

**Old Saybrook Youth & Family Services  
Commission Meeting  
Tuesday, November 2, 2021, 5:00 PM  
Via Teleconference and In-person**

**YFS Commission Meeting Playlist:**

[https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLKX0JMf1KPp8lRBZS\\_ZdP8lwLPaujsfIH](https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLKX0JMf1KPp8lRBZS_ZdP8lwLPaujsfIH)

*“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</p> <p><b>Absent Members:</b> Michael Spera, Chief of Police, Mary Ann Iadarola, Public Health Nursing Board Representative</p> <p><b>Student Representative(s):</b> Libby Stuart</p> <p><b>Attendant Staff:</b> Heather McNeil, Executive Director Brittany Eckert, Program Coordinator Angela Gaidry, Commission Clerk</p>
<b>II. Call to Order</b>	Meeting called to order at 5:00 pm by M. Rafferty Pledge of Allegiance
<b>III. Comments from the Public</b>	Chris Ratineri (Old Saybrook resident) commented.
<b>IV. Approval of Minutes</b>	<b>Motion</b> made by D. Plotkin to approve the minutes of Tuesday, October 12, 2021 as presented. The motion was seconded by J. Harder and approved.
<b>V. Chairman's Comments</b>	<p>M. Rafferty:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Credit to Director H. McNeil and YFS staff for the continuation of many positive and educational programs for the community.</li> </ul>
<b>VI. Director's Report for 11/02/2021</b>	<p>HMcNeil - meeting being recorded</p> <p><u>Report on the Goodwin School/Community Purple Project</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Program Coordinator Brittany Eckert OSECC One Book One Town (10/16-10/25)</li> <li>Book about inclusion, acceptance, hope, advocacy</li> <li>Great turnout, positive feedback from parents, school staff, etc.</li> <li>Joy of reading, Book Walk from Goodwin School to Acton Library</li> <li>Schools, library, local businesses, community members displayed their purple lights to turn OS purple.</li> <li>Collaboration among the schools, library, and YFS. Book walk - Acton Children's Librarian, Emily Sheehan, reading the book and various activities during the week.</li> <li>Feature on Channel 3</li> <li>J. Paradis – as a parent &amp; as Parks &amp; Rec rep recognize Brittany – thank you, positive, great work on the event...at the time initially creating this project, did not know what protocols would be in place at the time.</li> </ul> <p>H. McNeil – Brittany has brought a really nice, positive energy &amp; great collaboration/partnerships with other agencies within town.</p>

	<p><u>Community Conversation with Parents and Teachers (11/3)</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Facilitated by Dr. Kathleen Laundy (psychologist &amp; family therapist) and Dr. Peg Donohue (Assistant Professor CCSU and former psychologist OSMS)</li> </ul> <p>"Kids of Covid: Where We Are &amp; Where Are We Going," taking place on November 3rd at 7pm, virtually. This Community Conversation forum will be taking place in partnership with Old Saybrook Public Schools and Old Saybrook Youth and Family Services</p> <p>Dysregulated Behavior - multi-tiered systems of support Over 60+ parents have signed up and taken the survey. Our programs designed around public surveys and needs.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Nature Connection program – social connections made, mindfulness activities, exploring OS outdoor public trails</li> <li>L. Castro (OSMS guidance counselor) – teachers &amp; support staff will be joining the conversation 11/3, make it interactive.</li> </ul> <p><u>Other Programs/Events</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>YAC Pasta Dinner was 10/29 – special thanks to Chef Tony &amp; the Masons, as well as the OSHS student helpers. Another successful dinner. Some proceeds go to YAC and a donation to H.E.A.T. Next event with the Masons January 21 – turkey dinner</li> <li>Saybrook Starlight (no more Saybrook Stroll) - community looking for a family-friendly winter event. Collaboration: Economic Development (Susie Beckman), Chamber of Commerce (Judy Sullivan), Parks &amp; Rec, Acton Library, The Kate, OS Estuary Council of Seniors-Intergenerational, Fire Dept (Santa)</li> <li>From the OS high school (12/4 Frosty 5K) various calendar of events on the town green</li> <li>YFS (Saybrook Sparkle)- lanterns/luminaries lights project</li> <li>Acton Library – book reading about different cultures and in different languages. Multi-generational, cultural and inclusive.</li> </ul> <p><u>Staffing</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Two positions available (F/T clinician, F/T program coordinator)</li> <li>Interns (5) will continue to help with programs</li> </ul> <p><u>Other:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>LPC (Local Prevention Council) – substance/abuse prevention education</li> <li>CAFÉ Event (virtual) UnMask the Stash -November 18</li> <li>L. Stuart (student rep) spoke about the education and prevention classes &amp; the positive response.</li> <li>Holiday Giving – Social Services (distribution at OS Police Dept) Donations 11/29-12/16; Turkey Distribution 11/22</li> </ul>
<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 December 7.</b>
<b>IX. Other Business</b>	Nothing to report.
<b>X. Adjournment</b>	<b>M. Rafferty</b> adjourns the meeting at 5:38 PM.

Respectfully submitted,  
Angela Gaidry, Recording Clerk