



Media Contact:
Brandalyn Fulton Williams
Manager of Communications
bfwilliams@norwalkacts.org
917-651-6232

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Norwalk ACTS Board of Directors Appoints Interim CEO

Norwalk, CT – December 18, 2024 - The Norwalk ACTS Board of Directors [announced](#) the appointment of Jesse Buccolo as Interim CEO of Norwalk ACTS, effective January 2, 2025. This decision follows the announced [departure](#) of Jennifer Barahona as she was recently appointed the Connecticut Deputy Secretary of the State.

Jesse currently serves as Deputy Director. The Board is confident that he will provide the necessary leadership for this organization and transitional moment as he has contributed significantly to the growth of Norwalk ACTS. "I am honored to step into the role of Interim CEO and build upon the strong foundation that Jennifer Barahona and our team have established. Having played a pivotal role in shaping Norwalk ACTS' direction since 2020, this work is deeply personal to me as both a leader and a lifelong member of the Norwalk community. During this important transition, I am committed to ensuring that Norwalk ACTS continues to make progress while maintaining continuity in our work," says Jesse Buccolo.

"While we are sad to see Jennifer leave, we are extraordinarily grateful for her contributions to our mission and for the strong and capable team she has built. The Board has complete confidence that the backbone team [under Jesse's leadership] will carry the work forward seamlessly and we are committed to supporting their success, said board chair, Nancy von Euler.

The Board will appoint a search committee to assist with the search for the next CEO. Kate Ritter Repen is the Executive Director of the Ritter Family Foundation and a Norwalk ACTS Board Member. She will lead the search committee with a plan to engage with a search firm for next steps. Board Chair, Nancy von Euler has expressed, "It is our goal to structure an inclusive process that allows a diverse group of Norwalk ACTS stakeholders to provide input to help inform the selection of our next leader."

The Norwalk ACTS Board of Directors remains dedicated to support the Backbone Staff and community partners who play a critical role in collective impact work in Norwalk.

About Norwalk ACTS

Norwalk ACTS is a collaborative collective impact organization dedicated to improving the lives of Norwalk children and families. By working together with schools, businesses, nonprofits, and government agencies, Norwalk ACTS strives to ensure that every child is ready for success in life. For more information, visit www.norwalkacts.org.

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