

**Old Saybrook Youth & Family Services**

**Commission Meeting**

**Tuesday, January 8, 2019; 6:00 P.M.**

**Youth & Family Services Offices,**

**322 Main Street, Old Saybrook, CT 06475**

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

<b>I. Roll Call</b>	<p><b>Attendant Members:</b> Jennifer Welsh, Chair; Lisa Castro, Old Saybrook Middle School-School Counselor; Mike Rafferty, Retired Educator; 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><b>Absent Members:</b> n/a</p> <p><b>Student Representatives:</b> Liam Welsh, Peter McNeil, Abbie Woodford, Carissa Schilke</p> <p><b>Absent Student Representatives:</b> n/a</p> <p><b>Attendant Staff:</b> Heather McNeil, Executive Director Wendy Mill, Program Coordinator Angela Gaidry, Recording Clerk</p>
<b>II. Call to Order</b>	<p>J. Welsh called the meeting to order at 6:04 P.M. Pledge of Allegiance</p>
<b>III. Comments from the Public</b>	<p>No one from the public was present.</p>
<b>IV. Approval of Minutes</b>	<p><b>Motion</b> made by S. Tiezzi to approve the minutes of Tuesday, December 4, 2018 as presented. The motion was seconded by M. Rafferty and was approved.</p>
<b>V. Chairman’s Comments</b>	<p>J. Welsh spoke of January homework for next month’s meeting- to complete an anonymous survey/self-assessment (based on Adelphi University School of Social Work for Nonprofit Leadership). February- What does YFS commission do? What is your “elevator speech” for non-profit?</p>
<b>VI. Director’s Report for 1/08/2019</b>	<p><b>E3</b> (through Governor’s Prevention Partnership-GPP) H. McNeil introduced <b>Wendy Mill</b>, E3 Coordinator at YFS to provide a programming update.</p> <p><u>-OS Program in its 3<sup>rd</sup> year:</u> 8 programs currently in CT, 14 Trained Facilitators + 1 New Freshman (5 graduating seniors!), E3 Ambassadors-New London, First-ever state wide summit planned for this Spring, E3 curriculum-review panel being formed (OS students invited to participate) GPP Rep. Monique Price Taylor asked OS to help review curriculum.</p> <p><u>-Launch Opportunities:</u> 2018 OSHS Health Class-40 students (primarily Freshman). 3 sessions-1<sup>st</sup> 2 weeks in December- discussions include: *”Your True North”-values/peer pressure, *Communication Skills-verbal/non-</p>

verbal \*Substances-facts/fiction & resistance skills

Vaping in OS #1 issue/concern. Doubled over the past year.

-2019 OSHS Health Classes: 3 Additional Sessions to New Classes

-CAPP: CT Association of Prevention Professionals Monthly Mtgs.

-W.Mill spoke of E3/YAC Youth getting in front of local organizations to speak of their efforts including such as:

Rotary Club of OS, OS/Westbrook Exchange. S. Tiezzi mentioned the Lions Club as well.

-OSHS Wellness Week: week of March 18<sup>th</sup>

-OSMS Wellness Day: April 11<sup>th</sup>

-29<sup>th</sup> Annual CADCA Conference: Community Anti-Drug Coalitions of America. Planning to take 4 students and 1 adult (W. Mill)- February 4-7<sup>th</sup> in Washington, DC. Youth Initiative, Capitol Hill Day, Funding sources (pending)

-CT Prevention Week- Kick-off Event Monday, May 13<sup>th</sup> 5-8@New Britain

H. McNeil praised W. Mill and E3/YAC students' efforts.

### **Holiday Giving 2018**

H. McNeil thanked the Chief and OSPD for hard work/dedication. Over 200 families, 300+ children helped. Great support within the community. Many businesses through Giving Trees, NHS student volunteers ghost shoppers, etc.

### **YAC**

H. McNeil announced YAC & JAC schedules posted on the website and communicated through school. YAC Invite Night (Dec 6,2018)- approx. 40 parents and kids. Students led the mtg. Very positive feedback.

### **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. Hope Partnership wants to be involved.

### **Community Fest/ Flurry Fest Cancelled**

### **Chili Fest**

OSYFS will not be participating in contest, there will be several YAC volunteers on-hand March 2, 2019.

### **Legislative Breakfast at Essex Town Hall 1/4/19**

H. McNeil asked M. Rafferty to speak of his thoughts of the event. Mentioned it was a great event, lots of community outreach efforts, however, the state is hurting financially which is having a monumental impact on many youth & family service organizations. There's been discussion of

	<p>regionalization but for many it's difficult. There is an informal network of sharing resources whenever possible.</p> <p><b>Projected direction for 2019/20:</b>  More expansion of family and community oriented events. Children's event such as Summer Stock Theater enrollment is declining-reviewing options. Chief M. Spera suggested YFS, Parks &amp; Rec and Library get together for strategic planning of programs as there is some overlap.</p> <p><b>YFS Budget</b>  Will present to BOF shifting off-budget accounts to general town fund. YFS is part of Town. This will make for better budgeting efficiencies.  January 26@10AM Town Hall.  H.McNeil will provide a description of department and performance indicators.</p>
<b>VII. Old Business</b>	Nothing to report.
<b>VIII. New Business</b>	<p><b>Action steps and advocacy or report on initiatives by Commission members</b>  Next YFS Commission meeting scheduled for <b>Feb. 5, 2019@ 5:00PM</b> (<i>*note: new time for this meeting</i>)</p>
<b>IX. Other Business</b>	Nothing to report.
<b>X. Adjournment</b>	<b>Motion</b> made by P.McNeil to adjourn the meeting at 7:05p.m. The motion was seconded by H. McNeil and was approved unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,  
Angela Gaidry, Recording Clerk