

Old Saybrook Youth & Family Services

Commission Meeting

Tuesday, April 2, 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”

I. Roll Call	<p>Attendant Members: Jennifer Welsh, Chair; Mike Rafferty, Retired Educator, Lisa Castro, Old Saybrook Middle School Counselor, Jonathan Paradis, Old Saybrook Parks and Recreation; Sharon Tiezzi, Member-at-large, Michael Spera, Chief of Police</p> <p>Absent Members: Mary Ann Iadarola, Public Nursing Board Representative</p> <p>Student Representatives: Liam Welsh, Carissa Schilke Absent Student Representatives: Peter McNeil, Abbie Woodford</p> <p>Attendant Additional Student Guests: Cassidy Clark</p> <p>Attendant Staff: Heather McNeil, Executive Director Angela Gaidry, Recording Clerk</p>
II. Call to Order	<p>J. Welsh called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM. 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 J. Paradis to approve the minutes of Tuesday, March 5, 2019 as presented. The motion was seconded by S. Tiezzi and approved.</p>
V. Chairman’s Comments	<p>J. Welsh presented YFS Commission Self-Check homework as a “self-assessment”. Discussed having an end of summer (August 2019) mtg. to discuss goals before jumpstarting in to September.</p>
VI. Director’s Report for 4/02/2019	<p>Healing Hearts H. McNeil welcomed OSHS senior C. Clark to speak about her capstone project, “Healing Hearts”- a support group for children. Initially it was planned as a support group for children with a chronically ill parent(s) but opened up to children experiencing changes in the family dynamic. With help from OSMS PTO, OSHS PTO, school counselors, YFS clinicians & interns, students were identified and invited to attend the meetings beginning in January 2019. C. Clark reports the wonderful response to the program- conversations and developing positive coping skills. Another session began this week. C. Cassidy hopes it will continue as a legacy project and is working with K. Hunter (counselor at OSHS) to identify another student to take over the group for the upcoming school year.</p> <p>Wellness Week at OSHS (week of March 25th) Five days of health and wellness activities, speakers and programs. Ended the week with baby goats, a pig and bunnies! Very well received by students, faculty and administration. Speakers- history of addiction (all ages) as opposed to facts/figures. More interactive and engaging as opposed to talking “at you”. Brings perspective, comfort levels. Groups were responsive with</p>

	<p>hands-on interactive discussions and activities. Other community meetings: Paraphernalia Project, Ginger Katz's Courage to Speak (Westbrook, Clinton, OS) Try to identify how to get Parent Engagement and greater attendance at events.</p> <p>E3- presented prevention curriculum at CAPP, OSHS and will be presenting at OSMS Wellness Day (April 11).</p> <p>Prevention Efforts- LPC marijuana task force talking to folks about how town will look like. In Massachusetts, since legalization, there's been an uptick in hospital visits with marijuana-related issues.</p> <p>OSMS Musical J. Kelly directed the OSMS Musical, "Mulan" with a great response from families and community.</p> <p>YFS Interns 2019-2020 Adam and Trish will be graduating in May. Adam will be staying on. Will be bringing on 2 new practicum interns.</p> <p>Student Reps for Next Year (2019-2020) Current Student Reps suggested names and H. McNeil will be reaching out to identify interest. Looking for new and unique perspectives.</p> <p>Survey Fall 2019-Spring 2020 Discussion- the need for the correct survey/resource for gathering the right info. re: youth and community needs. Need to include 7th & 8th grade. Issues: Vaping, gaming, risk factor-including marijuana, etc.</p> <p>Other Student reps and commission discussed "Safe Climate Survey"- student concerns on identifying "bullying" and "just joking". What is the definition? How to differentiate when the line has been crossed. Teacher/Staff action vs. inaction.</p>
VII. Old Business	Nothing to report.
VIII. New Business	<p>Action steps and advocacy or report on initiatives by Commission members</p> <p>J. Paradis mentioned that now that the overgrown and dangerous trees have been removed YFS needs a privacy fence for client confidentiality. Parking lot needs to be paved for safety.</p> <p>Next YFS Commission meeting scheduled for May 7, 2019@ 6:00PM</p>
IX. Other Business	Nothing to report.
X. Adjournment	Motion made by M. Rafferty to adjourn the meeting at 7:00PM. The motion was seconded by J. Paradis and approved unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,
Angela Gaidry, Recording Clerk