

**Old Saybrook Youth & Family Services
Commission Meeting
Tuesday, April 5, 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”

I. Roll Call	<p>Attendant Members: Mike Rafferty, Chair; 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; Lisa Castro, Old Saybrook Middle School Counselor</p> <p>Absent Student Representative(s): Libby Stuart</p> <p>Attendant Staff: Heather McNeil, Executive Director 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 M. Iadarola to approve the minutes of Tuesday; February 1, 2022 as presented. The motion was seconded by J. Harder and approved.
V. Chairman's Comments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thank you for birthday wishes at Feb meeting. • Congratulations to D. Plotkin and family on birth of new son. • Acknowledgement of YFS continuation of great programs and activities within the community. Great job to Brittany and YFS. <p><u>Email Communications Policy – Boards and Commissions</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Board of Selectman re: adherence to the email policy. <p>*Add to agenda for next month meeting (May) – Individual members adding own email address?</p>
VI. Director's Report for 4/05/2022	<p>H McNeil re: Logo contest - very few entries and did not provide what we are looking for. Meeting next day with Acton Library who is working with logo company. Each department own logo.</p> <p><u>ARPA Committee Meeting March 8</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • H. McNeil in collaboration with Susan Consoli, presented with Kathy Bai, Lisa Castro, a proposal for both YFS and Social Services. Based on other shoreline youth service bureaus (Clinton asked \$600K and awarded \$637K), committee encouraged us to increase our proposal. Some items to be included in proposal- • Part-time bilingual MSW for school parent population and clinical services – for outreach in the community • Housing assistance

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Building a Senior housing gazebo (communal area) – help to diminish social isolation • Grant writer shared between departments – consistent focused approach • Money to administer the search survey (grades 7-12) and a report evaluator for when the data results come in. • Meeting with superintendent to discuss timing • Support Positive Youth Development 7th & 8th and re-connect with high schoolers. Need to re-engage, historically 30-100 students, 2x month, which requires additional staff, dinner, assistance from PHNB funding, 2x month, etc. • Therapeutic services – increase hours of adjunct staff, licensed clinicians who work a few hours a week – different specialties (eating disorders, etc) <p><u>Dad's Bootcamp and PHNB</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thank you PHNB for funding for training \$1,500 – will make presentation to PHNB • Brittany- female perspective to listen to the dad's view of experience in father's role. Dynamic program. Began out west (Colorado, California) • Expectant fathers learn from new fathers • Adam and Brittany both trained in the program. <p><u>Search survey</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Submit extra questions (vaping, etc.) • Previous grandparent feedback on questions on sexuality <p><u>Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Initiatives (DEI)</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Latino youth groups (7th & 8th) – want to meet re: topics important to them • Spectrum club – (7th grade) learn to be allies, support LGBTQ, share communication • OSHS senior project - Emma Cadley, Mighty Mindsets (grades 2-4) – begin in May - create calming boxes filled with activities to use when dealing with hard feelings, as well as talking about these emotions (stress balls/tools, find space, yoga, etc.) • OSHS senior project Man Tran – Donation Food & Supply Drive; collection boxes throughout the community (April) • M. Rafferty: Does OSMS/OSHS provide DEI group by students? Farmington HS has a program run by students that other area high schools have attended. Incredible. <p><u>Open Program Coordinator Position</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 29 hrs. position has been filled. M. Rafferty sat in on the interview. • Person will start April 25th <p><u>OSPS collaborative programming, PD days, Wellness Days</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clinician A. Stahr over at OSMS on Mondays (w/office), Boys & Girls group at Goodwin, and drop-in at OSHS • Interns help at schools as well. • M. Rafferty - Importance of bringing more representation and interaction with Spanish-speaking clients. • D. Plotkin – appreciative of YFS collaborative effort during PD days (March 10), teachers/administrative staff team building, very appreciative, activities and gifts for participation, fun events. Enjoyable for all. • Special acknowledgement and thank you to OSMS team led by Sue Diaz, Jen, Lisa and guidance department for welcoming and working wonderfully with YFS interns.
VII. Old Business	Nothing to report.

VIII. New Business	Action steps and advocacy or report on initiatives by Commission members. Next YFS Commission meeting May 3, 2022.
IX. Other Business	Nothing to report.
X. Adjournment	Motion to adjourn D. Plotkin, motion seconded by M. Iadarola M. Rafferty adjourns the meeting at 5:45 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Angela Gaidry, Recording Clerk