

**Old Saybrook Youth & Family Services
Commission Meeting
Tuesday, December 5, 2023; 5:00 PM**

YFS Commission Meeting Playlist:

<https://youtu.be/7xW03ViSq9Y>

“To collaboratively support and advocate for positive relationships in an inclusive community.”

I. Roll Call	<p>Attendant Members: Mike Rafferty, Chair; Jonathan Paradis, Old Saybrook Parks and Recreation; David Plotkin, At-Large Member; Mary Ann Iadarola, Public Health Nursing Board Representative; Lisa Castro, Old Saybrook Middle School Counselor Jeff Harder, Community At-Large Member</p> <p>Absent Members Excused: Michael Spera, Chief of Police</p> <p>Attendant Student Representative(s): B. Cassella, W. Percival Absent Student Representative(s): Carli Castro</p> <p>Attendant Staff: Heather McNeil, Executive Director Brittany Eckert, Prevention Program Coordinator</p>
II. Call to Order	<p>Meeting called to order at 5:00pm by M. Rafferty Pledge of Allegiance</p>
III. Comments from the Public	<p>None</p>
IV. Approval of Minutes	<p>Motion made by J. Harder to approve the minutes of Tuesday; September 12, 2023, as presented. The motion was seconded M. Iadarola and approved.</p>
V. Chairman’s Comments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Great programs, activities & flyers being sent from YFS. • Welcome new student representatives Brendan Cassella & Wesley Percival
VI. Director’s Report for 12/05/2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>H. McNeil – New Student Reps</u> -Welcome & introductions of Brendan Cassella & Wesley Percival (Both OSHS juniors) -Appreciate all feedback, suggestions and concerns. • <u>Social Services Overview-Susan Consoli</u> -Provide wide range of resources, services & support throughout the community -Social Services Help Day (SSHD), food truck distribution, mobile food pantry, Husky Health, Tina Belmont (Town Nurse), outreach other community partners -Additional seasonal services Dental resources, job fair, budget counseling services, back-to-school bags, energy assistance, Thanksgiving, Holiday Giving and more. • <u>Retirement of Sal Bruzzese</u> -Retired after 45 years of service to the town. Was honored at the October CYSA Annual Conference, as well as a declaration from the Town of Old Saybrook.

- **Other**
 - Turkey Distribution at OSPD – over 300 turkeys giving out (Tues before Thanksgiving) and 110 cars (Wed)
 - Holiday Giving (Dec 19 distribution)
 - L. Castro: school staff interest in adopting a family. Several requests for that from community members as well.
 - H. McNeil: don't have the resources for that as we did in the past but may review for future.
 - Funding donations: \$3,800 from River Valley Community Foundation, Middlesex Community Foundation 16 Polar Express Tickets,

- **Fall Programming – community, school and after-school**
 - Outside of school: increased registrations & attendance in after school programming and trips. Parents have offered positive feedback related to trips/cost/locations, and child's experience.
 - Goodwin PTA mtg – to speak about counseling, with plans to attend OSMS and OSHS parent organizations after the holidays.
 - Caregivers Night Out – raised approx. \$350 for Youth Prevention Coalition; provide training opportunities and inter-agency connection (work with other students around the state).

 - HS drop-in: attendance varies, Wed group numbers (Justin's group) have increased.
 - YFS clinical staff provided support backstage and have been asked to be involved in the spring.
 - Interns positive engagement at OSMS, consistent referrals from the school.

 - Community programming: more of a challenge to get people out (many prefer hybrid or virtual option). Grandparents raising grandchildren group growing. WFSB interested in doing a story in Jan.
 - Several parent sessions planned in the 1st quarter related to youth MH (MHFA), QPR (suicide) and substance use prevention. Local communities of faith interested in presentations.
 - OSMS Screenagers Q&A: Date TBD and various other info. sessions incl. fentanyl info. session, possible NARCAN training, OSHS health class conversations around healthy relationships, critical decision-making (reducing risk) and other topics as requested.

- **Prevention Initiatives (Sticker Shock)**
 - Prevention initiatives: November – sticker shock with YPAC 100% participation from stores selling alcohol.

- **Starlight Festival (collaborative programming)**
 - Starlight Festival – YFS is on planning committee. Activities for families with kids, fundraiser for SSKP – raised \$1,500.

- **Administrative Core Functions of a YSB**
 - In the last legislative session, there was a lot of concern over a potential shift in the broad spectrum of programming many YSB's can offer to a more intensive JRB-restorative practices focus (less prevention for instance). It was vigorously argued against and CYSA put out -CYSA Advocacy Statement and Core Areas.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Proposed meeting schedule for 2024</u> -Jan, Mar, May, June, Sept, Oct, Nov -Budget: request made to utilize WPCA van (2017) and retire YFS larger van (due to recent and potential ongoing maintenance costs) 	
VII. Old Business	Nothing to report.	
VIII. New Business	Nothing to report.	
IX. Other Business	Nothing to report.	
X. Adjournment	Motion to adjourn M. Iadarola, motion seconded by L. Castro Meeting adjourned at 5:52PM.	

Submitted by,
Angela Gaidry, Recording Clerk