

**Old Saybrook Youth & Family Services  
Commission Meeting  
Tuesday, January 4, 2022; 5:00 PM  
Via Teleconference and In-person**

**YFS Commission Meeting Playlist:**

<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLbEt7-HiGQ8lg0PvMBKyiD3YRDhLnur-W>

*“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; Michael Spera, Chief of Police; Jonathan Paradis, Old Saybrook Parks and Recreation; 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><b>Absent Members:</b> n/a</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>	None
<b>IV. Approval of Minutes</b>	<b>Motion</b> made by D. Plotkin to approve the minutes of Tuesday, December 7, 2021 as presented. The motion was seconded by L. Castro and approved.
<b>V. Chairman's Comments</b>	Acknowledgement of YFS continuation of great programs and activities within the community.
<b>VI. Director's Report for 1/04/2022</b>	<p><u>Budget FY 2022-2023</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Slight increase over last year due to change in personnel, insurance (employee benefits), loss of Middlesex UW funding. Revenue generation down due to staff shortage over the past year.</li> <li>Chief Spera: budget is in line with the changes and reasonable. Other areas within the budget have remained flat and consistent year-to-year. H McNeil has done more with same amount of funding.</li> <li>YFS will continue offering other programs to offset the loss in UW funds.</li> <li>In addition, working on a request for American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding</li> <li>Chief Spera made motion to approve budget as presented, M. Iadarola seconded. Unanimously approved by YFS Commission members.</li> </ul> <p><u>Holiday Giving 2021 recap YFS &amp; Social Services</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>B. Eckert - over 116 families registered, over 200 youth provided variety of gifts, bikes, etc.</li> <li>Thank you to community, area businesses, and local residents for its generosity and OSPD for its assistance and collaboration.</li> </ul>

	<p><u>Positive Youth Development Programming</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• On Friday had scheduled a small field trip (10-13 students) to adhere to CDC guidelines. By request of Superintendent Perruccio we have postponed due to public health concerns.</li> <li>• After School Enrichment programs will be offered at the end of the month cohorted by grades (replicate the model in school)</li> <li>• Programs/workshops to address social emotional regulation and learning, resilience and anxiety.</li> <li>• Circle of Security (parent programming) – Program Coordinator B.Eckert, Clinician Adam Stahr both certified facilitators to offer a workshop Feb 8<sup>th</sup>. Hope to offer food &amp; childcare to increase attendance - a big need in order for parents to take part in the workshop.</li> <li>• Drop In at OSHS on Thursdays</li> <li>• Lisa C: value the interns, students happy to have them there. Thrilled to have Adam back.</li> <li>• H.McNeil thank you to J. Paradis - phenomenal programming at Parks &amp; Rec.</li> </ul> <p><u>Other:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Based on Libby's suggestion YFS drop-in hours during OSHS mid-terms for stress management</li> <li>• Libby mentioned in previous years National Honor Society (NHS) would hold PJs &amp; Prep for freshman and sophomore - not sure if this year due to covid?</li> <li>• D. Plotkin – before holiday break 8<sup>th</sup> grade team had various activities with community members, incl. YFS Brittany &amp; Laura (social services) discussion on poverty &amp; homelessness. Thank you.</li> <li>• J. Paradis - Congrats to Old Saybrook Early Childhood Council (OSECC) and Brittany on 12 Days of Books – great community and family project leading up to Christmas.</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 February 1, 2022.</b>
<b>IX. Other Business</b>	Nothing to report.
<b>X. Adjournment</b>	<b>M. Rafferty</b> adjourns the meeting at 5:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,  
Angela Gaidry, Recording Clerk