

Basic Detail Report

Title Interview with Kate Milde

Date 2022 August 15

Medium born digital audio file

Description (a) Interview with Kate Milde. Interviewed by Peter Moran on August

15, 2022 at Norwich Recreation Department, 75 Mohegan Road, Norwich. (b-c)

Two photographs of Kate Milde taken at her interview. She was interviewed as

part of the Connecticut Historical Society's Community History Project

discussing her experience during the COVID-19 Pandemic. At the time of the

interview Kate Milde was a program coordinator for Norwich Youth and Family

Services. She was also the President of the local 2422 union. The first disruption

to Kate's life from COVID was when she had to cancel vacation plans. She also

recalled not being worried about COVID initially because it was happening

elsewhere in the world. Kate discussed how her work as a social worker changed

because of COVID. The demand for public assistance from her office grew

exponentially during the pandemic and did not recede. Her office worked with

families to help them get internet and laptops so that children could attend

school. She discussed the programs and services that her office was able to

provide using additional funds that were dispersed due to the pandemic. Staff in

her office also assisted at mass vaccine sites. At the time of the interview, Kate

had never tested positive for COVID. Her son in college did catch COVID in

November 2020. Kate's spouse worked for Pfizer, which allowed their family to

receive the vaccine in January 2021. She supported mask mandates and vaccine

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mandates. Kate found most of her reliable information from the news and the CDC. She and her family relied heavily on the internet during the pandemic for work, school, entertainment, and keeping in touch with friends and family. She recalled the news showing a lot of doom and gloom. Kate stated the anxiety “permeated every aspect” of her daily life for a while during COVID. She did learn to take better care of herself during the pandemic. Kate shares extensively about the union workers being essential during the pandemic and how the union fought for adapted working conditions where possible. As of the time of the interview, the union was still fighting to get pandemic pay for essential workers, because they were not eligible for unemployment pay, unemployment bonuses, hazard pay, or essential worker bonuses.

Dimensions Duration: 1 Hour, 17 Minutes, 46 Seconds