

**COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING  
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 2024  
VIA TELECONFERENCE**

ATTENDANCE: Nicole Ayers; Chair, Greg Burnett, Heather Dunn, Barbara Smyth,  
Douglas Sutton, Dajuan Wiggins, Sr.

STAFF: Lamond Daniels

OTHER: Johan Lopez, Ana Vivian Estrella, Gail Melanson

**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.

**MOTION TO INCLUDE THE MINUTES FROM THE APRIL 19, 2024 MEETING**

**\*\* MS. AYERS MOVED TO ADD THE MINUTES FROM THE APRIL, 19<sup>TH</sup>  
MEETING TO THE AGENDA.**  
**\*\* MS. DUNN SECONDED THE MOTION.**  
**\*\* THE MOTION PASSED WITH FOUR AYES AND ONE ABSTENTION  
(MR. BURNETT)**

**2. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

There was no one present for public comments.

**MOTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM THE APRIL 19, 2024 MEETING**

**\*\* MS. SMYTH MOVED TO ACCEPT THE MINUTES FROM THE APRIL  
19<sup>TH</sup> MEETING.**  
**\*\* THE MOTION PASSED WITH 4 AYES AND TWO ABSTENTIONS (MR.  
BURNETT AND MR WIGGANS).**

### **3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM MEETING HELD ON JULY 17, 2024**

- \*\* MR. BURNETT MOVED TO ACCEPT THE MINUTES FROM THE JULY 17<sup>TH</sup> MEETING.**
- \*\* THE MOTION PASSED WITH FOUR AYES AND ONE ABSTENTION (MR. WIGGANS)**

### **4. DISCUSSION**

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

Mr. Daniels talked about the updates on various Community Services projects. He discussed the following:

- The Norwalk Mini-Grant Program.
- The Community Services updated the grant funding policy.
- The city's website has been updated so anyone can familiarize themselves with the funding process.
- Handling of the Opioid Settlement Fund
- The approval of funding for the Youth Mental Health Gap Analysis Study.

Mr. Lamond noted the work was not just about grants and numbers but supporting the community.

Ms. Ayers Thanked Mr. Lamond for a job well done.

#### **b. Mid-Fairfield's, Latinx Integrated Care (LINC) Program Presentation**

Ms. Estrella gave her presentation on the Latinx Integrated Care Program. She stated they continue to provide mental health services to all students who are residents of Norwalk. She noted if they are new arrivals with a clinical need LINC is the team that can best handle their needs.

Ms. Melanson stated the LINC program has been providing services since 2020. She noted it was formed at the city's request to assist its most vulnerable families with their complex mental health needs. She described the various teams and the services they provide. Ms. Melanson explained the issue of funding, maintaining the necessary staff, and being competitive.

Ms. Melanson made her presentation on the statistics for the LINC program. She showed multiple slides showing:

- Case load and services supplied.
- Scheduled vs. kept sessions
- How the participants benefit from the services.

In response to Mr. Wiggans' question, Ms. Melanson responded there were no out-of-pocket costs to the family.

Ms. Ayers requested Ms. Melanson elaborate on the difference between clinical care coordination and psychiatric services. Ms. Melanson gave a thorough description of the three services provided.

Ms. Smyth inquired how long an individual would stay in the program for a successful outcome. She was also interested if there was a way of tracking the participants to see how they were doing.

Ms. Melanson responded that there was no set length of treatment. There was no response to the question of tracking participants.

In response to Mr. Wiggins' question, Ms. Melanson stated that 153 families were served over the fiscal year.

## **5. ACTION ITEMS**

1. 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, 2024 to June 30, 2025 in the amount of \$200,000 Account# 012010-5298 and \$100,000 Account# 132010-5796-ACS03.

**\*\* MS. SMYTH MOVED TO APPROVE THE ACTION ITEM.**  
**\*\* THE MOTION PASSED WITH FOUR AYES AND TWO NAYS (MS. DUNN, AND MR. WIGGANS?)**

## **6. ADJOURN**

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

**The meeting was adjourned at 7:30 p.m.**

The next regular meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, October 16, 2024

The meeting ended at 7:29 p.m.

Respectfully submitted  
China Mayhew  
Telesco Secretarial Services