

Youth, Family and Human Services Commission Meeting
Regular Meeting - Youth Center, East Lyme Community Center
May 9, 2024, 6:00 pm

Present:

D. Hull - Chairman
J. Shelburn
L. McGowan
A. Dagle

Absent: J. Brush, V. Brush, M. Kach, P. Larkin, P. Chiappone

Also present: Youth and Family Services Director, S. Firmin
Ex -Officio, C. Carlson

Call to Order:

Chairman D. Hull called the May 9th, regular meeting to order at 6:06pm.

Public Delegation:

No members of the public were present.

Minutes:

Motion – J. Shelburn moved to approve the April 2024 meeting minutes as submitted, seconded by L. McGowan
Approved unanimously.

Director's Report:

- a) Director, S. Firmin, reported on updates within the department sharing interviews for the Wellness and Prevention Coordinator position are scheduled for Tuesday, May 14th.
- b) The undergraduate intern completed 150 hours for her internship on May 1st.
- c) S. Firmin will be working with the town to create a new webpage for Youth and Family Services.
- d) Renovations to the department have been completed with S. Firmin reporting new flooring was installed in the hallway, the carpets have been cleaned, and the furniture has been set up in the additional office spaces.
- e) S. Firmin updated the commission on the peer mentoring timeline for rising 8th graders and juniors. She has been consulting with other school districts on training options for the students and partnering with administration and faculty to launch the pilot peer mentoring program.
- f) The Youth Voices Count consultant will be presenting the survey results to the Board of Education on June 17th.
- g) SERAC will be hosting a Narcan training and dissemination on May 13th at the community center between 10a-12p.
- h) Kids Night for grades 1st – 8th is being offered on May 31st at the Youth Center.
- i) The prom promise for the juniors and seniors was held on May 7th following the prom and graduation safety event at the high school which included ELPD, Life Star, Flanders Fire,

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C. McGowan

East Lyme ambulance and L & M paramedics. A second prom promise will be held the week of senior prom.

- j) Chairman, D. Hull, reported on the high school event for prom and graduation and shared students engaged in conversations with the first responders at the event. The banners provided by the East Lyme Coalition were signed by many students and will be displayed at the high school.
- k) S. Firmin informed the commission a mental health pop up event is scheduled for May 15th at the high school which will allow students and staff the opportunity to receive free resources and materials from Wheeler Clinic, The Brian Dagle Foundation, Mental Health CT and UCFS mobile crisis services.
- l) The commission discussed offering mental health events for town employees, as well as community members of all ages. National Night Out was identified as a great location to have different mental health organizations set up tables to offer resources and materials.
- m) Ex-Officio, C. Carlson, will propose a mental health event for town employees at the next Board of Selectman meeting.
- n) With the Recreational Supervisor for the Parks and Recreation Department accepting another job, a volunteer is needed to oversee the youth mountain bike club. S. Firmin will follow up with the Niantic bike shop to see if they can recommend a potential volunteer for the program.

Ex-Officious Report:

- a) C. Carlson reported on the proposal for a capital improvement commission.

Student Report:

No student report.

Communications:

No communications to report.

Unfinished Business:

- a) L. McGowan presented the commission with a budget proposal for the Bridebrook fundraiser and potential revenue for Youth and Family Services.
- b) S. Firmin followed up with the Parks and Recreation director who approved the Bridebrook fundraiser proposal under the agreement that L. McGowan will be at the park representing the Youth, Family and Human Services commission. It was also shared that other vendors will be able to submit bids to the Parks and Recreation Department to sell food and beverage items at Bridebrook, but these vendors will not be able to sell the same items as L. McGowan.
- c) S. Firmin will present L. McGowan with the sports schedule for Bridebrook.

New Business:

- a) D. Hull presented the idea of using some of the opioid settlement funds towards Project Graduation.
- b) J. Shelburn expressed her concerns with using the opioid settlement funds towards Project Graduation, noting the funds may not always be available. It was also suggested it may be

more appropriate to use the settlement funds that would benefit people of all ages, not just the youth in our community.

- c) C. Carlson pointed out the importance of having a policy and procedure in place before moving forward with any dissemination of funds.
- d) S. Firmin will consult with other Youth Service Bureaus regarding the policy and procedures that have been implemented by their organizations for dissemination of funds.
- e) D. Hull and S. Firmin will draft a policy and procedure to present at the next commission meeting.
- f) Drug boxes for the K9 team will be discussed later following the establishment of policy and procedures.

Adjournment:

Motion to adjourn (Shelburn/Dagle) at 6:50 pm.

Approved unanimously.