

**Old Saybrook Youth & Family Services
Commission Meeting
Tuesday, December 4, 2018; 6:00 P.M.
Youth & Family Services Offices,
322 Main Street, Old Saybrook, CT 06475**

I. Roll Call	<p>Attendant Members: Jennifer Welsh, Chair; Lisa Castro, Old Saybrook Middle School-School Counselor; Mike Rafferty, Retired Educator</p> <p>Absent Members: Michael Spera, Chief of Police; Jonathan Paradis, Old Saybrook Parks and Recreation; Mary Ann Iadarola, Public Nursing Board Representative; Sharon Tiezzi, Member-at-large</p> <p>Student Representatives: Liam Welsh, Peter McNeil, Abbie Woodford</p> <p>Absent Student Representatives: Carissa Schilke</p> <p>Attendant Staff: Heather McNeil, Executive Director Susan Consoli, Social Services Coordinator Angela Gaidry, Recording Clerk</p>
II. Call to Order	<p>H. McNeil called the meeting to order at 6:00 P.M. as Chair J. Welsh still en route to meeting and asked H. McNeil to begin. Pledge of Allegiance</p>
III. Comments from the Public	<p>No one from the public was present.</p>
IV. Approval of Minutes	<p>Motion made by M. Rafferty to approve the minutes of Tuesday, November 13, 2018 as presented. The motion was seconded by L. Castro and was approved.</p>
V. Chairman's Comments	<p>J. Welsh spoke of being in attendance at BOF meeting (11/20/18) and thought it went well.</p>
VI. Director's Report for 12/04/2018	<p>Social Services Programming H. McNeil introduced Susan Consoli, Social Services Coordinator at YFS to provide a programming update (including handout materials for review).</p> <p><u>-Energy Assistance Program:</u> Began November 15th. Beneficial for families employed but income constrained i.e. living paycheck to paycheck.</p> <p><u>-Operation Fuel:</u> Began December 3, intake site here in OS to help families in need.</p> <p><u>-H.E.A.T.:</u> Held a spaghetti dinner fundraiser at Fireman's Field, the night of the recent snowstorm (Nov 15) to raise funds for community members to keep warm during the cold winter months. Raised about \$3K.</p> <p><u>-Holiday Giving:</u> Taking applications for recipients. W. Mill has list of donors to match with needs.</p> <p><u>-Sock Drive:</u> Basket to collect warm socks at Shayna B's Cafe, Old Saybrook.</p> <p><u>-Social Services Help Days:</u> December- Dental Clinic (mobile dental) for children – the week students are off for winter break. Vision screening, CT</p>

Food Bank Mobile Pantry. In November, a Health Fair was held including screenings, the town nurse available for blood pressure testing, etc.

- Job Fairs: May 2018 Shoreline Job Fair. American Job Center and Workforce Alliance brought over 30 local employers. Very large turnout of people in search of employment.
- Spanish for Social Services: OSHS Senior Project- teaching Spanish and translating Social Services forms into Spanish to help us better serve our community. Influx of Spanish speaking residents 20-30% clients.
- Homelessness: previous 80, now 40-50 people. State has coordinated efforts to find beds, intake appts, etc. Transients from other towns who come here. No chronic population in OS.
- Access Health/Husky: come in/out of program at anytime
- Outreach: computer intake DSS applications (food stamps, disability, over 30 programs). People in need increasing (60% in OS).
- Medicare: OS has 40% elderly (over 60 yrs.) Legislature initially cut program- over \$2M projected to be cut. S. Consoli spoke of the huge negative impact on the clients she saw regularly. Held a town hall meeting at Grace Church. Bus load of people went to Hartford to speak and the bill was repealed.

S. Consoli mentions when she started 10 yrs. ago had 169 clients, now 1,000+ clients. Several towns using program “Charity Tracker” to reduce client redundancy among towns. Though cannot see the specifics due to confidentiality but general terms. The designated “affordable housing” (10%) of the new apartments in-town has not helped our clients.

State of CT hasn’t come up with one (1) form for participants to fill out in order to receive SNAP, Husky, Energy Assistance i.e. all programs for which they may qualify. So many of the same programs request the same documentation. The state is 2 months behind in processing the Energy Assistance applications.

H. McNeil praised S. Consoli’s works. The benefit of social services within YFS is unsurpassed. It’s all about “prevention” per S. Consoli- having one central location to help families in need for a number of programs.

S. Consoli works very hard as our programs have become a model for other youth service bureaus- collaborative efforts. S. Consoli works to find the people in need through networking with other organizations. She is always working to find grants, and new partners/providers to help.

Board of Finance Discussion

H. McNeil spoke of the presentation at BOF meeting (11/20/18) regarding the proposal of OSYFS to be part of the Town accounting system. It seemed well-received and discussions headed in the right direction. There will certainly be more questions to come. H. McNeil thanked the commission for their support. J. Welsh thanked H. McNeil for her hard work and dedication.

County YSB Legislative Breakfast

H. McNeil announced that Friday, January 4, 2019 at Essex Town Hall, senators, superintendents, lobbyists, etc. will gather for a legislative breakfast. Opportunity to speak of YSB programming needs.

Operation Lighthouse

H. McNeil spoke of the current ornament fundraiser by Youth Action Council (YAC). Operation Lighthouse initiative is to raise funds for those impacted by the fires in California. This represents our youth's desire to respond to the overwhelming need. Each ornament is \$10.

YAC Invite Night- Thursday, December 6th

H. McNeil spoke of the re-scheduled (due to Nov 15 snowstorm) YAC Invite Night. This is an opportunity for parents/guardians of current or prospective YAC students to find out what it's all about. Student-run event. Any commission members are welcome to attend.

Cardboard Community (April 2019)

H. McNeil spoke of senior project of two OSHS students (Ana H. and Shannon B.) to raise awareness of teen housing/homelessness. Received a small grant.

Essential Life Skills-Car Maintenance Workshop

H. McNeil spoke of car maintenance workshop being held tonight (Dec 3) at Cardone and Daughter Automotive. Great press release in Harbor News and lots of registrations taken.

Holiday Giving Program

Holiday Giving Program is underway. Many more Giving Trees in the community this year.

Last month's Thanksgiving pick-up at OSPD went well. Over 790 turkeys donated; gave away 220 1st day and 160 2nd day. OSMS PTO donated pies through the pie drive.

Prevention Corp.

H. McNeil spoke of collaboration with Tri-Town YSB- sharing of Prevention Corp. intern who will be putting together a PowerPoint presentation and showing Do No Harm (in Madison?)

Opioid Grant

H. McNeil mentioned OSYFS applied and has again received the opioid grant.

Student Input

H. McNeil asked last month's student members to review the Developmental Assets and pick a couple of current issues that they think should be addressed.

Student reps mentioned the situation at OSHS of bathroom doors being kept open due to administration concerns of vaping in the bathrooms. While understanding the concern, and even though there is a privacy wall at the entrance before the actual bathroom stalls are visible, it has made some students uncomfortable. Possible suggestions included speaking to representatives on the Superintendent and Principal Advisory Committee to address resolutions.

Also, there was a brief discussion of how students felt entering the one day at OSHS with metal detectors in-place due to a possible threat read via internet about a possible incident at a non-specified CT school. Most students were fine about it; some believed it was to "find vaping paraphernalia" as there was an

	<p>assembly scheduled that day about the dangers of vaping.</p> <p>Other Events As there is no winter stroll this year, H. McNeil mentioned another group is putting together an event after the holidays. P. McNeil mentioned Funktion Fitness (OS) is organizing “Flurry Fest” with food trucks, activities, etc. More information will be released.</p>
VII. Old Business	Nothing to report.
VIII. New Business	<p>Action steps and advocacy or report on initiatives by Commission members Next YFS Commission meeting scheduled for January 8, 2019 and will be voting on budget.</p>
IX. Other Business	Nothing to report.
X. Adjournment	Motion made by M. Rafferty to adjourn the meeting at 7:10p.m. The motion was seconded by H. McNeil and was approved unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,
Angela Gaidry, Recording Clerk