

**Old Saybrook Youth & Family Services  
Commission Meeting  
Tuesday, June 7, 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; 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> Michael Spera, Chief of Police; Jonathan Paradis, Old Saybrook Parks and Recreation</p> <p><b>Student Representative(s):</b> Libby Stuart</p> <p><b>Attendant:</b> OS IT Director Larry Hayden</p> <p><b>Attendant Staff:</b> Heather McNeil, Executive Director Brittany Eckert, Prevention Program Coordinator Melissa Howley, Prevention Program Coordinator 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 D. Plotkin to approve the minutes of Tuesday; May 3, 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>• Condolences for loss to David &amp; family. Congratulations on appointment as Associate Principal at OSHS.</li> <li>• Thank you to Libby for her service as student representative. Congratulations as OSHS Salutatorian.</li> </ul>
<b>VI. Director's Report for 6/07/2022</b>	<p><u>E-Mail Policy- Larry Hayden</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review of Board of Selectman policy</li> <li>• Commissions/Boards – meetings in public session, as such any discussions must be in public with all commission members.</li> <li>• E-mail is discouraged except sending out meeting minutes &amp; agendas (administrative matters legitimate).</li> <li>• Anything received via private email must be sent to all members for discussion via public meeting. No assumption of confidentiality.</li> <li>• No opinion or discussion on social media posts.</li> <li>• Forms to request town email.</li> </ul> <p>Motion made to not have a town government email account - L. Castro and then seconded by M. Iadarola. Unanimously passed by commission.</p>

#### Local Prevention Efforts – B. Eckert/M. Howley

- E3 met yesterday (Mon 6/6). Summer mtgs. 1<sup>st</sup> Monday, 3<sup>rd</sup> Wed of each month.
- Color Run – June 26
- Governor’s Prevention Program: Future Prevention Leaders Conference on June 23 opened to Jr. YAC, Tr-Town – awaiting responses.
- Fundraising opportunities – Seniors/Parent’s Night Out, Bingo Night, etc
- CYSA Oct. 21 – “Are You There?” – looking to improve/ re-connect with teachers post pandemic – “why” chose position, passion for teaching.
- H. McNeil – broaden to include all adults in students’ lives
- Environmental Mapping Old Saybrook/Westbrook – vapes, sticker shock, etc. w/Nicole Mason to support & partner the initiatives w/their grant money (Westbrook used to have own LPC, over the years hard to maintain membership) – shared experience, initiate billboard between OS & Clinton.

#### Summer Food Program

- Social Services flyers went out to Central Office/schools (English, Spanish) This year no government assistance, SNAP benefits going down July 1, increased need, food & gas prices up.
- Susan Consoli (Social Services Coordinator) via ARPA request – work with SSKP (Shoreline Soup Kitchen & Pantries) preparing food for families
- Wed- “Kid packs” (i.e. backpacks) 3-4 days Thurs-Sun food supply
- M. Rafferty – why is not done through school or school involved?  
H. McNeil - Not sure of specifics or what their ARPA request was identified for, staffing/personnel concerns.

#### School & Agency collaboration

- Food Play Productions (Massachusetts based) @ Goodwin Elementary – YFS helped sponsor this event - an outside performing company w/nutritionist to put on a show w/clowns, games, puppets for information to the youth
- Interns & clinical staff @ OSMS/OSHS; more opportunity for next year
- Kara LINK leader for OSHS work together w/YAC
- Camp Hazen – Sept. 1 “Hazen Huddle” (formerly Freshman Retreat)
- YFS went into 8<sup>th</sup> grade classes (Mr. Labriola) to show the Camp Hazen video, receptive & excited, Q & A opportunity

#### SEARCH survey

- Work to add additional questions (fee) – requested via ARPA funds for survey, any additional equipment, report evaluator, etc.
- Proposal for grades 7-12

#### Staffing

- Samantha Steinmacher, LPC clinician resigned, has been with OSYFS since 2012 (when intern). Growing her private practice. Huge loss personally & professionally. Will stay on through August - Mindfulness on the Beach program, also has some clients going off to college; so, would like to stay on until they have gone. Has implemented some great programs – will be available as professional paid speaker, EMDR trained. Great resource in the community.

	<p><u>DEI initiative with Middlesex United Way</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• YSB regional directors met for 4 trainings.</li> <li>• Staff participated in voluntary workshops through SERC (State Education Resource Center) – phenomenal trainers</li> <li>• Courageous conversations within the community to examine individual biases.</li> </ul> <p><u>Summer Meeting for Commission</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What is our role? How can we change, etc.?</li> <li>• Possible August 18-19 TBD</li> </ul>
<b>VII. Old Business</b>	Nothing to report.
<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>• Any recommendations/feedback re: community forum around local issues i.e. National school shootings and local student mental health/responses:</li> <li>• Community forum- parents, teachers, students - gun violence, schools, political, social emotional issues, struggles, etc.</li> <li>• Superintendent Perruccio &amp; Chief Spera held webinar with parents re: safety</li> <li>• OSECC – only a couple of calls to Goodwin principal – expected more.</li> <li>• Open space for all community members, staff, etc. to be heard and how to help, heal, compassion, etc.</li> <li>• Social media - stop the divisiveness within the community, schools, etc.</li> <li>• Will receive cohesive messaging from CYSA for YSB</li> </ul> <p>H. McNeil to L. Stuart re: recent events?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Students talked about it more in terms of sympathy, however, “used to it”. Principal Riffle helped ease a lot of concerns.</li> </ul> <p>Thank you to Libby for time &amp; commitment, as well as recommendations of possible student candidates for next year. Letters have gone out to candidates for interviews.</p> <p><b>Next YFS Commission meeting August TBD, 2022.</b></p>
<b>IX. Other Business</b>	Nothing to report.
<b>X. Adjournment</b>	<p>Motion to adjourn D. Plotkin, motion seconded by L. Castro</p> <p>Meeting adjourned at 5:55 PM.</p>

Respectfully submitted,  
Angela Gaidry, Recording Clerk