

Community Services Committee

Meeting Agenda

Wednesday, January 19, 2022 at 7:00 p.m.

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 December 15, 2021
4. Discussion
 - a. Chief of Community Services Updates - Lamond Daniels
 - b. Updates from the Health Department
 - Public Health Department Accreditation - Deanna D'Amore, Health Director
 - COVID and the omicron variant - Deanna D'Amore, Health Director and Brian Weeks, Epidemiologist
5. Adjourn

The next regular meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, February 16, 2022

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

**CITY OF NORWALK
COMMUNITY SERVICES & PERSONNEL COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING
DECEMBER 15, 2021**

ATTENDANCE: Dominique Johnson, Chair, Barbara Smyth; Greg Burnett, Thomas Keegan, Diana Revolus, Nicol Ayers, Heidi Alterman (7:15 p.m.)

STAFF: Lamond Daniels, Chief of Community Services

OTHERS: Diane Lauricella

CALL TO ORDER/ ROLL CALL

The Chair called the meeting to order at 7:10 p.m. A quorum was present.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Ms. Lauricella congratulated all members in their newly appointed positions. She gave a short overview of her background and her concern about Norwalk's stand on COVID standards. She asked that the Committee consider reinstating the "mask" and distancing program. She also asked for creative signage for the population in Norwalk to be made more aware of the need to be cautious. She asked that a mandate to ensure that Norwalk re-institutes COVID mandates for the protection of all Norwalk's citizens. She stated she is always available to speak with the Chairperson off-line as to how we could positively assist in having citizens to be COVID courtesy ambassadors to volunteer to gently speak to persons entering places. She also suggested creative signing for vaccine locations for getting out boosters and initial vaccines. She did say she did not want this to be a political decision. She stated that signage should not be an item created by government, but by the businesses. She suggested that Norwalk be a leader in putting the mandate in place. She does not agree with the Governor in light of the fact that Norwalk is so close to New York City.

The Chair thanked Ms. Lauricella for her comments.

The Chair recognized that Ms. Heide Alterman entered the meeting at 7:15 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM MEETING HELD ON SEPTEMBER 15, 2021

The Chair proceeded to state that she would move on to the minutes of the September 15, 2021, meeting. She also stated for the record that new Council members would abstain from this activity.

**** MS. REVOLUS MOVED THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON SEPTEMBER 15, 2021.**

The following corrections to the minutes were made:

- Page 1 – second letter “i” is missing from Chair Johnson’s first name
- Page 3 – Paragraph 1 line 2, should read “employer and”
- Page 4 – Paragraph 3 line 1, should read “a meeting”
- Page 4 – Paragraph 4 line 2, Lt. Dino should have an “h” and read Lt.Dinho
- Page 4 – Paragraph 5 line 1, b. Presentation “of” Family...
- Page 4 – Paragraph 6 line 1, should read “overview of”

****MS. REVOLUS MOVED TO ACCEPT THE MINUTES AS AMENDED.**

****MOTION WAS PASSED WITH FIVE IN FAVOR; TWO ABSTENTIONS (NICOL AYERS, HEIDI ALTERMAN).**

Mr. Keegan excused himself from the meeting at 7:21 p.m.

APPROVE COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING DATES FOR 2022

Chair Johnson inquired whether there were any questions or changes to the meeting dates in this item. There were none.

****MS. SMYTH MOVED TO APPROVE COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING DATES FOR 2022 AS PRESENTED.**

****MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

DISCUSSION

Chair Johnson suggested removal of Item d. After asking whether there were any objections and there being none, she moved on to Item A on the discussion agenda. Chair Johnson turned the meeting over to Mr. Daniels, Chief of Community Services.

a. An overview of the Department structure and current projects

Mr. Lamond Daniels re-introduced himself and his department's activities. He proceeded to share his virtual screen for all participants for the balance of the presentation which included several slides.

His first slide showed three models on how the services are delivered. He discussed each step in detail. He informed the Committee that the actions are tied into State and Government requirements.

He also commented that he would like to meet with the Chair to give an overview outside of this meeting of all the activities that are non-profit for Norwalk.

His next screen spelled out the Vision for the department. The reorganization has given Mr. Daniels time to study the community services in place and others to be added.

The next slide gave an overview of the Community Services Organization. He proceeded to identify current employee positions and their reporting structure under his direction. He stated that the total slide presentation will be sent to the Chairperson. He spoke to what activities are facilitated through grants within each area.

He also indicated that there are open positions as some individuals have retired from the department after reorganization.

The next slide was Department Engagement & Community Involvement. He stated what is provided through the services for Norwalk's citizens. He commented that the reorganization gives the opportunity to see what is in place, what needs to be added and encourage new projects.

The Adhoc items on this slide were described as to how they interact with the primary organizational activities

A Youth Services Division slide was next discussed and detailed by Mr. Daniels as to how Norwalk can provide services listed.

Mr. Burnett questioned what the Youth Services department will provide.

Mr. Daniels stated they are an advisory panel to give information to his department to assist youths and get information that they can provide.

The next slide showed five Programs: Restorative Justice, Information And Referral, Community Education, Advocacy & Leadership and Parks as Partners.

The Family Navigator Program was next discussed which was instrumental in obtaining internet during COVID. This program helps families know where to go to for a service that can assist the families by calling (203) 854-7999) to get help. The program follows the family up to 90 days to see that they are having the needs taken care of for them.

Norwalk Community Services Resource Hub was the next slide reviewed. It will assist citizens by appointment or “walk-in” to obtain help for themselves.

Ms. Ayers asked if this program is in process now or new.

Mr. Daniels stated that it is not a full launch as he needs a person on staff to run this area.

Services not directly offered in Norwalk was itemized to show that what is not offered in Norwalk, but citizens must travel to nearby cities. Mr. Daniels has approached the organizations and asked if they will serve persons in Norwalk. This will help citizens not to have to travel. He stated this is an ongoing process and working with the services will promote knowledge about the services. Norwalk has the space to hold sessions in this town. This may cause service entities to revisit having their own space in the city once they see the outcome.

b. ARPA funding update for Non-profit Community

ARPA Non-Profit Funding Opportunities slide presented by Mr. Daniels showed seven areas leading to the Norwalk Community Recovery Fund Grant (\$2M) program which is being built. The Committee will lead the charge of making investments that will help citizens. This will help small businesses who have lost business profit and growth because of COVID. The 70 page document has details to determine if one is eligible. The business has to be 3 years older or more, not a start-up.

c. Available support for this holiday season (food, shelter, heat, warm line, etc.

There is a number, 203 854 7999 which will be a people maned number, not a machine. It will not replace “211” but one can be redirected to call that number if the information you need is not available to a person who calls the new number.

ACTION and ALLIANCE are available to help homeowners obtain services. He encouraged those who were denied previously as not eligible, to reapply to receive assistance.

Norwalk COVID Vaccine Clinic is designed to help citizens to obtain vaccines. There are locations throughout the city. They close if supply runs out. The areas are open from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. while supplies are available.

Norwalk Community Provider's Bi-Weekly Call is held twice monthly on Fridays.

Mr. Daniels invited all members to meet with him.

The Chair thanked Mr. Daniels on behalf of the Committee for his presentation.

ADJOURNMENT

**** MS. REVOLUS MOVED TO ADJOURN.
** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting adjourned at 8:23 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Alvina L Richardson Decker
Telesco Secretarial Services