

Old Saybrook Youth & Family Services

Commission Meeting

Tuesday, March 3, 2020; 5:30 PM

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, Jonathan Paradis, Old Saybrook Parks and Recreation; Lisa Castro, Old Saybrook Middle School Counselor, Mary Ann Iadarola, Public Nursing Board Representative; Michael Spera, Chief of Police</p> <p>Absent Members: n/a</p> <p>Student Representatives: Carissa Schilke</p> <p>Absent Student Representatives: Joe Bradley, Khushi Patel, Kyle Wisialowski</p> <p>Guests: Gretchen Bushnell and Maile Chaplar</p> <p>Attendant Staff: Heather McNeil, Executive Director</p>
II. Call to Order	Meeting called to order at 5:30 PM. Pledge of Allegiance
III. Comments from the Public	No one from the public was present.
IV. Approval of Minutes	<p>Motion made by M. Rafferty to approve the minutes of Tuesday, January 7, 2020 as presented.</p> <p>The motion was seconded by M. Iadarola and approved.</p>
V. Chairman’s Comments	<p>J. Welsh 2020 Intention Setting- “Support” (March focus) as an agency and as individuals. Advocate for ourselves and the agency. April- relationship building, incl. new commission members. Need ideas for elevator speech. Representation of community.</p> <p>Plan for next school year agendas for Youth Advocacy Schedule on a quarterly basis.</p>
VI. Director’s Report for 3/03/2020	<p>Old Saybrook International Submarine Team 2020-2021 H. McNeil introduced G. Bushnell and Miley to speak about the OSHS Submarine Team. After numerous years meeting & building at OSHS, the club team is in need of a new OS sponsor. This team is only one of 2-3 high school teams invited to participate in a race that features colleges and universities from around the world. Racers this year will have mentors from previous OSHS racing teams that have graduated from or are currently in engineering advanced degree programs. Safety is of the highest concern at the races and is monitored by NAVSEA and the Navy. It is a great opportunity for students who may not otherwise have had a team-building extracurricular activity. This club represents YFS mission to promoting the positive and healthy well-being of the Town’s youth. As a commission we are concerned with all aspects of life that affect youth, their families and the community. The commission unanimously agreed to lend its support to OS Submarine Team.</p> <p>Funding Request Presentations H. McNeil met with Rotary Club-funding request for E3 and Public Health Nursing Board-funding request for YAC. Very supportive of work at YFS.</p>

	<p>Circle of Security With help of United Way Early Childhood grant, Early Childhood Coordinator, Brittany E., has organized a 7-week workshop for parents/caregivers looking for help/guidance, Circle of Security.</p> <p>7th & 8th grade YAC We now have 7th graders that have joined YAC Jr. Now working on transitioning, building relationships and social skills.</p> <p>Chili-Fest 2/29/2020 YAC worked with Chef Tony & the Masons for the Chamber of Commerce's Chili Fest this year. The Masons paid for supplies and used their kitchen to cook the chili. Table in front of Mirsina's Restaurant. Seniors Khushi & Audra spoke about their upcoming senior project, "Cardboard Community" on April 24, to increase awareness about homelessness and housing insecurity. It was a nice day and great opportunity to get the word out.</p> <p>Goodwin 4th Grade Goodwin 4th graders miss the YFS programs. Administrators have requested YFS to bring programs in the school, if possible. Working with the administrators for an activity on the half-day on May 1st.</p> <p>Wellness Week OSHS 3/30-4/2/2020 Various activities planned throughout the week. Facing the Dragon documentary- YFS clinicians will be in attendance for processing and communication, if needed.</p> <p>Wellness Day OSMS 4/9/2020</p> <p>Staffing- Master Level Interns Our interns continue to be integral members of YFS team, helping to facilitate programs and provide help to clients.</p>
VII. Old Business	Nothing to report.
VIII. New Business	Action steps and advocacy or report on initiatives by Commission members Next YFS Commission meeting scheduled for April 7th @ 5:30PM
IX. Other Business	Nothing to report.
X. Adjournment	Motion made by M. Rafferty to adjourn the meeting at 6:30 PM. The motion was seconded and approved L.Castro.

Respectfully submitted,
Angela Gaidry, Recording Clerk