

**CITY OF NORWALK
COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 17, 2024
VIA TELECONFERENCE**

ATTENDANCE: Nicol Ayers; Chair, Doug Sutton, Dajuan Wiggins, Mellisa Murray

STAFF: Lamond Daniels, Johan Lopez, Theresa Argondezzi

OTHER: Carol Carrozelli; School Readiness Liaison, Anna, Vivian Estrella,
Michele Conderino

CALL TO ORDER

Ms. Ayers called the meeting was called to order at 7:12

ROLL CALL

The meeting participants were as stated above.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

1. Approval of minutes from meeting held on February 21, 2024

**** MR. SUTTON MOVED TO ACCEPT THE MINUTES.
** THE MINUTES PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

DISCUSSION

- a. Updates from the Health Department
 - Theresa Argondezzi, Assistant Director of Health, Community Health

Ms. Argondezzi noted that the Health Department would be attending three event this spring. She stated she hoped to see members of the public at these events.

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- Earth Day; April 27, 2024 which will take place on the Norwalk town green.
- Norwalk for Mental Health; May 4, 2024. T is a mental wellbeing walk and wellness fair.
- An open Streets event at Calf Pasture Beach Road; May 4, 2004. It will include a Bike Rodeo, and activities designed to teach bicycle and walking safety around Norwalk while encouraging transportation that doesn't require a car.
- Brian Weeks, Program Director of Epidemiology and Informatics

Mr. Weeks was not present.

- a. Updates from the Chief of Community Services, Lamond Daniels
 - Mr. Lamond thanked the committee for all their work during the budget process. He highlighted the work done by the Community Resource Hub that helps residents navigate the variety of resources offered to them in Norwalk. He requested that council members pay a visit and see what they do.

ACTION ITEMS

Community Services

- a. Authorize the Mayor, Harry W. Rilling, to execute any and all agreements, documents, instruments, or amendments necessary to apply for and accept the School Readiness Grant which includes the Quality Enhancement Grant for the period July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2025

Ms. Carrozelli introduced herself and said she worked with the Community Childhood Program. She stated the program receives School Readiness State funding. She described the program and who benefits. Ms. Carrozelli Described the particulars of the grant. She asked that Mayor Rilling execute any and all documents necessary to apply for and, execute the School Readiness Enhancement Grant.

Mr. Wiggins requested the backup information about the grant. Ms. Carrozelli described the School Readiness program in greater detail. Ms. Ayers stated they were authorizing the mayor to sign for them so they could apply for the grant.

Mr. Wiggins had questions about what the motion was actually for. Ms. Estrella stated the motion explained the role of all the parties involved and what the motion is designed to achieve.

**** MS. AYERS MOVED TO ACCEPT THE MOTION.
** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

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- b. Authorize the Mayor, Harry W. Rilling, to execute any and all agreements, documents, instruments, or amendments to reappoint Family Children's Agency, Inc. as the Municipal Agent for the Elderly for the period July 1, 2024 – June 30, 2025. FY 25 \$163,000 Account # 012010-5298

Ms. Estrella described the services and who qualified for them.

Ms. Murray was interested to know who was involved in helping elderly citizens access shelter and housing. Ms. Estrella explained who was involved and how the various operations are run. Mr. Lamond noted the difference between a city service and a community non-profit. He explained the roles the various parties have. He pointed out that it was a state mandate to identify a municipal agent for the elderly. He noted that FCA was that agent.

Mr. Wiggins wanted to know exactly how the funding would be used. Mr. Lamond explained that the non-profit FCA outlined their dual role. He explained they were selected to be the city's vendor based on their available services. Ms. Estria added the FCA has been expanding its senior services. She described the process as an entry point seniors would go through for assistance.

Mr. Wiggans wanted to know if FCA was partnered with other agencies. Ms. Estralla answered in the affirmative. Mr. Wiggins had further questions on the funds. Mr. Lamond described how the funds would be used. Mr. Sutton asked if he should recuse himself due to his age. Ms. Ayers explained no.

**** MS. AYERS MOVED THE MOTION FORWARD.
** 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 The Open Door Shelter (dba Open Doors) located at 4 Merritt Street Norwalk, CT 06854 in the amount of \$92,000.00 to provide shelter services for persons experiencing homelessness for Norwalk residents. Beginning June 1, 2024 to May 30, 2025. Account#012010-5A0620.

Ms. Ayers stated this was a necessity to secure beds for Norwalk residents. Mr. Lamond explained the long-standing commitment to support homeless individuals in the Norwalk Community. He stated he proposed to continue by authorizing the mayor to execute the agreement. He discussed the system Norwalk residents have to go through. He said they were working diligently to keep Norwalk residents in Norwalk.

Ms. Conderino explained they were the only Shelter in the city of Norwalk. She stated they serve both individuals and families. She discussed their various funding streams.

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Ms. Ayers wanted to know how many Norwalk residents use the shelter in an average month. Ms. Conderino responded with ten to fifteen individual beds. She declined to provide a number for family beds.

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

Health Department

- a. Authorize the Mayor, Harry W. Rilling, to execute any and all agreements, documents, instruments, or amendments with Fairfield University as may be necessary to allow for students in the University's graduate and undergraduate programs to be placed at the Norwalk Health Department for internships and student learning opportunities.

Ms. Argondezzi described their work with academic partners for opportunities in experiential learning. She explained some programs required a written agreement. She said they were asking for authorization to renew an agreement that has been in effect since last year.

Ms. Murray wanted to know if the language in the contract was broad enough to expand into other areas. Ms. Argondezzi stated the template used for the contract was from Fairfield University. She stated that they could ask Fairfield University if they could broaden the language. She also noted that the wording and how the contracts were written was different for everyone they worked with. Ms. Murray asked about compensation. It was indicated that depended on the position.

Mr. Wiggins wished to know if there was a budget. Ms. Argondezzi explained it was an affiliation agreement to have an off-site experience. Ms. Ayers explained how internships run at the college level.

**** 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, or amendments with American Heart Association as may be necessary to allow for the Norwalk Health Department to help distribute automatic blood pressure cuffs and educational materials at partner organizations and locations throughout the community.

Ms. Argondezzi stated because of their chronic disease and prevention programs the AHA had approached the Health Department about providing communities with blood pressure cuffs. She said the AHA felt it was important that the cuffs be placed strategically around the community

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with good community partners. Ms. Argondezzi pointed out there would be no funding exchange.

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

c. Authorize the Mayor, Harry W. Rilling, to enter into a contract with Daydream Communications in an amount not to exceed \$35,000 (from grant account number 3520-87-5298) for the development and implementation of a regional public health communications campaign.

Ms. Argondezzi described the process they were going through to organize with surrounding towns to create coordinated media and communication about vaccines and vaccine awareness. She stated the goal was to create a unified, evidence-based, multi-media message that is customizable for the participating communities.

Ms Murray asked if it was vaccination messaging. She also asked if there would be more down the line. Ms. Murray asked if there was money to make it multi-lingual/cultural. Ms. Argondezzi answered in the affirmative. She stated there would be social media, earned media, and display components.

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

ADJOURN

The meeting was adjourned at 8:17 p.m.

The next regular meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, May 15, 2024

Respectfully submitted
China Mayhew
Telesco Secretarial Services

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