

Community Services Committee

Meeting Agenda

Wednesday, September 21, at 7:00 PM

Via Teleconference 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 www.norwalkct.org/meetings



Members of the public can call in and listen to a meeting. They will not be able to speak or see any of the meeting participants. Each meeting will use a unique Meeting/Webinar ID.



Members of the public who wish to provide "live comments" will need to register in advance and 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 on by the host of the meeting during the public comment section.



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.



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 read into the record, they should be submitted at least three hours in advance of the meeting start time. Please email Lamond Daniels at ldaniels@norwalkct.org 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 June 15, 2022
4. Discussion
 - a. Updates from the Health Department
 - Deanna D'Amore, Health Director
 - Brian Weeks, Epidemiologist
 - Theresa Argondezzi, Assistant Health Director of Community Health
 - b. Guest Presenters on Heat Sensor Initiative:
 - Yaprak Onat, Assistant Director of Research at CIRCA, University of Connecticut
 - Aniella Fignon, Public Health Program Associate, Norwalk Health Department
 - c. Updates from the Chief of Community Services, Lamond Daniels
 - Equity and Justice Initiative
 - Community Resource HUB
 - Fair Rent office
5. Action Item
 - a. Authorize the Mayor, Harry W. Rilling, to execute any and all agreements, documents, instruments, or amendments as may be necessary to accept and receive Child Day Care grant funds allocated to the City of Norwalk from the State of Connecticut, Office of Early Childhood (OEC) for State Fiscal Year 2023 and 2024.

6. Adjourn

The next regular meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, October 29, 2022

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

**City of Norwalk
Community Service Committee
Regular Meeting
Wednesday, June 15, 2022**

ATTENDANCE: Chairman Dominique Johnson, Tom Keegan, Greg Burnett, Barbara Smyth, Heidi Alterman, Nicol Ayers

STAFF: Deanna D'Amore, Health Director; Lamond Daniels, Chief of Community Services

OTHER: Brian Weeks, Epidemiologist; Marissa Mangone, Mid-Fairfield Community Care Center; Gail Melanson, Executive Director Mid-Fairfield Community Care Center; Clara Mesa, Mid-Fairfield Community Care Center

I. Call to Order/Roll Call

Ms. Johnson called the meeting to order at 7:05.
There was a quorum present.

II. Public Comments

There was no public comment.

III. Approval of the minutes of meetings held on Apr 20, 2022 and May 4, 2022.

***** Mr. Keegan moved to approve the minutes of the Apr 20, 2022 meeting.**

***** The motion to approve the minutes passed unanimously with the changes noted.**

*****Ms. Smyth moved to approve the minutes of the May 4, 2022meeting.**

*****The motion to approve the minutes passed unanimously.**

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IV. Discussion

a) Covid-19 updates from the Health Department - Deanna D'Amore, Health Director and Brian Weeks, Epidemiologist

Mr. Weeks gave the committee an update on the current stats for the number of Covid-19 cases. Fairfield County is currently categorized as having low infection rates.

Mr. Weeks gave advice on mitigating tick borne illnesses.

Ms. D'Amore gave an update on vaccinating young children. The CDC is meeting to approve vaccinations for children as young as six months. The Health Department is reaching out to Pediatrician offices to share information.

The CDC no longer requires a negative Covid test to enter the country.

Mr. Burnett asked if there is any communication with the public attending large outdoor events during the summer months.

Mr. Weeks mentioned that outdoor events are less risky than indoor events, and communication will change as infection rates fluctuate.

Chairman Johnson asked if there was any additional information on boosters for adults. Ms. D'Amore said there were no new changes from the CDC.

b) Mid Fairfield Community Care Center Presentation

Mr. Daniels introduced the Mid Fairfield Child Guidance Center members. This organization services a population of unaccompanied children that arrive in CT.

Ms. Melanson gave an overview of the center and their goals, the community they service and the care they provide. All of the clients come to the center because of a trauma.

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Ms. Mesa gave information about the Linc (Lantinx Integrated Care) program. The population of multilingual students in the Norwalk Public Schools has grown

Mr. Keegan asked if the Norwalk Public Schools also provide mental health services to their population. Mr. Daniels confirmed that NPS does offer services, however, this organization goes above and beyond scope of the schools' capacity.

Mr. Burnett asked if the Center has a presence at the Board of Education's Family Center. Ms. Melanson confirmed that the Center works with all the agencies in the Norwalk Public School system.

Mr. Burnett also asked for clarification on the referral process. Ms. Melanson gave examples of how the referral process works, and the type of work the organization does that the school system cannot.

Ms. Smyth thanked the presenters for their time and the important work and services they provide to Norwalk students. She then asked for clarification on the clinicians embedded in each of the high schools. Ms. Melanson clarified that there are two clinicians that work in the school buildings.

Ms. Alterman thanked the presenters and complimented them on their caring and hard work.

Chair Johnson complimented the Center on exceeding their metrics goals and the work that they do.

c) Chief of Community Services, Lamond Daniels

Mr. Daniels reminded the community that they should register with the city to receive emails and announcements coming from the office of Community Services.

Mr. Daniels promoted the website for the CT child tax rebate.

Mr. Daniels announced that the senior center will host a meeting to assist seniors in organizing their personnel papers.

1) Equity and Justice Initiative

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Mr. Daniels gave an update on the new Equity and Justice Initiative Officer position. The position was posted and the top three candidates will be forwarded to Mayor Rilling and he will choose the top candidate.

Mr. Burnett asked if there was a solid response to the position offering. Mr. Daniels confirmed that he was pleased with the response.

2) American Rescue Plan Act Community Recovery Fund Program

Contracts are currently being forwarded to all award recipients. One of the priorities was supporting organizations that provide mental health services.

V. Action Items

a) Authorize the Mayor, Harry W. Rilling, to execute any and all agreements, documents, instruments, or amendments as may be necessary with Mid-Fairfield Child Guidance Center, Inc., for continued in-home Mental Health and Family Support services for Public School children under the Community Services Department for the period July 1, 2022 to June 30, 2023 in the amount of \$399,996. Account #012010-5298.nts

*****Ms. Smyth made a motion to approve authorizing the Mayor to continue to support the Mid-Fairfield Community Care Center.**

*****The motion passed unanimously.**

VI. Adjourn

Chair Johnson thanked Mr. Keegan for his service as this is his last meeting. The entire committee thanked Mr. Keegan for his dedication, insight and hard work for many years.

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****** Mr. Keegan moved to adjourn the meeting**
****** The motion passed unanimously.**

The meeting adjourned at 9:00

Respectfully submitted.

Amy Chaple
Telesco Secretarial Services

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TO: Community Services Committee
FROM: Mary Oster, Early Childhood Coordinator
SUBJECT: State Contract (Child Daycare Funding) 20OECDC01NWK
CONTRACT PERIOD: 6/27/2022 – 6/30/2024
CONTRACT AMOUNT: \$3,749,000.99

DATE: September 6, 2022

Action to be taken:

- a. **Authorize the Mayor, Harry W. Rilling, to execute any and all agreements, documents, instruments, or amendments as may be necessary to accept and receive Child Day Care grant funds allocated to the City of Norwalk from the State of Connecticut, Office of Early Childhood (OEC) for State Fiscal Year 2023 and 2024.**

Norwalk Child Daycare Contract Funding

Child Day Care programs provide early care and education to infants, toddlers, and preschoolers who meet certain eligibility requirements, including falling below 75% of the state median income. These programs are located in various towns and cities across Connecticut. Section 8-210 of the Connecticut General Statutes (C.G.S.) specifies that the purpose of this funding is for the development and operation of child day care centers for children disadvantaged by reasons of economic, social or environmental conditions pursuant.

The services provided through the Child Day Care Contracts are supported through state funds. Enrollment is conducted at individual programs.

The Child Daycare Contract funds full day, full year toddler and preschool care in these city buildings:

Site	# children	type
Ben Franklin Center	16	Toddler
	43	Preschool
Nathaniel Ely Center	52	Toddler

Child Daycare Contract funded programs:

- Must be National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) accredited within 3 years of funding and remain accredited throughout funding.
- Must be licensed by the Connecticut Office of Early Childhood (OEC)
- Follow all OEC requirements and policies.
- Submit monthly program status reports to the Norwalk Early Childhood Office. These are reviewed and a consolidated report is forwarded to the OEC.
- Receive twice-yearly monitoring visits to check child records for family eligibility by the City's Early Childhood Coordinator.
- Each funded classroom teacher is observed by the City's Early Childhood Coordinator using the CLASS monitoring tool.
- Receives periodic walk-through visits by City's Early Childhood Coordinator