

Old Saybrook Youth & Family Services

Commission Meeting

Tuesday, May 7, 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; Jonathan Paradis, Old Saybrook Parks and Recreation; Mary Ann Iadarola, Public Nursing Board Representative, Sharon Tiezzi, Member-at-large,</p> <p>Absent Members: Mike Rafferty, Retired Educator, Lisa Castro, Old Saybrook Middle School Counselor, Michael Spera, Chief of Police</p> <p>Student Representatives: Liam Welsh, Peter McNeil, Abbie Woodford</p> <p>Absent Student Representatives: Carissa Schilke</p> <p>Attendant Additional Guest: Bhumika Shah, Prevention Corps Intern</p> <p>Attendant Staff: Heather McNeil, Executive Director Angela Gaidry, Recording Clerk</p>
II. Call to Order	J. Welsh called the meeting to order at 6:03 PM. Pledge of Allegiance
III. Comments from the Public	No one from the public was present.
IV. Approval of Minutes	<p>Motion made by S. Tiezzi to approve the minutes of Tuesday, April 2, 2019 as presented.</p> <p>The motion was seconded by M. Iadarola and approved.</p>
V. Chairman’s Comments	J. Welsh thanked members that have already completed YFS Commission Self-Check homework and asked for feedback before June mtg. to discuss goals for next year.
VI. Director’s Report for 5/07/2019	<p>Prevention Corps H. McNeil introduced and welcomed Prevention Corps Intern, Bhumika Shah. Bhumika shared that in partnership with Tri-Town, OSYFS works to increase prevention measures and spread awareness of opioid epidemic, marijuana, etc. As National Prevention Week is 5/12-5/18, some upcoming programs include Hidden In Plain Sight at OSMS-create a mock youth’s bedroom with hidden drug paraphernalia. Discussion with parents to follow- “What do I do if I find it?”</p> <p>Committee members inquired how receptive were students (middle school/high school) to Bhumika’s talks? Bhumika said the students were generally receptive to information about prevention especially when new information was presented or presented in a new and informative/interactive way. Student rep Abbie W. agreed that new ways of presenting information holds more appeal. She noted a recent event she attended involved youth in an activity that had impact (i.e. Tim Buckley project- supports families impacted by mental health and substance use disorders with a focus on prevention and removing stigmas).</p>

	<p>Other events- Chamber Breakfast, Senior Center providing information on proper prescription medication disposal.</p> <p>Other Educational and Prevention Efforts E3 active involvement in schools-With legalization of marijuana hitting closer to home, now more than ever, prevention education is necessary in the curriculum. Project Courage, Westbrook YFS, Clinton YFS, OSYFS working together.</p> <p>E3 invited to conference May 17th Governor's Prev Partnership, N. Haven. W. Mill has been instrumental in facilitating this program. The time, energy and integrity that she has committed is unparalleled and to be commended. Upcoming: Youth-to-Youth (Summer 2019) YAC Leadership Academy. Looking to increase events that create a lasting impact in the community, example: Visit to Gladeview at Christmas-very impactful, relationship building in the community for youth and seniors.</p> <p>H. McNeil working to create 501c3- help stand-alone community programming (YAC)</p> <p>Other Town is transitioning to an online time management/attendance system (NovaTime). Town has approved central a/c for YFS, privacy fence and driveway paving (pending).</p> <p>Senior Projects- Unity Pole (P. McNeil), HHIT program (Help for Housing Insecure Teens) with hope that it becomes a legacy senior project.</p> <p>S. Tiezzi shared Lions Club always looking for new members. May 30th Membership meeting.</p>
VII. Old Business	Nothing to report.
VIII. New Business	<p>Action steps and advocacy or report on initiatives by Commission members</p> <p>Next YFS Commission meeting scheduled for June 4, 2019@ 6:00PM</p>
IX. Other Business	Nothing to report.
X. Adjournment	Motion made by S. Tiezzi to adjourn the meeting at 7:00PM. The motion was seconded by P. McNeil and approved unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,
Angela Gaidry, Recording Clerk