

Per our bylaws, this notice provides Norwalk ACTS members with the proposed slate of board members for 2023-24. Please click on the link to read the list of proposed directors. All members in attendance who have signed the membership MOA are eligible to vote on the slate at the annual meeting scheduled for June 13, 2023, 8:30am at Stepping Stone Museum for Children.

2023-2024 Proposed Norwalk ACTS Board of Directors

Charlie Allred, Community Member

***Orlando Aquino**, Americares Free Clinic

Adam Bovilsky, Norwalk Housing Authority

Rob Cashel, Family & Children's Agency

Michael Chambers, Per and Astrid Heidenreich Family Foundation

Julie Corbett, Corbett Education Consulting

Cathy DeCesare, Early Childhood Council, Norwalk Resident

Adyna Gamboa, Nuvance Health

Sarah Rendon Garcia, Researcher, Norwalk resident, parent

Brian Griffin, Greater Norwalk Chamber of Commerce

Betsy McNeil, Child Advocates of Southwest CT

Kate Ritter, Ritter Family Foundation

Erv Shames, Shames Family Foundation

Diamond Sead, Human Services Council, Norwalk resident, parent

Nancy Von Euler, Horizons (NCCS)

Kenneth Waller, Norwalk Community Health Center

***Dajuan Wiggins**, Youth Business Initiative

**Proposed 2023 board class*

Ex-Officio

Jennifer Barahona Norwalk ACTS

Dr. Alex Estrella Norwalk Public Schools

Hon. Harry Rilling City of Norwalk

New Member Bios

Orlando Aquino

Orlando Aquino is a Puertorriqueño native of Stamford, CT. He graduated from Columbia College, MO, with a B.A. in Criminal Justice. He served in the U.S. Army for 22 years holding positions in patient administration, human resources, and recruiting. During the last 12 years in the Army, he focused on basic recruiting and recruiting operations. After the end of his military career, he turned his attention to giving back to communities, working in several non-profit organizations in Fairfield County, including the Urban League of Southern Connecticut, The WorkPlace, Inc., and Norwalk Community Health Center.

His work has included supporting veterans to find employment, case coordination and management to individuals with multiple barriers to education and employment, workforce development, patient advocacy, community engagement, provision of health education and wellness programming, addressing the social determinants of health with patient populations, and providing support to underserved and uninsured populations.

During his time in Norwalk, Orlando actively contributed to several community planning committees and maintained close professional relationships with local human service organizations. Orlando is the Wellness Center Coordinator for AmeriCares and lives in Danbury with his wife and two sons. His passion is to give back to the less fortunate by promoting equity and justice.

Dajuan Wiggins

Dajuan Wiggins is a driven and accomplished business owner, community mobilizer, and youth advocate passionate about empowering young people. He holds a degree in Human Services and has dedicated his career to creating opportunities for inner-city youth to succeed in the modern workforce.

Raised in Norwalk, CT, Dajuan has always been deeply invested in his community. He has spent years working as a neighborhood and community mobilizer, advocating for social justice, and promoting youth development programs. Dajuan firmly believes that young people can achieve great things and need support and guidance to reach their full potential.

At the Youth Business Initiative (YBI), which he founded, Dajuan has built a team of business owners, managing members, and entrepreneurs to provide young people with the knowledge, skills, and abilities they need to succeed in today's competitive job market. He has designed a program focusing on workforce readiness and business development, equipping youth with the entrepreneurial tools they need to build successful careers.

In addition to his work with YBI, Dajuan has also served as a Board Member at Serving All Vessels Equally (S.A.V.E) and was a former Community Organizer for Katal in Hartford, CT. He has dedicated his career to advocating for marginalized communities and has worked tirelessly to address issues like mass incarceration and harm reduction.

Outside of work, Dajuan is a proud father who enjoys spending time with his children, watching sports, and mentoring aspiring entrepreneurs. He is also the founder of Wiggins Family LLC, a business venture that is a testament to his entrepreneurial spirit and commitment to community development.