

## Community Services Committee

### Meeting Agenda

Wednesday, November 20, 2024, at 7:00 PM

To allow public access, anyone may access a meeting by telephone, Zoom, and/or the City of Norwalk YouTube channel.

Specific instructions and links can be found at [norwalkct.gov/meetings](https://norwalkct.gov/meetings)



Members of the public who are unable to attend the meeting in person may call in to participate. Callers will not be able to see the meeting participants. All participants will be muted upon entering the meeting. To speak, dial \*9 on the phone and you will be called on by the host of the meeting during the public comment section. All speakers must state their name and address. Comments must be on a topic on the agenda, and are limited to three minutes. Anyone disrupting the orderly conduct of the meeting, including by using threatening, hateful, or sexually-explicit language, will be removed. Please find the information using the link above.



Members of the public who are unable to attend the meeting in person and wish to provide "live comments" may also use the Zoom meeting platform. All participants will be muted upon entering the meeting. To speak, click the "raise your hand indicator" and you will be called by the host of the meeting during the public comment section. All speakers must state their name and address. Comments must be on a topic on the agenda, and are limited to three minutes. Anyone disrupting the orderly conduct of the meeting, including by using threatening, hateful, or sexually-explicit language, will be removed. Please find the information using the link above.



Members of the public who wish to view the meeting, but are not participating, can view a live stream on the City of Norwalk YouTube channel. This stream is delayed by approximately 20 seconds. Please find the information using the link above. The meeting recording and minutes will be posted on the City of Norwalk website within seven (7) days after the meeting.



Members of the public who wish to provide public comment are encouraged to submit those via email in advance of the meeting. For these comments to be included into the record, they must be submitted by 12:00 p.m. the day of the meeting. Please email Irene Dixon at [ldaniels@norwalkct.gov](mailto:ldaniels@norwalkct.gov) with the subject line "Public Comment" to provide written public comment prior to the meeting.

### MEETING AGENDA

1. Call to order/ roll call
2. Public comments
3. Approval of minutes from meeting held on October 16, 2024
4. Discussion
  - a. Presentation from Early Childhood Division – **Mary Oster**, Early Childhood Coordinator

#### 5. Action Items

##### **A. Chief of Community Services**

Authorize Mayor Harry W. Rilling to execute any and all necessary agreements, documents, instruments, or amendments to fund the Multi-System Coordination Program in partnership with the Fairfield County Community Foundation in the amount of \$200,000 from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) administered by the Community Services Department. Funding Source: ARPA Account 140000-5796-ACMF5 (\$200,000).

#### 6. Adjourn

The next regular meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, December 18, 2024

cc: Mayor Harry W. Rilling  
Irene Dixon, City Clerk  
Mario Coppola, Corp Counsel

**CITY OF NORWALK  
COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE  
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 16, 2024  
VIA TELECONFERENCE**

ATTENDANCE: Nicole Ayers; Chair, Greg Burnett, Doug Sutton, Heather Dunn, Barbara Smyth,

STAFF: Lamond Danniels

OTHER: AnaVivian Estrella, Deanna D'Amore

**1. CALL TO ORDER/ ROLL CALL**

Ms. Ayers called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. The roll was called as reflected above.

**2. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Diane Lauricella  
21 Little Fox Lane

Ms. Lauricella wanted to acquire a list of the non-profit organizations set to receive funds allocated through ARPA. She also requested that backup materials be included in the online agendas, citing other committees that include them.

**3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM MEETING HELD ON SEPTEMBER 18, 2024**

**\*\* MR. SUTTON MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES.**

Ms. Smyth noted on page three that she felt there was a response to the question about tracking participants.

**\*\* THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY AS AMENDED.**

**4. DISCUSSION**

- a. Updates from the Chief of Community Services, Lamond Daniels

Mr. Daniels indicated he would reserve comments until his presentation.

## **5. ACTION ITEMS**

### **A. Health Department**

Authorize the Mayor, Harry W. Rilling, to execute any and all agreements, documents, instruments, or amendments as may be necessary to extend the student practicum/internship agreement between the City of Norwalk health department and Sacred Heart University Health Professions programs for a period of two (2) years ending on December 31, 2026.

Ms. D'Amore explained that this was one of several affiliation agreements with academic institutions to host interns at the Health Department. She noted the successful hosting of two interns from Sacred Heart University. She then expressed the hope that they could have a couple more interns and that the affiliation could be extended for two more years.

**\*\* MR. BURNETT MOVED TO APPROVE THE ITEM.  
\*\* THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

### **B. Human Services**

Authorize the Mayor, Harry W. Rilling, to execute any and all agreements, documents, instruments, or amendments as may be necessary with Elm City Village, Inc. and The House of Darla to provide vital services to high-risk youth referred to the Juvenile Review Board (JRB), Care Coordination, and high utilizers of community services in the amount of \$50,000 administered by the Human Services Department. Account # 132010-5796–ACS02.

Ms. Estrella described Elm City Village and their highly specialized style of mentoring. She stated they recruit people with lived experiences who have overcome adversities faced in their lifetime to become productive members of society. She said they wished to extend the program to cover not just the JRP but also the youth they know are falling through the cracks. Ms. Estrella noted the coupling with the House of Darla whose pro-social approach compliments Elm City's mentoring style.

Ms. Estrella answered Ms. Ayer's question as to numbers, stating that to date they have been able to serve 28 youths. Ms. Ayers also wanted to know where the additional funds would be going. Ms. Estrella explained it would be going to salaries and hourly wages for the mentoring. She stated it was a one-on-one mentor-to-child ratio. She also noted that the director for Elm City Village gets involved with virtually every case. Ms. Ayers asked about the program

structure. Ms. Estrella outlined the roles that would be played by Elm City Village and House of Darla over six months. She also noted the program would not be limited to the school year.

**\*\* MS. SMYTH MOVED TO APPROVE THE ITEM.  
\*\* THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

### **C. Chief of Community Services**

Authorize Mayor Harry W. Rilling to execute any and all necessary agreements, documents, instruments, or amendments with the selected nonprofit organizations, as outlined in the final ARPA Nonprofit Grant Allocations Report. In the amount of \$700,000 from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds to 20 nonprofit organizations to support their recovery efforts and continued service to the Norwalk community, as administered by the Community Services Department. Funding Source: ARPA Account 132010-5796-ACS03 (\$400,000) and 140000-5796-ACMF5 (\$300,000).

At 7: 15 p.m. Ms. Ayers recused herself and relinquished her chair to Councilman Burnett.

**\*\* MS. SMYTH MOVED TO APPROVE THE ITEM.**

Chief. Daniels discussed the finer points of the mental health press conference. He then presented a Power Point presentation covering the following:

- The Final round of ARPA funding and how the previous funding was applied.
- The Financial Allocations overview indicating twenty non-profit organizations were selected for funding.
- The evaluation and allocation process.
- The use of impartial reviewers to evaluate each non-profit application based on ARPA guidelines.
- The distribution of funding categories.
- The funding allocation per category.
- The ARPA funding allocation by category.
- Requested amounts vs. Final Allocation for ARPA funding.
- A summary of organizations and their use of ARPA funds..

Ms. Smyth thanked state Senator Bob Duff and Mayor Rilling for getting the additional funding.

Mr. Burnett thanked Chief Daniels for his efforts in creating a process that ensures the funding's positive impact will be widespread across all of Norwalk's residents.

**\*\* THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

## **6. ADJOURN**

**\*\* MS. SMYTH MOVED TO ADJOURN THE MEETING.  
\*\* THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The next regular meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, November 20, 2024

The meeting was adjourned at 7:34 p.m.

Respectfully submitted  
China Mayhew  
Telesco Secretarial Services.



CITY OF NORWALK  
**Lamond Daniels, LCSW, MPA**  
**Chief of Community Services**  
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## MEMO

**To:** Mayor Rilling

**CC:** Tom Livingston, Chief of Staff

**From:** Lamond Daniels, Chief of Community Services

**Date:** November 8, 2024

**Subject:** Proposal Submission: Multi-System Coordination Initiative

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Following up on our cabinet meeting discussion, I am presenting the Multi-System Coordination Program—a targeted initiative aimed at addressing a critical, longstanding gap in Norwalk’s youth services. This program is not just a proposal; it’s a strategic response to support some of Norwalk’s most vulnerable youth—the young people who face complex challenges across school, family, and community environments. We know who these youth are.

This program will be funded with the last of our ARPA resources provided through the allocation of Senator Duff’s \$200,000 in partnership with the Fairfield County Community Foundation. These resources will allow us to align efforts across providers and establish a structured, unified approach needed to reach these young people effectively. By addressing service gaps and creating a pathway to positive outcomes, we can make a meaningful impact where it’s most needed. This is the right step to strengthen our community and provide Norwalk’s youth with the support they urgently need.

Thank you for your continued support and consideration of this vital initiative.

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# Multi-System Coordination Initiative

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## *Final Allocation of ARPA Funds*

### Executive Summary

The Norwalk Community Services Department is pleased to present this program, *representing the final allocation of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds* dedicated to supporting the city's youth and families. Over the past three years, the Community Services Department has strategically invested ARPA funds to support Norwalk's recovery response to the pandemic. Through our **Nonprofit Grant Recovery Program**, we have partnered with local organizations to address critical needs, from mental health to educational support, strengthening the city's capacity to support its youth and communities. With this request, we are utilizing the remaining balance of ARPA funds, marking the completion of all ARPA funds allocated to our department.

### Project Title:

Development and Implementation of the Multi-System Coordination Program

### Background and Need:

The pandemic's impact on young people in Norwalk remains significant, affecting their educational experiences, mental health, and overall well-being. Recognizing these challenges, ARPA funding was allocated to support the recovery, learning, and holistic development of youth in our community. This final proposal outlines a Multi-System Coordination Program to ensure Norwalk's young people receive the services they need through a comprehensive, collaborative effort.

### Project Purpose:

In partnership with the **Fairfield County Community Foundation (FCCF)**, this program aims to strengthen the alignment and coordination of youth-serving systems across Norwalk. Through collaboration, this initiative will empower

Norwalk Public Schools (NPS) to act as a primary referral source for high-risk youth, ensuring targeted support through a unified network of community resources.

### **Target Population:**

The program will specifically serve **30-40 high-need, complex youth** in Norwalk. These are young people facing heightened challenges, including those at increased risk of engaging in deviant or disruptive activities within the community. By addressing their underlying needs through coordinated services, the initiative aims to provide positive pathways, prevent further escalation, and support these youth in re-engaging with school and community resources.

### **Core Components and Implementation Strategy:**

#### **Funding and Oversight Structure:**

The final **\$200,000 in ARPA** funding will support the Multi-System Coordination Program, ensuring essential resources are available for meaningful, measurable outcomes for Norwalk's high-risk youth. Administrative oversight will ensure that all efforts align with ARPA standards and achieve their intended impact.

#### **Strategic Collaboration with Stakeholders:**

The initiative will foster close partnerships among FCCF, NPS, juvenile justice entities, health providers, and local social service organizations. This coalition will work collaboratively to address the diverse needs of high-risk youth, enhancing their access to comprehensive services and fostering long-term growth.

#### **Accountability through Monitoring and Reporting:**

Regular progress updates and reports will be provided to ensure transparency and effectiveness in program implementation. This accountability structure aligns with ARPA guidelines, promoting oversight and a continuous focus on outcome-based results.

### **Long-Term Sustainability Planning:**

The initiative will explore additional funding sources and potential partnerships with FCCF and other collaborators to extend the program's benefits beyond the pilot phase. This sustainability planning ensures that youth and their families will continue to receive critical support well into the future.

### **Community Engagement Plan:**

Community involvement will be integral to the success of this initiative. Parents, youth, and service providers will have opportunities to provide input and feedback through listening sessions, focus groups, and advisory meetings. This engagement will help ensure that the program remains responsive to community needs and strengthens trust between the youth and service providers involved.

### **Review Process:**

The Request for Proposals (RFP) will be developed and managed by FCCF, with advisory support from representatives of the City of Norwalk, Norwalk Public Schools, and an expert participant. FCCF's strategic partnership will provide guidance throughout program implementation, leveraging their experience in managing impactful community projects.

### **Community Impact Statement:**

This program represents a commitment to building a safer, more supportive community by addressing the needs of Norwalk's most vulnerable youth. By investing in coordinated youth services, we aim to create a more connected, resilient environment where young people can access resources, overcome challenges, and thrive within the community.

### **Timeline:**

The program's funds will be allocated by December 31, 2024, allowing for timely implementation in accordance with ARPA guidelines and setting a foundation for sustainable, long-term support for Norwalk's young people.

## Conclusion:

The Multi-System Coordination Program marks a significant and final investment of ARPA funds toward supporting youth and families in Norwalk. Through the Nonprofit Grant Recovery Program, we have effectively strengthened the community's capacity to support young people and families in need. With this last allocation, we aim to make a positive impact on the lives of high-risk youth, their families, and the broader community. This proposal completes the Community Services Department's ARPA-funded initiatives, concluding a period of targeted investments and impactful partnerships that have bolstered Norwalk's community resilience.

Respectfully submitted by:  
Lamond Daniels, LCSW, MPA  
Chief of Community Services  
November 8, 2024

## ***Recommended Action Item:***

Authorize Mayor Harry W. Rilling to execute any and all necessary agreements, documents, instruments, or amendments to fund the Multi-System Coordination Program in partnership with the Fairfield County Community Foundation in the amount of \$200,000 from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) administered by the Community Services Department. Funding Source: ARPA Account 140000-5796-ACMF5 (\$200,000).

### **Addendum:**

#### **"Why This Matters: Investing in a Coordinated Approach for Norwalk's Most Vulnerable Youth"**

The \$200,000 allocation for the Multi-System Coordination Program represents a vital initial investment by the City of Norwalk to support our most vulnerable youth and their families. While we understand the importance of balancing resources, research and community experience show that early intervention for high-need, complex youth is not only impactful but also cost-effective over time. Programs like this one reduce the long-term financial and social costs often associated with urgent, reactive services by proactively addressing challenges before they escalate.

This investment enables Norwalk to take a comprehensive, preventive approach to meet the needs of youth who often face multiple challenges across school, family, and community environments. Guided by experienced professionals, this coordinated effort unites schools, social services, and community partners, ensuring that support is both strategic and sustainable.

While the pilot focuses on a small population, these are the families facing the most significant barriers. By targeting this group with specialized support, we're investing in the overall health and stability of our community. This program aims to set a new standard in our approach to youth services, enhancing safety and well-being in Norwalk for years to come.