

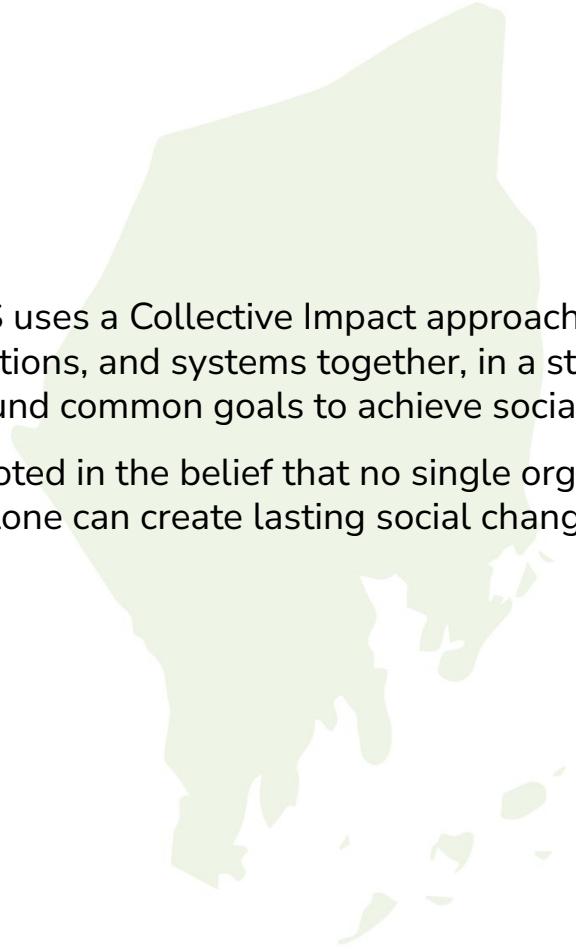
Norwalk ACTS



June Quarterly Convening

Agenda

Welcome & Agenda Overview	9:00
Community Engagement Highlights	9:05
Awards	9:15
Ubuntu Award	
Sally Grose Award	
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

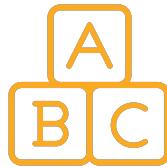


Lived experience of community drives decision making.

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](#)



Working Together To Bridge The Gap





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



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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

Northwell Health | **Nuvance Health** | **M&T Bank**

JUNE 17, 2025

Jefferson Elementary School

75 Van Buren Avenue
Norwalk, CT

Workshops presented by

NORWALK PUBLIC SCHOOLS **positive directions** **Triangle Community Center** **Public Health Department** **SILVER HILL HOSPITAL**

Mid-Fairfield Community Care Center
A Clifford Beers Community Health Partner

Family & Children's Agency **building one community.**
The Center for Immigrant Opportunity

Any questions?
Contact amoreno@norwalkacts.org

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



Social Emotional Health

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>

Norwalk ACTS

Working together,
everything is achievable



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.

Norwalk ACTS

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 are公正地 dismantle racism and drive equitable outcomes for every Norwalk child and young person.

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.

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.

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
Our Mission	Backbone Staff Commitments	As the backbone organization for our collective impact partnership, we are the connective tissue of the Norwalk ACTS ecosystem. We facilitate, communicate findings, convening cross-sector partners, engaging community members and key partners, advocating for resources, and keeping alignment towards our mission and vision.
Our Vision	Commitments	We commit to the following:
Norwalk ACTS Ecosystem	Policy & Advocacy	is the community hub where cross-sector and community members are convened, engaged, and involved to develop shared goals and related identify resource needs, advocate for policies, and engage the community.
Cornerstones	Policy & Advocacy	ires a deep understanding of systems- to-co-develop solutions that are driven by the lived experience of those by the challenges we seek to address.
Community Engagement	Community Engagement	of Norwalk ACTS, I and/or my commit(s) to:
Policy & Advocacy	Collective Impact	part in the established principles and of Collective Impact and the other framework
Social Justice & Racial Equity	Collective Impact	the power of collective impact and foster of learning and transformation by outreach activities, attending Norwalk and actively contributing to working groups when possible
Community Engagement	Data	are (when appropriate) quantitative ive data to inform decision-making on basis
Policy & Advocacy	Social Justice & Racial Equity	power of collective impact and foster of learning and transformation by outreach activities, attending Norwalk and actively contributing to working groups when possible
Social Justice & Racial Equity	Community Engagement	are (when appropriate) quantitative ive data to inform decision-making on basis
Community Engagement	Community Engagement	active and advocate for equitable processes and practices across the cradle-to-career continuum
Policy & Advocacy	Community Engagement	Community Engagement
Social Justice & Racial Equity	Community Engagement	• 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



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!