

**Old Saybrook Youth & Family Services
Commission Meeting
Tuesday, April 7, 2020; 5:30 PM
Via Teleconference Due to COVID19/Corona Virus State of CT Public Health Emergency**

Audio:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yD5O4IrdcTk&list=PLKX0JMf1KPP8lRBZS_ZdP8lwLPaujsfIH

“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</p> <p>Absent Members: Mary Ann Iadarola, Public Nursing Board Representative; Michael Spera, Chief of Police</p> <p>Student Representatives: Joe Bradley, Kyle Wisialowski</p> <p>Absent Student Representatives: Carissa Schilke, Khushi Patel</p> <p>Attendant Staff: Heather McNeil, Executive Director Angela Gaidry, Commission Clerk</p> |
| II. Call to Order | <p>Meeting called to order at 5:30 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 M. Rafferty to approve the minutes of Tuesday, March 3, 2020 as presented. The motion was seconded by L. Castro and approved.</p> |
| V. Chairman’s Comments | <p>J. Welsh and M. Rafferty began by complimenting and thanking YFS team for the distribution of information via emails to the OS community. Recognized Chief Spera and First Selectman Fortuna for the dedication and commitment to keep the public well-informed.</p> <p>J. Welsh noted the April intention for the commission is “relationship building”. At this time more than ever people are craving connections and trying to re-establish routines during this unrepresented time. From school classrooms, to homes with independent college students back and other young students just being home, to commission meetings, etc. the challenge is re-establishing and nurturing relationships in a new way. It poses great challenges and new opportunities. Keep relationships going, help each other, stay informed and stay safe.</p> |
| VI. Director’s Report for 4/07/2020 | <p>H. McNeil thanked commission for their recognition of the hard work YFS staff and J. Paradis/ Parks and Rec has been doing.</p> <p>Client Care Interns are no longer at YFS due to the current health emergency. Their clients have been reconnected with agency staff clinicians.</p> <p>Staffing and Telehealth With training completed, staff now utilizing Telehealth (Doxy.me) for appointments. Most working remotely, any office staff through staggering shifts. Communication to the public through the town website https://www.oldsaybrookct.gov/ or via YFS emails through Constant Contact.</p> |

| | |
|---------------------------|---|
| | <p>Susan Consoli, Social Services 860-395-3188 is working remotely and able to offer support of basic needs. YFS Director Heather McNeil (c) 860-995-6402 For after hours: on call 860-790-0883</p> <p>Emergency Management - Emergency Operations Center (EOC) Everyday there is a meeting with police, First Selectman, school superintendent, public health and other town officials to discuss updates and prepare notifications for community. Current meal distribution program through the school will include Mon/Tues of spring break (April 13-14, 2020). Discussions ongoing for future dates.</p> <p>With the current situation, it is difficult to plan the continuation of YFS/SS programs or implementation of new programs. Once this situation is behind us, YFS will evaluate how to help people. People will need an opportunity to heal, process, grieve, how to help within community at a slower pace, will take time.</p> <p>Freshman Retreat- TBD; possibly a different approach re: schedule. E3/YAC- will be reaching out to students to maintain a connection. Cardboard Community (senior project of 2 seniors) has been “reconfigured” from the initial plan on the town green to now a bigger push more than ever to gather donations and supplies for homeless shelters.</p> <p>OSHS Student Perspective J. Bradley offered his experience under the current situation. School was challenging during the 1st week of distance learning. There seemed to be a “disconnect” on the increased workload and the due dates established. However now that has been improved and everyone seems to have settled into a more manageable schedule. Expectations have been adjusted in day-to-day classes and for upcoming national AP testing etc. This experience was repeated by J. Welsh re: distance learning for higher education colleges/universities.</p> <p>Other M. Rafferty and J. Welsh encourages everyone to stay safe, commended teachers, counselors, healthcare professionals, store owners/staff, delivery people, police, etc. for their hard work during this time. J. Welsh community building- hearts in the window, light up OS, help neighbors.</p> <p>L. Castro asked where citizens should reach out to people in lieu of expressing concerns/frustrations on social media posts re: updates and other information. Be supportive of others. H. McNeil mentioned the daily COVID 19 updates, electronic signage in the community has a multitude of information, links and phone numbers. For residents needing additional information: OS Town Website: https://www.oldsaybrookct.gov/ Social Services: 860-395-3188</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 May 5th @ 5:30PM</p> |
| IX. Other Business | Nothing to report. |
| X. Adjournment | Motion made by M. Rafferty to adjourn the meeting at 6:03 PM. The motion was seconded and approved H. McNeil. |

Respectfully submitted,
Angela Gaidry, Recording Clerk