

**Old Saybrook Youth & Family Services  
Commission Meeting  
Tuesday, March 5, 2024; 5:00 PM**

**YFS Commission Meeting Playlist:  
[No Recording Available](#)**

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

<b>I. Roll Call</b>	<p><b>Attendant Members:</b> Mike Rafferty, Chair; Jonathan Paradis, Old Saybrook Parks and Recreation; David Plotkin, At-Large Member; Mary Ann Iadarola, Public Health Nursing Board Representative; Jeff Harder, Community At-Large Member</p> <p><b>Absent Members Excused:</b> Michael Spera, Chief of Police; Lisa Castro, Old Saybrook Middle School Counselor</p> <p><b>Attendant Student Representative(s):</b> B. Cassella, W. Percival <b>Absent Student Representative(s):</b> C. Castro</p> <p><b>Attendant Staff:</b> Heather McNeil, Executive Director</p>
<b>II. Call to Order</b>	<p>Meeting called to order at 5:00pm by M. Rafferty Pledge of Allegiance</p>
<b>III. Comments from the Public</b>	<p><b>Member of Public:</b> Brittany Eckert No Comments</p>
<b>IV. Approval of Minutes</b>	<p><b>Motion</b> made by M. Iadarola to approve the minutes of Tuesday; January 2, 2024, as presented. The motion was seconded by J. Harder. Minutes approved.</p>
<b>V. Chairman’s Comments</b>	
<b>VI. Director’s Report for 3/05/24</b>	<p><b><u>H. McNeil</u></b> -Started the process to work on updating YFS Commission bylaws with Chief Spera and M. Rafferty -Possible adding members? Community of Faith? Seniors?</p> <p>-Collaborative projects with Lyme-Old Lyme YSB (Mary Seidner) 1. Baldwin Bridge suicide awareness signage, SE Regional Action Council (SERAC, M. Irons). Coordinated effort with State Dept (hope to have by September which is suicide prevention month) 2. Ben Cort (Colorado)– The Impact of Cannabis Legislation on our Youth (March 20<sup>th</sup>) Working with Cromwell, LOL and other YSBs.</p> <p>-Community Prevention program 3/26/24 screening of Screenagers (community &amp; parents) Panel of OS students YPAC (youth prevention action coalition), possibly Westbrook &amp; Clinton</p> <p>-Old Saybrook Middle School (OSMS) Wellness Day (“Swellness”) YPAC &amp; Prevention Program Coordinators B. Eckert &amp; J. Alessio Clinical staff and interns</p> <p>-ARPA funded: begin to work with bi-lingual Spanish/English former educator from California, to connect families to the schools &amp; community. Bi-lingual storytime at Acton Library on Saturday, March 23 @ 10:30AM</p>

	<p>-Vehicle News: looking to purchase 12-seater van (2023 less than 30K miles) – will go to the town for a vote.</p> <p>-Camp Hazen w/OSHS will continue further review &amp; discussion. Currently scheduled for Tues Sept 10<sup>th</sup> ½ day in-school with Camp Hazen staff and Fri. Sept. 13<sup>th</sup> @ 9-2pm at Camp Hazen.</p> <p>-Next year (2025) is the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of OSYFS – more details to come for various events and celebrations.</p> <p>-Student Reps: W. Percival &amp; B. Cassella Congratulate Girls Basketball Team. It was a great interaction with all students, pep rally also contributed to the good spirits and sportsmanship.</p> <p>-D. Plotkin – great meeting with YPAC to identify areas of collaboration. Help identify areas positive, negative, neutral. Discuss and evaluate chronic absenteeism and tardiness, corrective conversation. April 3<sup>rd</sup> next meeting with YPAC.</p> <p>-Discuss possible Narcan Training for town employees especially for OS Parks &amp; Recreation, Acton Library.</p> <p>-Parks &amp; Rec Spring &amp; Summer Activities Brochure (registration begins April 1<sup>st</sup>) Community Street Party Sunday 6/23 (food trucks, 40 food vendors, etc)</p> <p>-Grandparents Group March 25<sup>th</sup> Early Trauma (clinician Samantha Steinmacher)</p>	
<b>VII. Old Business</b>	Nothing to report.	
<b>VIII. New Business</b>	Nothing to report.	
<b>IX. Other Business</b>	Nothing to report.	
<b>X. Adjournment</b>	Motion to adjourn B. Cassella, motion seconded by W. Percival Meeting adjourned at 5:28PM.	

Submitted by,  
Angela Gaidry, Recording Clerk