MS. AYERS MOVED TO APPROVE THE MOTION.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

V. ADJOURNMENT

**** MS. SMYTH MOVED TO ADJOURN THE MEETING.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:55 p.m.