

Members of the public can use a telephone to call in, attend, listen and comment during public participation. They will not be able to see any of the meeting participants. All participants are muted upon entering the meeting. To speak, press * 9 on your phone to "raise your hand" electronically, and then * 6 to unmute when called on by the host of the meeting during the public comment section. Each meeting will use a unique Meeting/Webinar ID and may also have a passcode.

Upon written request not less than 24 hours prior to the meeting, a member of the public can request a physical location to attend this virtual meeting at City Hall. Such a member of the public will be provided access to a telephone so that they can attend the meeting in real time. The member of the public can call in, attend, listen and comment during the meeting. However, they will not be able to see any of the meeting participants. Each meeting will use a unique Meeting/Webinar ID and may have a password, which will be provided to the member of the public. The dial-in information can also be found in the upcoming meeting list.

Members of the public who wish to "view the meeting live" and/or provide "live comments" can use the Zoom meeting platform by clicking on the "Zoom" link that is on the line with the meeting date and time. 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 also view the live meeting using the Zoom meeting platform by clicking on the "Zoom" link. Some meetings can also be viewed live on the City of Norwalk YouTube channel by clicking on the "Youtube" link. This stream is delayed by approximately 20 seconds, and not every meeting is streamed live to Youtube.

Members of the public who wish to provide public comment are encouraged to submit those comments to the meeting staff person 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.

**CITY OF NORWALK
COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE
JUNE 15, 2023
VIA TELECONFERENCE**

ATTENDANCE: David Heuvelman, Chair; Bryan Meek; Barbara Smyth;
Nicol Ayers (7:19 p.m.; Diana Revulus (7:23 p.m.)

City of Norwalk
Community Services Committee
June 15, 2023
Via Teleconference
Page 1

STAFF: Lamond Daniels, Chief of Community Services; Deanna D’Amore, Health Department Director; Brian Weeks, Epidemiologist;

OTHERS: David Walenczyk; Marissa Mangone; Clara Mesa; Gail Melanson

1. CALL TO ORDER/ ROLL CALL

Mr. Heuvelman called the meeting to order at 7:10 p.m. and called the Roll as indicated above. They did not have a Quorum.

2. PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no members of the public who wished to comment this evening.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM MEETING HELD ON MAY 18, 2023

Once a Quorum was present the Committee took a vote on the minutes.

**** MS. REVOLUS MOVED TO ACCEPT THE MINUTES AS PRESENTED**
**** MOTION PASSED WITH ONE (1) ABSTENTION (MR. MEEK)**

4. DISCUSSION

a. Updates from the Health Department

Deanna D’Amore, Health Director

Ms. D’Amore updated the Committee members on the initiatives taken to alert residents about the poor air quality.

Brian Weeks, Epidemiologist

Mr. Weeks shared his screen and presented the new air quality monitor hub that will be released very soon. He also gave an update on Covid cases and hospitalizations. He noted that the majority of the country is in the green for hospitalizations. The national forecast is holding low.

Mr. Weeks noted that there was the potential for higher risk for M-Pox this month and urged individuals to get vaccinated.

The mosquito trapping station is set up and there has been no West Nile virus detected at this point.

Ms. Ayers joined the meeting at 7:19 p.m.

Ms. Revolus joined the meeting at 7:23 p.m.

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

A presentation of the program was given by representatives from the Mid-Fairfield Latinx Integrated Care. In addition, they reviewed the impact from the services.

Mr. Heuvelman expressed his thanks and said this was a very important program. Ms. Revolus noted that her family started a program for the Haitian Community and said that Haiti is part of Latin America. She asked what part of the Haitian Community was being addressed in this program.

Mr. Daniels said he understood the need to address all populations. This program was identified by the district and they advocated strongly that they needed to help with the influx of children in the City. He added that on the City side, this was an initiative from the former Superintendent's office.

Mr. Daniels said his office is eager to meet with every group and supports the wellbeing of all the residents.

Ms. Mesa said they have several Haitian Creole speaking Clinicians and a Haitian Creole Care Coordinator.

Mr. Meek thanked Ms. Revolus for bringing up the Haitian Community. He asked if this program gets charged to the Norwalk Public Schools budget. Mr. Daniels said this program is funded by his department and is not reimbursed by the District.

Mr. Meek pointed out the language in the request and noted that it was exclusive to Norwalk Public School children. He asked how they got around not offering it to children in private schools. Ms. Mangone said they have families from private schools that receive services. Mr. Meek said the agenda says it is only for children in public school. Ms. Melanson said this is for this program. She added that individuals from other schools they can receive consultation. Mr. Meek said it seems exclusionary. He said he will take this up with Finance and Legal.

Ms. Smyth thanked Ms. Revolus and Mr. Meek for their questions. She said she was a teacher at Norwalk High School and the Clinician worked around the corner from her office. She said the trauma experienced by the students was heartbreaking.

Ms. Ayers told the representatives that they do good work. She asked if there is an end date and noted the City has been funding this program for five years. She said she was not sure if it was fiscally sound to rely on this funding. Mr. Daniels said he and his team will look at the contract.

Ms. Mangone shared how the City's investment in the program helps them secure private philanthropy. She said they will not be able to sustain their current level of services without the City's investment. Ms. Ayers said it was good business practice to be majorly dependent on one funding source. She asked if they had a plan for when the funding is not going to be there. Ms. Mangone said they are constantly looking at diversifying their portfolio. Ms. Ayers said the City should not be writing blank checks.

Mr. Heuvelman asked what happens if a municipality cuts back on funding. Ms. Mangone said that a lot of philanthropists look for public/private partnerships.

Ms. Smyth said it takes a village to care for children and is gratified that the City has been able to help these children for the last three years. She suggested looking at the contract.

Mr. Meek said he was for the mission, but was going to abstain and ask counsel about the legality of this.

c. Updates from the Chief of Community Services, Lamond Daniels

Mr. Daniels said he will have an update next month.

5. ACTION ITEMS

**** MS. SMYTH MOVED TO 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, 2023 TO JUNE 30, 2024 IN THE AMOUNT OF \$399,996. ACCOUNT #012010-5298.**

Ms. Revolus said she understood the program, but said the Child Guidance Center disproportionately goes after particular groups of people. Ms. Mangone said she would love to talk about that.

**** MOTION PASSED WITH ONE (1) ABSTENTION (MR. MEEK) AND ONE (1) VOTE IN OPPOSITION (MS. AYERS)**

**** MS. AYERS MOVED TO AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR, HARRY W. RILLING, TO EXECUTE ANY AND ALL AGREEMENTS, DOCUMENTS, INSTRUMENTS, OR AMENDMENTS AS MAY BE NECESSARY WITH HUMAN SERVICES COUNCIL, FOR (1) CHILDREN'S CONNECTION \$ 16,310.00 (2) DR. ROBERT E. APPLEBY SCHOOL BASED HEALTH CENTERS \$23,690.00 UNDER THE COMMUNITY SERVICES DEPARTMENT IN THE TOTAL AMOUNT OF \$40,000.00 ACCOUNT # 012010-5A0620.**

Mr. Daniels reviewed the item.

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

**** MS. SMYTH MOVED TO AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR, HARRY W. RILLING, TO EXECUTE ANY AND ALL AGREEMENTS, DOCUMENTS, INSTRUMENTS, OR AMENDMENTS AS MAY BE NECESSARY WITH THE CARVER, INC. FOR ENRICHMENT SUMMER CAMP PROGRAMS FOR PUBLIC SCHOOL CHILDREN UNDER THE COMMUNITY SERVICES DEPARTMENT FOR THE PERIOD JULY 1, 2023 TO JUNE 30, 2024 IN THE AMOUNT OF \$150,000.00 ACCOUNT # 012010-5A0620.**

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

**** MS. AYERS MOVED TO AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR, HARRY W. RILLING, TO ACCEPT AND EXECUTE ANY AND ALL DOCUMENTS, INSTRUMENTS, OR AMENDMENTS AS MAY BE NECESSARY WITH DCF GRANT FUNDS ESTIMATED AT \$35K, TO SUPPORT THE YOUTH SERVICES, JUVENILE REVIEW BOARD PROGRAM. NO MATCH IS REQUIRED. THE GRANT IS NON-COMPETITIVE.**

Mr. Walenczyk presented the program. He explained that this is a new program and is getting favorable responses from the parents of the children referred to the program as well as the students participating in the program.

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

6. ADJOURN

**** MS. REVOLUS MOVED TO ADJOURN**

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

There was no further business, and the meeting was unanimously adjourned at 8:52 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rosemarie Lombardi
Telesco Secretarial Services

The next regular meeting is scheduled for July 20, 2023