Old Saybrook Youth & Family Services
Commission Meeting
Tuesday, April 5, 2022; 5:00 PM
Via Teleconference and In-person

YFS Commission Meeting Playlist:
https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLbEt7-HiGQ8lgOpvMBKyID3YRDhLnur-W

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

| I. Roll Call | **Attendant Members:** Mike Rafferty, Chair; David Plotkin, Community At-Large Member; Jeff Harder, Community At-Large Member; Mary Ann Iadarola, Public Health Nursing Board Representative |
| Absent Members: Michael Spera, Chief of Police; Jonathan Paradis, Old Saybrook Parks and Recreation; Lisa Castro, Old Saybrook Middle School Counselor |
| Absent Student Representative(s): Libby Stuart |
| **Attendant Staff:** Heather McNeil, Executive Director; Brittany Eckert, Program Coordinator; Angela Gaidry, Commission Clerk |

| II. Call to Order | Meeting called to order at 5:00 pm by M. Rafferty. Pledge of Allegiance |

| III. Comments from the Public | None |

| IV. Approval of Minutes | **Motion** made by M. Iadarola to approve the minutes of Tuesday; February 1, 2022 as presented. The motion was seconded by J. Harder and approved. |

| V. Chairman’s Comments | • Thank you for birthday wishes at Feb meeting. |
| | • Congratulations to D. Plotkin and family on birth of new son. |
| | • Acknowledgement of YFS continuation of great programs and activities within the community. Great job to Brittany and YFS. |

| Email Communications Policy – Boards and Commissions | • Board of Selectman re: adherence to the email policy. |

*Add to agenda for next month meeting (May) – Individual members adding own email address? |

| VI. Director’s Report for 4/05/2022 | H McNeil re: Logo contest - very few entries and did not provide what we are looking for. Meeting next day with Acton Library who is working with logo company. Each department own logo. |
| ARPA Committee Meeting March 8 | • H. McNeil in collaboration with Susan Consoli, presented with Kathy Bai, Lisa Castro, a proposal for both YFS and Social Services. Based on other shoreline youth service bureaus (Clinton asked $600K and awarded $637K), committee encouraged us to increase our proposal. Some items to be included in proposal- |
| | • Part-time bilingual MSW for school parent population and clinical services – for outreach in the community |
| | • Housing assistance |
- Building a Senior housing gazebo (communal area) – help to diminish social isolation
- Grant writer shared between departments – consistent focused approach
- Money to administer the search survey (grades 7-12) and a report evaluator for when the data results come in.
- Meeting with superintendent to discuss timing
- Support Positive Youth Development 7th & 8th and re-connect with high schoolers. Need to re-engage, historically 30-100 students, 2x month, which requires additional staff, dinner, assistance from PHNB funding, 2x month, etc.
- Therapeutic services – increase hours of adjunct staff, licensed clinicians who work a few hours a week – different specialties (eating disorders, etc)

**Dad’s Bootcamp and PHNB**
- Thank you PHNB for funding for training $1,500 – will make presentation to PHNB
- Brittany- female perspective to listen to the dad’s view of experience in father’s role. Dynamic program. Began out west (Colorado, California)
- Expectant fathers learn from new fathers
- Adam and Brittany both trained in the program.

**Search survey**
- Submit extra questions (vaping, etc.)
- Previous grandparent feedback on questions on sexuality

**Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Initiatives (DEI)**
- Latino youth groups (7th & 8th) – want to meet re: topics important to them
- Spectrum club – (7th grade) learn to be allies, support LGBTQ, share communication
- OSHS senior project - Emma Cadley, Mighty Mindsets (grades 2-4) – begin in May - create calming boxes filled with activities to use when dealing with hard feelings, as well as talking about these emotions (stress balls/tools, find space, yoga, etc.)
- OSHS senior project Man Tran – Donation Food & Supply Drive; collection boxes throughout the community (April)
- M. Rafferty: Does OSMS/OSHS provide DEI group by students? Farmington HS has a program run by students that other area high schools have attended. Incredible.

**Open Program Coordinator Position**
- 29 hrs. position has been filled. M. Rafferty sat in on the interview.
- Person will start April 25th

**OSPS collaborative programming, PD days, Wellness Days**
- Clinician A. Stahr over at OSMS on Mondays (w/office), Boys & Girls group at Goodwin, and drop-in at OSHS
- Interns help at schools as well.
- M. Rafferty - Importance of bringing more representation and interaction with Spanish-speaking clients.
- D. Plotkin – appreciative of YFS collaborative effort during PD days (March 10), teachers/administrative staff team building, very appreciative, activities and gifts for participation, fun events. Enjoyable for all.
- Special acknowledgement and thank you to OSMS team led by Sue Diaz, Jen, Lisa and guidance department for welcoming and working wonderfully with YFS interns.

**VII. Old Business**
Nothing to report.
| VIII. New Business | Action steps and advocacy or report on initiatives by Commission members.  
**Next YFS Commission meeting May 3, 2022.** |
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<td>IX. Other Business</td>
<td>Nothing to report.</td>
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| X. Adjournment    | Motion to adjourn D. Plotkin, motion seconded by M. Iadarola  
**M. Rafferty** adjourns the meeting at 5:45 PM. |

Respectfully submitted,  
Angela Gaidry, Recording Clerk