

**Old Saybrook Youth & Family Services  
Commission Meeting  
Tuesday, February 1, 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; 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> Jonathan Paradis, Old Saybrook Parks and Recreation</p> <p><b>Attendant:</b> First Selectman Carl Fortuna</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 Chief Spera to approve the minutes of Tuesday; January 4, 2022 as presented. The motion was seconded by M. Iadarola and approved.
<b>V. Chairman's Comments</b>	<p>Acknowledgement of YFS continuation of great programs and activities within the community. Collaboration among the organizations YFS, Parks &amp; Rec, Acton Library,</p> <p>Commend Chief Spera &amp; Emergency Management for the work done during COVID, the storms, etc.</p>
<b>VI. Director's Report for 2/01/2022</b>	<p>H McNeil – introduces First Selectman Carl Fortuna. In attendance to celebrate M. Rafferty's birthday (actual date Feb. 22<sup>nd</sup>) and present a Proclamation to recognize Chairman M. Rafferty for his dedication and 30+ years of service to the OS community; as a former educator/Principal and lifelong volunteer.</p> <p><u>Fundraising Community Dinner</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Raised over \$1,000</li> <li>• Will make a \$975 donation to Shoreline Soup Kitchen &amp; Pantry</li> </ul> <p><u>H. McNeil Comments</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• YFS Emergency Management and other community members: YFS works to meet the needs of the community &amp; make changes when necessary based on health and safety information passed along from Superintendent, OSPD, etc. All communicate well together.</li> </ul> <p><u>Budget</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Board of Finance meeting this evening @ 6:30pm (link on town website)</li> </ul>

	<p><u>ARPA Funds request</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consortium of YSB having discussions throughout the shoreline area to discuss how funds can be utilized.</li> <li>• OS will propose funding for a bilingual MSW Social Worker to help communicate with our non-English speaking community members. Schools have requested help – students may speak English, but parents do not.</li> <li>• Need to get the information related to school or community out to those who may not understand what's available due to a language barrier.</li> <li>• C. Fortuna: town received approx. \$3 million (received ½ July/August 2021, will receive other ½ in July/August 2022)</li> <li>• Support mental health services due to COVID; project and sustainability of the programs?</li> <li>• Bridging the gap for seniors and technology (S. Consoli)</li> <li>• ARPA funds 2024-2026</li> <li>• Next Tuesday Feb. 15 meeting to learn more.</li> </ul> <p><u>Virtual Psychoeducation and Community Support Programs-</u> Growing population for virtual online learning programs for seniors and early childhood</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Seniors: Medication management (disposal of old/no longer needed)</li> <li>• Program re: Depression and aging</li> <li>• Joint programs for health and mental health w/senior center</li> <li>• Early Childhood program: Parents struggling with children to maintain social connection with friends, behavioral issues – need resources and support.</li> </ul> <p><u>Social Services update re: increased need for services</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increase of population requesting assistance</li> <li>• Greater percentage of aging adults</li> </ul> <p><u>Other</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• YFS back in health classes February 14, 16, 18 (dating violence month) healthy relationship discussions.</li> <li>• OSPD Diaper drive – drop off/order online to send directly to OS Police Dept. through February 28<sup>th</sup>.</li> </ul> <p><u>Libby</u> – emails from school re: information of increase of COVID cases. Would like to know what they are doing about it? Touchbase with Principal re: communication gap.</p>
<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 March 1, 2022.</b>
<b>IX. Other Business</b>	Nothing to report.
<b>X. Adjournment</b>	Motion to adjourn M. Iadarola, motion seconded by J. Harder <b>M. Rafferty</b> adjourns the meeting at 5:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,  
Angela Gaidry, Recording Clerk