

Old Saybrook Youth & Family Services

Commission Meeting

Tuesday, May 12, 2020; 5:30 PM

Via Teleconference Due to COVID19/Corona Virus State of CT Public Health Emergency

Audio:

https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLKX0JMf1KPp8IRBZS_ZdP8IwLPaujsfIH

“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, Mary Ann Iadarola, Public Nursing Board Representative; Michael Spera, Chief of Police; Lisa Castro, Old Saybrook Middle School Counselor</p> <p>Absent Members: Jonathan Paradis, Old Saybrook Parks and Recreation</p> <p>Student Representatives: Kyle Wisialowski</p> <p>Absent Student Representatives: Carissa Schilke, Khushi Patel, Joe Bradley</p> <p>Attendant Staff: Heather McNeil, Executive Director Brittany Eckert, Program Coordinator Angela Gaidry, Commission Clerk</p>
II. Call to Order	Meeting called to order at 5:32 PM. Pledge of Allegiance
III. Comments from the Public	No one from the public was present.
IV. Approval of Minutes	Motion made by M. Rafferty to approve the minutes of Tuesday, April 7, 2020 as presented. The motion was seconded by L. Castro and approved.
V. Chairman’s Comments	<p>J. Welsh began by complimenting and thanking OS police, first responders, and hospital teams for their tireless efforts. Thanks to YFS team for the distribution of information to OS community. M. Rafferty acknowledged the Emergency Mgmt Team under Chief Spera’s leadership, the town masks distribution, etc.</p> <p>L. Castro extended thank you to H. McNeil for continually meeting the needs of families in community. M. Rafferty agreed, complementing the incredible YFS email newsletters with helpful things to do for all members of the family.</p> <p>J. Welsh noted the May intention for the commission is “inclusion” (as an agency and throughout the community). As a commission, think about how to have more representation and the voices of community around the table.</p>
VI. Director’s Report for 5/12/2020	<p>H. McNeil invited Chief Spera to speak about the Recovery Committee. Today was the first meeting for OS Covid-19 Long Term Recovery. Cross section of community leaders to help in all aspects of OS recovery after a crisis. For example: H. McNeil (Emotional Wellness & Social Services) More information to come.</p> <p>Social Services Report Since March 17, S. Consoli assisting more than 320+ individuals throughout the community. In coordination with the OSPD there is a call tree to check-in with seniors and other individuals needing assistance. Uptick in new households that are struggling with unemployment for the first time. Susan Consoli, Social Services 860-395-3188 is working remotely and able to offer support of basic needs.</p>

	<p>Clinical Services Working remotely YFS clinical staff now utilizing Telehealth (Doxy.me) for appointments. Working with OSPS to re-connect with some students as well as offer support for students that may need help but have not reached out before. YFS communication to the public through the town website https://www.oldsaybrookct.gov/ or via YFS emails through Constant Contact. YFS Director Heather McNeil (c) 860-995-6402 For after hours: on call 860-790-0883</p> <p>Planning for the Future? No specifics at this time. There will be so type of support needed due to trauma, grief...community-wide effort. H. McNeil working with university where she teaches to evaluate possible resources available. People will need an opportunity to process, heal and grieve accordingly.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Summer programs- TBD; may have to diminish size of groups. • Search Survey Fall '20- further discussions with Superintendent. Perhaps add the need for a mental health component. J. Welsh asked if grant tied to survey? H. McNeil mentioned not necessarily as would still qualify with the program work currently done (UW Assets in Action). • Re-connecting with E3 Students- working with 2 program coordinators (B. Eckert and W. Mill). <p>OSHS Student Perspective K. Wisialowski offered his experience under the current situation. There is more of a routine as the weeks have progressed. Initially the workload was overwhelming as teachers are trying to complete the curriculum. Now the work is more manageable with better timelines. Everyone seems to have settled into a more manageable schedule. There is much concern about giving the senior class a proper send-off.</p> <p>Other H. McNeil mentioned about working on connecting through a Zoom meeting with YAC students.</p> <p>J. Welsh asked if there was anything commission could do/offer for Class 2020? Any award ceremonies? L. Castro said administrators are working with parents and students. Awards will still be given but no ceremonies announced at this time. Ideas being developed but much is dependent on what the guidelines will be at the time. YFS commission approved "Spirit of YAC" nominee put forth by H. McNeil as well as an approval for gift for another student nominee who has given much time during high school career.</p> <p>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	Action steps and advocacy or report on initiatives by Commission members Next YFS Commission meeting scheduled for June 2th @ 5:30PM
IX. Other Business	Nothing to report.
X. Adjournment	Motion made by M. Rafferty to adjourn the meeting at 6:00 PM. The motion was seconded and approved H.McNeil.

Respectfully submitted,
Angela Gaidry, Recording Clerk