Old Saybrook Youth & Family Services
Commission Meeting
Tuesday, June 7, 2022; 5:00 PM
Via Teleconference and In-person

YFS Commission Meeting Playlist:
https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLbEt7-HigQ8lg0PvMBKyID3YRDhLnr-W
“‘To collaboratively support and advocate for positive relationships in an inclusive community’”

| I. Roll Call | **Attendant Members:** Mike Rafferty, Chair; Lisa Castro, Old Saybrook Middle School Counselor; 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
| **Student Representative(s):** Libby Stuart
| **Attendant:** OS IT Director Larry Hayden
| **Attendant Staff:** Heather McNeil, Executive Director
Brittany Eckert, Prevention Program Coordinator
Melissa Howley, Prevention Program Coordinator
Angela Gaidry, Commission Clerk |

| II. Call to Order | Meeting called to order at 5:02 pm by M. Rafferty
Pledge of Allegiance |

| III. Comments from the Public | None |

| IV. Approval of Minutes | Motion made by D. Plotkin to approve the minutes of Tuesday; May 3, 2022 as presented. The motion was seconded by J. Harder and approved. |

| V. Chairman’s Comments | • Condolences for loss to David & family. Congratulations on appointment as Associate Principal at OSHS.
• Thank you to Libby for her service as student representative. Congratulations as OSHS Salutatorian. |

| VI. Director’s Report for 6/07/2022 | E-Mail Policy- Larry Hayden
• Review of Board of Selectman policy
• Commissions/Boards – meetings in public session, as such any discussions must be in public with all commission members.
• E-mail is discouraged except sending out meeting minutes & agendas (administrative matters legitimate).
• Anything received via private email must be sent to all members for discussion via public meeting. No assumption of confidentiality.
• No opinion or discussion on social media posts.
• Forms to request town email. |

Motion made to not have a town government email account - L. Castro and then seconded by M. Iadarola. Unanimously passed by commission.
Local Prevention Efforts – B. Eckert/M. Howley

- E3 met yesterday (Mon 6/6). Summer mtgs. 1st Monday, 3rd Wed of each month.
- Color Run – June 26
- Governor’s Prevention Program: Future Prevention Leaders Conference on June 23 opened to Jr. YAC, Tr-Town – awaiting responses.
- Fundraising opportunities – Seniors/Parent’s Night Out, Bingo Night, etc
- H. McNeil – broaden to include all adults in students’ lives
- Environmental Mapping Old Saybrook/Westbrook – vapes, sticker shock, etc. w/Nicole Mason to support & partner the initiatives w/their grant money (Westbrook used to have own LPC, over the years hard to maintain membership) – shared experience, initiate billboard between OS & Clinton.

Summer Food Program

- Social Services flyers went out to Central Office/schools (English, Spanish) This year no government assistance, SNAP benefits going down July 1, increased need, food & gas prices up.
- Susan Consoli (Social Services Coordinator) via ARPA request – work with SSKP (Shoreline Soup Kitchen & Pantries) preparing food for families
- Wed- “Kid packs” (i.e. backpacks) 3-4 days Thurs-Sun food supply
- M. Rafferty – why is not done through school or school involved? H. McNeil - Not sure of specifics or what their ARPA request was identified for, staffing/personnel concerns.

School & Agency collaboration

- Food Play Productions (Massachusetts based) @ Goodwin Elementary – YFS helped sponsor this event - an outside performing company w/nutritionist to put on a show w/clowns, games, puppets for information to the youth
- Interns & clinical staff @ OSMS/OSHS; more opportunity for next year
- Kara LINK leader for OSHS work together w/YAC
- Camp Hazen – Sept. 1 “Hazen Huddle” (formerly Freshman Retreat)
- YFS went into 8th grade classes (Mr. Labriola) to show the Camp Hazen video, receptive & excited, Q & A opportunity

SEARCH survey

- Work to add additional questions (fee) – requested via ARPA funds for survey, any additional equipment, report evaluator, etc.
- Proposal for grades 7-12

Staffing

- Samantha Steinmacher, LPC clinician resigned, has been with OSYFS since 2012 (when intern). Growing her private practice. Huge loss personally & professionally. Will stay on through August - Mindfulness on the Beach program, also has some clients going off to college; so, would like to stay on until they have gone. Has implemented some great programs – will be available as professional paid speaker, EMDR trained. Great resource in the community.
DEI initiative with Middlesex United Way
- YSB regional directors met for 4 trainings.
- Staff participated in voluntary workshops through SERC (State Education Resource Center) – phenomenal trainers
- Courageous conversations within the community to examine individual biases.

Summer Meeting for Commission
- What is our role? How can we change, etc.?
- Possible August 18-19 TBD

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<th>VII. Old Business</th>
<th>Nothing to report.</th>
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<td>VIII. New Business</td>
<td>Action steps and advocacy or report on initiatives by Commission members.</td>
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<td>• Any recommendations/feedback re: community forum around local issues i.e. National school shootings and local student mental health/responses:</td>
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<td>• Community forum- parents, teachers, students - gun violence, schools, political, social emotional issues, struggles, etc.</td>
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<td>• Superintendent Perruccio &amp; Chief Spera held webinar with parents re: safety</td>
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<td>• OSECC – only a couple of calls to Goodwin principal – expected more.</td>
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<td>• Open space for all community members, staff, etc. to be heard and how to help, heal, compassion, etc.</td>
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<td>• Social media - stop the divisiveness within the community, schools, etc.</td>
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<td>• Will receive cohesive messaging from CYSA for YSB</td>
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H. McNeil to L. Stuart re: recent events?
- Students talked about it more in terms of sympathy, however, “used to it”. Principal Riffle helped ease a lot of concerns.

Thank you to Libby for time & commitment, as well as recommendations of possible student candidates for next year. Letters have gone out to candidates for interviews.

Next YFS Commission meeting August TBD, 2022.

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<th>IX. Other Business</th>
<th>Nothing to report.</th>
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<td>X. Adjournment</td>
<td>Motion to adjourn D. Plotkin, motion seconded by L. Castro</td>
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<td>Meeting adjourned at 5:55 PM</td>
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Respectfully submitted,
Angela Gaidry, Recording Clerk