

**Old Saybrook Youth & Family Services
Commission Meeting
Tuesday, December 6, 2022; 5:00 PM**

YFS Commission Meeting Playlist:

N/A

“To collaboratively support and advocate for positive relationships in an inclusive community”

I. Roll Call	<p>Attendant Members: Mike Rafferty, Chair; Lisa Castro, Old Saybrook Middle School Counselor; Jeff Harder, Community At-Large Member; Michael Spera, Chief of Police</p> <p>Absent Members Excused: Jonathan Paradis, Old Saybrook Parks and Recreation; David Plotkin, At-Large Member; Mary Ann Iadarola, Public Health Nursing Board Representative</p> <p>Attendant Student Representative(s): Bradley Kulmann; Peter Wisialowski</p> <p>Absent Student Representative(s): Carli Castro</p> <p>Attendant Staff: Heather McNeil, Executive Director</p>
II. Call to Order	<p>Meeting called to order at 5:01pm by M. Rafferty</p> <p>Pledge of Allegiance</p>
III. Comments from the Public	None
IV. Approval of Minutes	Motion made by M. Spera to approve the minutes of Tuesday; November 8, 2022 as presented. The motion was seconded by J. Harder and approved.
V. Chairman’s Comments	Starlight Festival this past Saturday had to change the event during the daytime due to the weather. Facepainting and Santa Claus were available for the youngsters and community members in the Park and Recreation center and gymnasium. There was a large crowd for most of the afternoon (250 people went through the gymnasium) with adult and student volunteers. J. Paradis and Park and Rec Staff and OS Police were present, also. \$437.00 was collected for SSK.
VI. Director’s Report for 12/06/2022	<p>Thanksgiving Distribution with OSYFS and OSPD provided food for 946 people, 397 families.</p> <p>Starlight Festival – successful regardless of the weather. The late afternoon/early evening program was held outside and the crowd was very appreciative.</p> <p>Holiday Giving – 65 applicants, no one is turned away.</p> <p>ARPA/Town Vote – approved by the citizens at last week’s town meeting.</p> <p>Old Saybrook Cares – application denials...very concerning to the Social Service Department and the Youth and Family Services. The Commission discussed the situation and would like to have further discussion and follow-up.</p> <p>December survey 12/5 – 12/12 – Heather is expecting the schools will distribute this form to parents immediately and the completion is supposed to be done by Friday, December 9th.</p> <p>Trish Strecher was introduced. She has worked with the Agency since 2019. She is a certified MFT and works closely with the schools.</p>
VII. Old Business	<p>Commission Meeting Schedule for 2023 - discussion continued about holding scheduled meetings every other month. This action does not impact the Town Charter and other meetings can be scheduled by the Executive Director or Commission vote. The schedule was unanimously accepted. Dates/topics will be: January – Budget; March – Agency Drug and Alcohol concerns; May – Social, Emotional, Mental Health; September – School Partnership; November – Social Services.</p>

VIII. New Business	Student representative discussed the new OSHS schedule, late start of day and the FLEX period.
IX. Other Business	Nothing to report.
X. Adjournment	Motion to adjourn L. Castro, motion seconded by J. Harder Meeting adjourned at 5:35 PM.

Minutes recorded by:

Michael Rafferty, Commission Chairman