

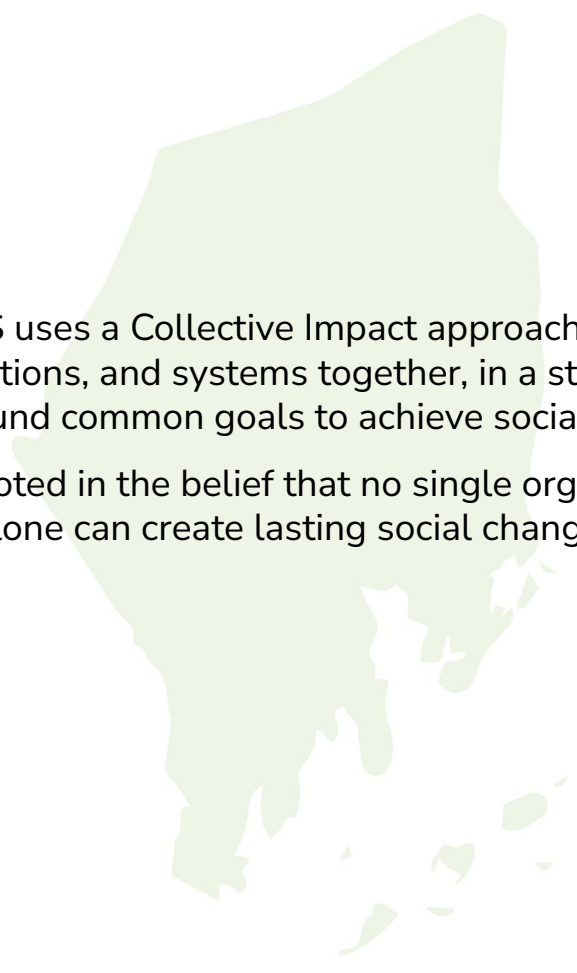
# Norwalk ACTS



June Quarterly Convening

# Agenda

Welcome & Agenda Overview	9:00
Community Engagement Highlights	9:05
Awards Ubuntu Award Sally Grose Award	9:15
Community Engagement Panel	9:30
Proposed Board Slate & Election (Break)	10:25
Community Engagement Discussion	10:30
Wrap Up & Announcements	10:55



Norwalk ACTS uses a Collective Impact approach that brings people, organizations, and systems together, in a structured way, around common goals to achieve social change.

It is rooted in the belief that no single organization or entity alone can create lasting social change on its own.

# Cornerstones Overview

Cornerstones are the key ‘ingredients’ embedded into all of our work along the cradle to career continuum. They are essential elements to moving the needle on community-level changes.

## Data



Data informs decision making and ensures accountability for the community.

## Policy & Advocacy



Radical and social inequalities are called out and addresses within our community.

## Social Justice & Racial Equality



Community is empowered and equipped to advocate for equitable policies.

## Community Engagement



Lived experience of community drives decision making.



# Initiatives Overview

Initiatives consist of groups of community members and cross-sector partners focused on improving select community-level outcomes using action plans and continuous improvement strategies.

## Early Childhood Development



Children are developmentally ready from birth to kindergarten.

## Social Emotional Health



Young people are engaged in supportive relationships and cultivate the social-emotional skills needed to shape their own lives.

## College & Workforce Readiness



Residents and young people are prepared for post-secondary education and/or liveable wage employment and have those opportunities accessible to them.



# Community Engagement





## Community Engagement Definitions

**COMMUNITY:** Residents (children, young adults, adults and seniors) who live in Norwalk and the people and organizations who work to help make Norwalk a better place.

**COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT:** Consistent and persistent engagement with an entire community for the purpose of establishing a foundation of partnership, trust, and empowerment.

## Building Community

Since 2021 multilingual Early Childhood Community Advocates (EC CAs) have worked side-by-side with the FCA Ages and Stages Questionnaire (ASQ) Community Manager, FCA Community Liaison and Norwalk ACTS ECD Manager





The Early Childhood Community Advocate (CA) team creates supportive relationships with Norwalk parents/caregivers. They provide early childhood development resources and support at many community events and by partnering with:

- Community Service Providers – Filling In the Blanks
- Family Child Care Educational Programs – All Our Kin
- Preschools
- NPS Family Center – Kindergarten Registration



- Norwalk Community Health Center – Pediatric Waiting Room and Prenatal Support Groups
- Norwalk Hospital - Prenatal Support Groups
- South Norwalk Elementary School – Parent Cafes
- South Norwalk Public Library – Playgroups



## Impact of Early Childhood Development Initiative Work

- 5 percentage point increase in the number of children on track or above in ASQ-3 scores since 2021
- 3,000+ families reached through community outreach events
- 20% increase in ASQ screenings in 2024 – 50% of all screenings (out of 2,868 total) conducted by EC CAs
- Norwalk Community Health Center – Out of the 1,223 ASQ screenings completed, 318 had either a borderline result or needed referral (Oct '23 – April '25) and were further assessed by NCHC pediatric providers through a developmental focused visit. Out of the 318 children, 192 patients were referred for a specialist appointment.

## Norwalk ACTS Youth Advocates

- 11 students- NHS, P-TECH, BMHS, AITE
- Objectives: Space to learn about collective impact, engage and explore
  - Norwalk 101
  - Civic Engagement
  - Youth Engagement-Community Events/Teen Led Events
  - SEH skills, learn about advocacy efforts happening in the community



[Youth Advocate Video](#)



**DIVERSE**

**COMMITTED**

**COMMUNITY  
DRIVEN**

**INVOLVED**

**Norwalk for Mental Health  
Walk & Wellness Expo**

**PASSIONATE**

**UNIQUE**

**LEADERS**

**Norwalk ACTS**



## NorWALK for Mental Health



## Ubuntu Award - I am, because you are

**Ubuntu** exists when people unite for a common good; that if we join together we can overcome our differences and our problems. Whoever we are, wherever we live, whatever our culture, Ubuntu can help us coexist in harmony and peace.

# 2025 Ubuntu Award

Presented by AnaVivian Escalante & MJ Chironna



**Karina Mendez & Jennifer Murray-Mayhew**

Norwalk ACTS Early Childhood Community Advocates



# Sally Grose



The Sally Grose Award was first given to Sally in 2017 and renamed the following year in her honor after her death.

Sally was an integral part of the formation of Norwalk ACTS and is credited for bringing to Norwalk's attention the work of StriveTogether and collective impact.

She was a lifelong educator who moved to Norwalk in 1983.

# 2025 Sally Grose Award

Presented by Nancy von Euler & Jesse Buccolo



**Mayor Harry Rilling**

City of Norwalk

## Panel Discussion

**Sandra Faioes**, Norwalk Public Schools  
Deputy Superintendent

**Julienne Foy**, Odyssey Family Executive Center  
Executive Director

**Dr. Julia Moore**, YLTrapped Sisterhood  
Chief Executive Officer

**Aislinn Seiler**, P-TECH Senior Student  
Superintendent's Student Leadership Council  
Norwalk ACTS Youth Advocate

**Eve St. Surin**, Norwalk ACTS  
Early Childhood Community Advocate

# Proposed Board Slate



**Fred Dimyan**  
Potoo Solutions



**Mary-Kate Locke**  
Family & Children's Agency



**Eileen McNamara**  
NCC Foundation  
Norwalk Resident



**Nehemie Moïse**  
North Star Impact Coaching



# Please Vote for Proposed Board Members



WIFI: SSMC-Guest Password: 12345678

A photograph of two young children with light brown hair, wearing bright green t-shirts, sitting on a grassy area outdoors. The child in the foreground is in profile, looking towards the left. The child in the background is slightly out of focus, also looking left. A large green diagonal overlay covers the right side of the image. The text 'Norwalk ACTS' is centered over the image, with 'Norwalk' in a white box and 'ACTS' in a white box, separated by a diagonal line.

**Norwalk** / **ACTS**

Community Engagement  
Breakout Session



- Reflect on your role in the Norwalk community. Where do you see yourself or organization on the community engagement spectrum—and what might it look like to take one step further toward shared decision-making and leadership?
- What does meaningful community engagement look and feel like to you?
- How do you build community engagement into what you do—whether in your work or as a community member?
- How does listening to and working with the community shape your decisions or actions?

# New Board Election Results

**Fred Dimyan**

Potoo Solutions

**Mary-Kate Locke**

Family & Children's Agency

**Eileen McNamara**

Norwalk Community College Foundation & Norwalk Resident

**Nehemie Moise**

North Star Impact Coaching

## Congratulations and Welcome!



# Recognition of Outgoing Board Members

Michael Chambers

Adyna Gamboa

Kate Ritter\*

Nancy von Euler\*

\*Will remain as ex-officio board members



# 2025-2026 Executive Committee

**Charlie Allred, Chair**

Community Member

**Kenneth Waller, Vice Chair**

Norwalk Community Health Center

**Sarah Rendon Garcia, Vice Chair**

Researcher/Norwalk Resident/Parent

**Chrissy Mahanna, Secretary**

Compass Coaching & Consulting

**David Heuvelman, Treasurer**

Researcher & Norwalk Resident

# Wrap Up & Announcements

# Upcoming Events




**Norwalk** ACTS

Social Emotional Health

## DAY OF TRAINING

Social Emotional Health Workshops for the Norwalk Community









sponsored by




**JUNE 17, 2025**

**Jefferson Elementary School**  
75 Van Buren Avenue  
Norwalk, CT

Workshops presented by



Youth-Serving Adults,  
Parents & Community  
Partners



Registration opens May 20th  
<https://bit.ly/DOTJuneRegister>

Any questions?  
Contact [amoreno@norwalkacts.org](mailto:amoreno@norwalkacts.org)



Join us to grow our  
Community-Wide Social  
Emotional Health Model  
for Norwalk Youth

### Standard of Care Model

#### Vision

To grow and sustain a community-wide social-emotional health model that actively engages all initiative stakeholders to deepen their knowledge, understanding, and commitment to the social emotional health of all youth in the Norwalk community.

#### Goal

To increase quality relationships for disconnected youth and healthy bonds with trusted adults within the community through social-emotional health competencies.



Sign the pledge

<https://bit.ly/SEHStandardofCare>



# Join Norwalk ACTS!

We have redesigned our [Memorandum of Agreement \(MOA\)](#)

Join Norwalk ACTS and commit to the collective action work!

## New to Norwalk ACTS?

The best way to get involved is to become a member!

## Working for an organization?

Encourage your CEO or Executive Director to sign the MOA on behalf of your organization and designate staff members to the Norwalk ACTS areas of work that align with your organization.

## Community member and/or interact with Norwalk ACTS on an individual basis?

Sign the MOA and become a member.



### Memorandum of Agreement

**Purpose**  
This Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) is a shared intention of the Norwalk ACTS membership to integrate their actions and commit to our collective mission and vision. Public institutions, community organizations, and individuals who want to tackle broader systemic issues can maximize their impact and transform systems through commitment to collaboration. Learn more about the key terms listed in this MOA in our [Glossary of Terms](#).

**Our Mission**  
To collectively transform systems by ensuring resources, policies, practices, and power structures actively dismantle racism and drive equitable outcomes for every Norwalk child and young person.

**Norwalk ACTS Ecosystem**  
Cornerstones (as outlined in the four corners of the graphic below) are the key 'ingredients' embedded into all our work along the cradle to career continuum. They are essential elements for moving the needle on community-level changes. As a partnership, Norwalk ACTS advances these cornerstones in the following cradle-to-career initiatives: Early Childhood Development, Social Emotional Health, and College & Workforce Readiness.

**Our Vision**  
Norwalk is a connected and equitable community where every child and young person thrives academically, physically, and social-emotionally from cradle to career.



**Diagram Description:** A circular diagram with four cornerstones at the corners, each with an icon and text. Arrows point from each cornerstone towards the center, which features a family silhouette and the text 'Cradle-to-Career'. The cornerstones are: 1. Data (Icon: Database) - Data informs decision making and ensures accountability to the community. 2. Policy & Advocacy (Icon: Gavel) - Community is empowered and equipped to advocate for equitable policies. 3. Social Justice & Racial Equity (Icon: Scales) - Racism & social inequities are called out and addressed within our community. 4. Community Engagement (Icon: Group of people) - Engagement lived experiences of community drive decisions.

**Your Involvement**  
Involvement, commitment, and action as a Norwalk ACTS member is different for every individual and organization. See these commitments on the next page.

Visit our [website](#), where we will continue to update how these commitments look in action.

See our [Norwalk ACTS Overview video](#) which highlights our cornerstones through the Early Childhood Development Initiative.




Norwalk ACTS		Committing to Collective Action
<b>Commitments</b>	<p>is the community hub where cross- and community members are brought together in an organized way to develop shared goals and related identify resource needs, advocate for policies, and engage the community.</p> <p>ires a deep understanding of systems- v to co-develop solutions that are driven by the lived experience of those y by the challenges we seek to address.</p> <p>of Norwalk ACTS, I and/or my ommit(s) to:</p>	
<b>Backbone Staff Commitments</b>	<p>As the backbone organization for our collective impact partnership, we are the connective tissue of the community, doing research, analyzing data, communicating findings, convening cross-sector partners, engaging community members and key partners, advocating for resources, and keeping alignment towards our mission and vision.</p> <p>We commit to the following:</p>	
<b>Collective Impact</b>	<p>in the established <b>principles</b> and of Collective Impact and the their <b>framework</b></p> <p>he power of collective impact and foster ty of learning and transformation by outreach activities, attending Norwalk ts, and actively contributing to working groups when possible</p>	
<b>Data</b>	<p>are (when appropriate) quantitative tive data to inform decision-making on t basis</p> <p>Collect, analyze, and provide members with cradle-to-career data, resources, and information in order to facilitate data-informed decision-making</p>	
<b>Racial Equity</b>	<p>ly learn about power and privilege; personal biases and systems of wherever they exist</p> <p>Center equity in Norwalk by shifting power structures and advancing anti-racist policies, practices, and behaviors to empower those within the Norwalk community</p>	
<b>Policy &amp; Advocacy</b>	<p>active and advocate for equitable policies and practices across the cradle-to-career continuum</p> <p>Empower and equip members to be civically active, and to advocate for equitable policies across the cradle-to-career continuum</p>	
<b>Community Engagement</b>	<p>Include, amplify, and harness diverse voices with an emphasis on marginalized communities</p> <p>Amplify the lived experience and expertise of community members through consistent and persistent engagement that shifts power to those most impacted by systems we seek to change</p>	







## The Norwalk ACTS Podcast

Norwalk ACTS

Norwalk Talks



**Episode #1**  
Celebrating Social Work Month with  
Anamilena Moreno Lonergan, LMSW



Norwalk ACTS

Norwalk Talks



**Episode #2**  
A Candid Conversation with our  
outgoing Data Director, Paula Palermo



# Thank You for Coming



Please leave your feedback!