

**Old Saybrook Youth & Family Services  
Commission Meeting  
Tuesday, May 3, 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; 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> Michael Spera, Chief of Police; Jonathan Paradis, Old Saybrook Parks and Recreation; Lisa Castro, Old Saybrook Middle School Counselor</p> <p><b>Absent Student Representative(s):</b> Libby Stuart</p> <p><b>Attendant Staff:</b> Heather McNeil, Executive Director Brittany Eckert, Prevention Program Coordinator Melissa Howley, Prevention Program Coordinator (part-time position) Angela Gaidry, Commission Clerk</p>
<b>II. Call to Order</b>	Meeting called to order at 5:02 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 M. Iadarola to approve the minutes of Tuesday; April 5, 2022 as presented. The motion was seconded by J. Harder and approved.
<b>V. Chairman's Comments</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Just to repeat again...Great programs Pre-K to adults</li> <li>Info re: Equity &amp; Diversity program @ Farmington HS mentioned at last month's mtg. sent to OSPS, H. McNeil, D. Plotkin, B.Eckert</li> </ul>
<b>VI. Director's Report for 5/03/2022</b>	<p><u>Announcements</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>B. Eckert – OS Chamber of Commerce fundraiser ‘Saybrook Rocks’ (auction begins May 16) on the Chamber’s website: “An art initiative in which twenty-five custom designed rocking chairs, painted by local artists, will be on display throughout town and available for purchase via an online auction. Bidding starts May 16.”</li> <li>H. McNeil introduces new part-time Program Coordinator Melissa Howley</li> </ul> <p><u>Fundraisers</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>H. McNeil – Exchange Club Fundraiser 5/20/22 tickets available (\$40pp) proceeds for positive youth development</li> <li>YAC fundraiser for Ukraine – bracelets \$5 (adult &amp; children) World Central Kitchen <a href="https://wck.org/">https://wck.org/</a> over 87% proceeds go to the area</li> <li>OS Town websites have approved links for support to Ukraine</li> </ul> <p><u>Middlesex United Way</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Training on Diversity, Equity &amp; Inclusion – training to staff and the public-Courageous conversations</li> </ul>

	<p><u>Sustainable Saybrook Collaboration (silver status)</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Community resident Chloe Carlson w/Lynnette Wacker</li> <li>• Some of our summer programming is aimed towards anti-bias education for youth</li> </ul> <p><u>Student Reps (s) next year</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• E-mailed Libby for recommendations for student reps 2022-2023</li> <li>• Model: 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> grader</li> </ul> <p><u>Wilderness Challenge Orientation and Summer Activities</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Led by Brenda Partyka (23+ yrs experience) – 3 days, 10 students</li> <li>• Sue Diaz &amp; her team provided a list of 15 girls, 15 boys cost \$150 (or scholarships &amp; equipment provided for those in need)</li> <li>• BOE changed their communication policy so the emails had to go out via the schools and the initial response was limited. Last week YFS sent out to 7<sup>th</sup> grade parents as well. Parents also “nervous” sending kids off.</li> <li>• June 21-23 (Tues-Thurs)</li> <li>• Outdoor Fun (summer program) – B. Partyka hands-on. Very well received. Waiting list last year.</li> </ul> <p><u>Old Saybrook Early Childhood Council (OSECC)</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• OSECC newsletter – April 36% viewership (increased from when first started)</li> <li>• Stroller Walk – 9-11 Tuesdays coffee &amp; convo, Acton Library (storytime)</li> <li>• Rosie Price, APRN childhood parent coach, very engaging</li> <li>• Early Childhood childcare – working with Kathy Bai, YMCA (certain licensing for under age 5)</li> <li>• Pre &amp; Post-natal groups – safe workouts</li> <li>• Touch-a-Truck &amp; Early Childhood Expo on May 21 in Essex @ 11-2</li> <li>• Picnic &amp; Play (August) Rosie Price (MA, RN) &amp; other speakers</li> </ul> <p><u>LPC Initiatives and Youth Group activities</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• E3 Group – Walk Like MADD (incl. H. McNeil, B. Eckert, M. Howley &amp; A. Stahr)</li> <li>• CT Youth Service Association (CYSA) – OS to write a proposal for 50<sup>th</sup> year conference (October) asking to discuss Youth Mental Health/Stress Management - opportunity for students to develop a project &amp; gain leadership skill.</li> <li>• Jessica White (Governor’s Prevention Council) – topic of student’s choice. Group is thriving being back in person.</li> <li>• M. Howley – Sticker Shock – create labels for local liquor/package stores around town to discourage underage drinking.</li> <li>• During Covid many restaurants sold alcohol to-go or delivered w/meals ordered; want to bring attention to include Door Dash, etc. through Sticker Shock (ID when delivering alcohol) – Thanksgiving timeframe</li> </ul>
<b>VII. Old Business</b>	<p>Email Communications Policy – Individual members email addresses? Ask Larry Hayden to discuss @ next meeting. <b>TBD next meeting (June 7, 2022)</b></p>
<b>VIII. New Business</b>	<p>Action steps and advocacy or report on initiatives by Commission members.</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• D. Plotkin approached by parents re: lack of activities in-town for teens 13-15 yrs. old (not driving yet, but older than some current groups) – no movie theaters or bowling alley or roller-skating rink</li> <li>• YMCA – 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> grades?</li> <li>• Parks &amp; Rec – Friday night for middle-school, Sat night for high school?</li> <li>• Community Involvement</li> <li>• YFS – to look into what's currently available.</li> </ul> <p>*Schedule an August meeting before school begins – busy fall 2022 ahead.</p> <p><b>Next YFS Commission meeting June 7, 2022.</b></p>
<b>IX. Other Business</b>	Nothing to report.
<b>X. Adjournment</b>	Motion to adjourn D. Plotkin, motion seconded by M. Iadarola J. Harder adjourns the meeting at 5:43 PM.

Respectfully submitted,  
Angela Gaidry, Recording Clerk