

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

YFS Commission Meeting Playlist:

https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLKX0JMf1KPp8lRBZS_ZdP8IwLPaujsfIH

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

I. Roll Call	<p>Attendant Members: Mike Rafferty, Chair; Lisa Castro, Old Saybrook Middle School Counselor; David Plotkin, Community At-Large Member; Jeff Harder, Community At-Large Member, Mary Ann Iadarola, Public Health Nursing Board Representative</p> <p>Absent Members: Michael Spera, Chief of Police, Jonathan Paradis, Old Saybrook Parks and Recreation</p> <p>Student Representative(s): Libby Stuart</p> <p>Attendant Staff: Heather McNeil, Executive Director Adam Stahr, Clinician Brittany Eckert, Program Coordinator 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	None
IV. Approval of Minutes	Motion made by J. Harder to approve the minutes of Tuesday, November 7, 2021 as presented. The motion was seconded by L. Castro and approved.
V. Chairman's Comments	YFS is a community team effort to bring programs and services to the public in conjunction with the schools and library.
VI. Director's Report for 12/07/2021	<p>HMNeil – welcome and introduction to Adam Stahr, new Full-time Clinician. Some may recognize him from a few years ago as an intern with the agency.</p> <p>Brittany Eckert now Full-time Program Coordinator. Both certified as Circle of Security facilitators and will work together to coordinate some parent programs.</p> <p><u>Starlight Festival (Sat 12/4)</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thank you to all who came down to support. Thank you to YFS staff who put it up and made it come together. • YFS made \$400 donation to SSKP from the proceeds of the fundraiser • Sunday night rain took down a lot of the white stars. Plan to order new waterproof white stars for next year. • Came together quickly (6 wks.) but next year will have more planning/prep time. • Public really enjoyed it and was very positive; appreciated how pretty it all looked and nice to have a family community event again. • Committee will meet after the holidays to begin discussion for next year. Economic Development, Chamber of Commerce, Estuary, Parks & Rec, Acton Library, YFS, The Kate, etc. • Volunteer involvement from middle school and high school was great.

	<p><u>Turkey Distribution</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Went well, though numbers were down (TY 130 vs. previous years 200) could be attributed to previous years distribution was 2 days, this year was 1 day due to time and human resources. All phone calls, flyers and social media communications that went out did let people know it was only 1 day, but sometimes people are still programmed mentally by previous years or forget. Any calls received the next day were directed as to where to pick up the extra turkeys. Others were donated to a state food organization in Hartford. Some turkeys will be given out at the Holiday Giving Distribution. <p><u>Holiday Giving</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> B. Eckert currently 105 families registered but many more applications pending. Working closely with Andrea (@ OSPD) helping with translating the Spanish forms to make it a smooth transition. Drive-through pickup. Gift cards donated. Toys at OSPD (until Dec 15) <p><u>Staffing</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Internal posting for part-time program coordinator position (29hrs) until 12/13. Then available externally (Harbor News, etc.) <p><u>Short-term Goals for 1st quarter:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regain equilibrium within the agency- last 2 yrs. lots of changes (not just Covid-related) but with a small staff & having staff deficits it's been difficult to do the programming done in the past, scheduling, getting back into the schools, 4 core measure survey L. Castro – budget for Spanish-speaking interns or therapists? No, always on YFS radar during intern fairs, however, they are very much pursued by city agencies (Hartford, Waterbury, etc.) Boost Lingo for social services but not used for clinical due to confidentiality. Fanny Aguilar, LCSW- bilingual (Spanish-English) 123 Elm Street, Suite 1000 Old Saybrook, CT 06475 (860) 661-1196 Look to offer Marital and Parenting programs/workshops in the New Year Circle of Security (w/childcare) to help parents take care of while mtg. <p><u>Budget FY2023:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Commission members to attend budget meeting in January Middlesex UW funding cut (Assets in Action, Early Childhood) but YFS will continue offering other programs to try to offset the loss. <p><u>Other:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> H. McNeil Congratulations to Libby (field hockey accolades, sportsperson of the week) Libby suggests YFS drop-in hours during OSHS mid-terms would help alleviate/manage stress for students. Dates TBA. D. Plotkin congrats on Starlight Festival. Truly enjoyed all day/night. M. Rafferty – Happy Holidays to all.
VII. Old Business	Nothing to report.
VIII. New Business	Action steps and advocacy or report on initiatives by Commission members. Next YFS Commission meeting January 4, 2022.
IX. Other Business	Nothing to report.
X. Adjournment	M. Rafferty adjourns the meeting at 5:34 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Angela Gaidry, Recording Clerk