

**Old Saybrook Youth & Family Services  
Commission Meeting  
Tuesday, March 2, 2021; 5:00 PM  
Via Teleconference Due to COVID19/Corona Virus State of CT Public Health Emergency**

**YFS Commission Meeting Playlist:**  
[https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLKX0JMf1KPp8lRBZS\\_ZdP8IwLPaujsfIH](https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLKX0JMf1KPp8lRBZS_ZdP8IwLPaujsfIH)

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

<b>I. Roll Call</b>	<p><b>Attendant Members:</b> Mike Rafferty, Chair; Lisa Castro, Old Saybrook Middle School Counselor; David Plotkin, Community At-Large Member; Jeff Harder, Community At-Large Member, Jonathan Paradis, Old Saybrook Parks and Recreation, Mary Ann Iadarola, Public Health Nursing Board Representative</p> <p><b>Absent Members:</b> Michael Spera, Chief of Police  <b>Student Representatives:</b> Libby Stuart, Kyle Wisialowski, Joe Bradley  <b>Other Attendees:</b> student Shikha Patel</p> <p><b>Attendant Staff:</b>  Heather McNeil, Executive Director  Wendy Mill, Program Coordinator  Brittany Eckert, Program Coordinator  Angela Gaidry, Commission Clerk</p>
<b>II. Call to Order</b>	Meeting called to order at 5:00 by M. Rafferty Pledge of Allegiance
<b>III. Comments from the Public</b>	No comments.
<b>IV. Approval of Minutes</b>	<b>Motion</b> made by J. Harder to approve the minutes of Tuesday, February 2, 2021 as presented. The motion was seconded by M. Iadarola and approved.
<b>V. Chairman's Comments</b>	M. Rafferty congratulates J. Bradley Presidential Scholar Candidate- credit to parents, school and community. YFS logo contest – great idea! All ages from young to seniors can enter. YFS programming- phenomenal programs for all ages.
<b>VI. Director's Report for 3/02/2021</b>	<p><b>Introduction</b>  H. McNeil: Introduce W. Mill, B. Eckert and E3 students to speak about what they've been working on and upcoming plans.  <u>Wendy:</u> E3 since fall 2016.  Meet regularly (incl. over the summer) Mon. nights for 1.5hrs. – 8 active members. Components include- current events, leadership training, prevention training, programs and fun.</p> <p><u>J. Bradley:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Crafty Connections (for middle school students)- Student Jacob Schneider applied for the grant. Awarded the grant to enable purchase of special Zoom account for E3. Via Zoom, students engaged middle school students by making crafts together (supplies provided and available for advance pick-up @YFS)</li> <li>• Sticker Shock- yearly event. E3 students go to local places in town where alcohol is sold &amp; place signage/stickers noting that it's illegal to sell alcohol to minors. Education.</li> <li>• Health Classes @ OSHS – prevention discussions.</li> </ul>

S. Patel:

CADCA- Community Anti-Drug Coalition. Help groups begin prevention programs. Provide statistics and tools, action plan templates to start new engage youth.

PSA- student/E3 member J. Schneider spearheading project - PSA on mental health awareness to eliminate the stigma. Help peers and other youth be aware that help is available

Social Media- educate on mental health, substance abuse.

D. Plotkin – remarks of commendation to students for their dedication and speaking in front of peers which can sometimes be a challenge but necessary. Well done.

H. McNeil - Thank you D. Plotkin for reaching out to B. Eckert to present to class re: Circle of Security

**Brief Report on Budget Presentation**

It went well. Additionally Selectman Matt Pugliese asked about other needs?

Translation services

Currently utilize Google translate or volunteers if available. Translation services for mental health services, documents, clinical forms, translator at Social Services Help Day.

BOS-BOF awarded \$5,000 to budget

M. Rafferty – commended H. McNeil on outstanding presentation

**C.A.F.E.**

February C.A.F.E. events went well. Trans Awareness by Jillian Celentano well attended (37 participants). OSHS virtual school assembly date TBA.

March 11 Mental Health & Physical Wellness (Beach Club Fitness owner; used to work @ Dept of Children & Families) – for high school students.

L. Castro- request possible date for OSMS students? Possible after-school club TBD.

March 15 Speech Pathologist Hilary Weissberg

YFS mindful of commercial aspect but being transparent

**Local Prevention Council** meeting 3/4/21 @ 3:30pm

Legalization of marijuana- YSB task how to work to educate parents/students.

Concerns re: CBD storefront on Main Street near Sheffield- OSMS students walk by it. Other stores in the area – need to bring awareness of community mapping, address zoning boards, opt-out right to not have near schools and other places near youth.

YSB of Middlesex Counties look to work with lobbyists in Hartford (for every \$1 in revenue, it costs \$4.50 for treatments-mental health, potentially emergency services)

**Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Initiatives**

Include information and resources on YFS website and newsletters; include information of things happening in local community as well as around the state.

Acton Public Library on March 16 @ 7PM - Deep South/Deep North: A Family's Journey by Lottie B. Scott, lives in Norwich.

B. Eckert – member of Old Saybrook Early Childhood Council (OSECC)

Put together a webpage for parents/caregivers on how to speak to children about diversity, equity and inclusion.

	Meeting date TBD with Superintendent Jan Perruccio re: survey opportunities & Camp Hazen (fall 2021)  M. Rafferty - Thank you to Kyle, Joe and Libby glad to have you as student reps, your service and input.
<b>VII. Old Business</b>	Nothing to report.
<b>VIII. New Business</b>	Action steps and advocacy or report on initiatives by Commission members. <b>Next YFS Commission meeting April 6, 2021.</b>
<b>IX. Other Business</b>	Nothing to report.
<b>X. Adjournment</b>	<b>Motion</b> made by D. Plotkin to adjourn the meeting at 5:31 PM. L. Castro seconded. The motion was approved.

Respectfully submitted,  
Angela Gaidry, Recording Clerk