

**Old Saybrook Youth & Family Services
Commission Meeting
Tuesday, September 7, 2021; 5:00 PM
Via Teleconference and In-person**

YFS Commission Meeting Playlist:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NVgGEV1RQNc>

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

I. Roll Call	<p>Attendant Members: Mike Rafferty, Chair; Michael Spera, Chief of Police; 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>Student Representatives: Libby Stuart</p> <p>Attendant Staff: Heather McNeil, Executive Director Angela Gaidry, Commission Clerk</p>
II. Call to Order	Meeting called to order at 5:00 pm by M. Rafferty Pledge of Allegiance
III. Comments from the Public	No comments.
IV. Approval of Minutes	Motion made by M. Iadarola to approve the minutes of Tuesday, June 1, 2021 as presented. The motion was seconded by D. Plotkin and approved.
V. Chairman's Comments	<p>M. Rafferty:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Credit to H.McNeil and YFS staff for the many great programs throughout the summer. • M. Iadarola mentioned sharing YFS emails with people in other towns. They were amazed. Many of those she spoke with do not know if their towns have similar offerings or have not been made aware of it. Very proud of our YFS. • J. Harder mentioned his family enjoyed the recent Picnic & Play @ Goodwin. • M. Rafferty review of YFS commission schedule of meetings.
VI. Director's Report for 7/07/2021	<p><u>Summer Programming Review 2021</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lots of positive feedback • Robust offerings. Smaller groups 6-12 students in groups (socialization aspect, regulate the experience, etc.) • Pre-COVID typically groups of 10-20 students <p><u>Fall Programming</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meetings with Acton Library & Parks & Rec to identify gaps in services of programming and overlaps • Pilot “dual” program Stroller Walk (YFS), Music & Mindfulness (Acton Library) <p><u>New Social Services Assistant</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Laura Dean-Frazier (15 hr/wk) working with Susan Consoli. Social Services very busy due to eviction moratorium/ rental assistance, basic needs food/clothing/shelter. Laura also works Social Services in Clinton, & was a former pantry manager @ SSKP for 13yrs. <p><u>Opening for another student representative (11th grader)</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HM asks Libby for recommendations and to reach out to other students • HM will email a description of the student rep role to Libby

	<p><u>Freshman Retreat 9/2 and Sophomore Retreat 9/3 @ Camp Hazen</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Freshman Retreat 8am-7pm – about 83 students • Sophomore Retreat 8-2pm – about 83 students • Feedback and discussions for next year. • OSHS LINK crew very similar to YFS YAC leaders we've had for many years (same make-up) • New LINK facilitator at OSHS was glad to have YFS support the LINK crew • Looking for a 2nd Link facilitator (perhaps YFS program coordinator?) would be a natural partnership and great connection. <p>Chief Spera's feedback from his sophomore at home - impressed with both YFS & Camp Hazen staff. Loved the interactive games. He was not able to attend as a freshman due to the COVID restrictions last year. However he felt that it was better to go as a sophomore – as friend groups change from middle to high school, it was more comfortable going as a sophomore and transition with other groups. Rethinking the overnight aspect that has been done in the past. Discuss the same model done this year.</p> <p><u>In School Programming</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work closely with L. Castro, J. Taylor, and S. Diaz. • 4 new CCSU MFT interns (1st year) on school-based track • Alyssa P. 2nd year MFT intern will help mentor as well. • S. Shea (former YFS intern) now hired at OSHS • Working closely with Kathy Bai <p><u>After School Programming</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grades 5-6 begin Sept 20 @ 2:50-4:30pm (3 week model) • Other programs TBD <p><u>United Way Funding</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Early Childhood – not awarded this year. Had been received for 11 yrs. Was not intended to receive forever. • Assets in Action – new award base 12 YSB in our group \$30K (now about \$2K per YSB) substantially less but will even out with other programs, etc. <p><u>Other</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New Families (of 7th-8th graders) provide an orientation to community. PK-4 had the Picnic and Play group. • Contracted with a service Boost Lingo (interpreter) for social services and any YFS any programs to connect with marginalized groups or people who are not getting the information. Example: communicate back-to-school event <p>Marijuana – under discussion - planning to put forth a moratorium not to allow any retail establishment in Old Saybrook for a certain time TBD.</p> <p>Back-to-School Supply Event – OSPD school supplies, drive-thru operation to give out backpacks and fill with any school supplies needed. Over 100+ attended.</p> <p>M. Iadarola Public Health Nursing Board mtg. October 14</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 October 12.
IX. Other Business	Nothing to report.
X. Adjournment	Motion made by D. Plotkin to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by M. Iadarola. M. Rafferty adjourns the meeting at 5:40 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Angela Gaidry, Recording Clerk