

**Old Saybrook Youth & Family Services  
Commission Meeting  
Tuesday, June 2, 2020; 5:30 PM  
Via Teleconference Due to COVID19/Corona Virus State of CT Public Health Emergency**

Direct link to the recording: <https://youtu.be/30FAeXMTSDw>

**Y&FS Commission Meetings:**

[https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLKX0JMf1KPp8lRBZS\\_ZdP8IwLPaujsfIH](https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLKX0JMf1KPp8lRBZS_ZdP8IwLPaujsfIH)

Covid-19 Playlist: <https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLKX0JMf1KPp9udiWTL-WmjmxvSYBnCU8N>

*“To collaboratively support and advocate for positive relationships in an inclusive community”*

<b>I. Roll Call</b>	<p><b>Attendant Members:</b> Jennifer Welsh, Chair; Mike Rafferty, Retired Educator, Michael Spera, Chief of Police; Lisa Castro, Old Saybrook Middle School Counselor, Jonathan Paradis, Old Saybrook Parks and Recreation</p> <p><b>Absent Members:</b> Mary Ann Iadarola, Public Nursing Board Representative</p> <p><b>Student Representatives:</b> Kyle Wisialowski, Khushi Patel, Joe Bradley</p> <p><b>Absent Student Representatives:</b> Carissa Schilke</p> <p><b>Attendant Staff:</b> Heather McNeil, Executive Director Angela Gaidry, Commission Clerk</p>
<b>II. Call to Order</b>	Meeting called to order at 5:33 PM. Pledge of Allegiance
<b>III. Comments from the Public</b>	No one from the public was present.
<b>IV. Approval of Minutes</b>	<b>Motion</b> made by M. Rafferty to approve the minutes of Tuesday, May 12, 2020 as presented. The motion was seconded by H. McNeil and approved.
<b>V. Chairman's Comments</b>	J. Welsh began by thanking the student representatives. It is vitally important for them to lend their voices to this commission and help guide the direction for programming, lend suggestions and feedback regarding our schools and community. Special congratulations to Khushi and Carissa on graduating and plans for the future. J. Welsh noted the end of her term as Chairperson. M. Rafferty and entire commission commended J. Welsh on her “immense passion, respect and commitment to the committee and entire community”.
<b>VI. Director's Report for 6/02/2020</b>	<p>H. McNeil invited Chief Spera to speak about the Recovery Committee. Chief thanked H. McNeil for her dedication to the committee. Lots of time involved via Leadership Team meetings 3x week, Co-chair of Social Services &amp; Emotional Wellness team on the Recovery Task Force, being on-call, etc. Emergency Management continues its work to help town residents navigate the pandemic and phases of re-opening town and businesses. Police presence at the beaches to assist teenage students work to enforce current restrictions.</p> <p>H. McNeil, co-chair with Pastor Sinibaldo, Social Services &amp; Emotional Wellness committee comprised of 10 community members (incl. OSMS Associate Principal M. Walton and OSMS counselor L. Castro) to set short-term and long-term goals. For example, there is a need to aid in recovery from trauma and provide info via local resource guide. In addition, there is a need to help isolated seniors without good access to technology. Youth Activities- no in-person activities planned at this time. Will review as needed depending on direction from the state.</p>

	<p><b>Parks &amp; Rec</b> J. Paradis discussed Parks &amp; Rec to begin more virtual programming. Hobby-based programs to come. On-demand preschool programs (i.e. video lessons). Will keep up-to-date based on State updates and staffing.</p> <p><b>Year-End Summary</b> Thank you to Chief for the partnership between all departments for transparency.</p> <p><b>YFS Summer Programming-</b> remains fluid based on direction from the state and staffing. Virtual programs that are HIPAA compliant incl. emotional regulation, resilience building, stressors on family, etc. Other possible topics- Marriage &amp; Family, Parenting during this time, etc.</p> <p><b>E3-</b> students applied and were awarded a \$250 grant from America's Promise. Students will begin an online mentoring/craft activity for younger students. Special thanks and congrats to J. Schneider for applying. YFS program coordinators and E3 students will meet virtually to outline next steps.</p> <p><b>Clinical-</b> wonderful communication among the YFS clinicians and OS school counselors to maintain services to those that need it.</p> <p><b>YAC-</b> L. Castro inquired re: Jr. YAC. H. McNeil mentioned coordinators will continue to reach out to those students. A planning meeting with program coordinators scheduled for Wednesday, June 3.</p> <p><b>OSHS Student Update</b> J. Bradley would like to stay connected during the pandemic &amp; over the summer via email communications. K. Wisialowski agreed and said the video calls are good to be able to actually see other members.</p> <p><b>Other</b> Great to see the large banners up at OSHS recognizing the senior class. Congrats to J. Bradley and OSHS Drama Dept. for Halo Award Nominations for fall play. J. Welsh reiterated the need to build a legacy beyond ourselves. How to sustain the good work of the commission? J. Welsh believe M. Rafferty would continue our direction. J. Welsh nominated M. Rafferty for Chair. L. Castro seconded the nomination. H. McNeil nominated Chief M. Spera Vice-Chair and Secretary- J. Paradis. J. Welsh seconded. All approved.</p>
<b>VII. Old Business</b>	Nothing to report.
<b>VIII. New Business</b>	<b>Action steps and advocacy or report on initiatives by Commission members</b> Next YFS Commission meeting TBA
<b>IX. Other Business</b>	Nothing to report.
<b>X. Adjournment</b>	<b>Motion</b> made by M. Rafferty to adjourn the meeting at 6:10 PM. The motion was seconded by K. Patel and approved.

Respectfully submitted,  
Angela Gaidry, Recording Clerk