

Youth, Family and Human Services Commission Meeting  
Special Meeting – Olive Chendali, East Lyme Community Center  
June 20, 2024, 6:00 pm

RECEIVED FOR RECORD  
EAST LYME, CT

2024 JUN 24 A 11:22

*Karen Hill/Kellon*  
TOWN CLERK

**Present:**

D. Hull - Chairman  
J. Shelburn  
L. McGowan  
P. Larkin

**Absent:** J. Brush, V. Brush, M. Kach, P. Chiappone, A. Dagle

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

**Call to Order:**

Chairman D. Hull called the June 20<sup>th</sup>, special meeting to order at 6:07pm.

**Public Delegation:**

No members of the public were present.

**Minutes:**

Motion – P. Larkin moved to approve the May 2024 meeting minutes as submitted, seconded by J. Shelburn.

Approved unanimously.

**Director's Report:**

- a) Director, S. Firmin, reported she hired a Wellness & Prevention Coordinator who will begin July 1<sup>st</sup>. Leanne Pappas has a background in Elementary Education, and currently teaches art classes. The idea of having Leanne offer intergenerational art and creative writing classes was proposed.
- b) S. Firmin will begin the hiring process for a 2<sup>nd</sup> part-time therapist. The current part-time therapist for the department has 2 openings for counseling. However, these slots could potentially be filled by incoming JRB referrals.

**Ex-Officious Report:**

- a) C. Carlson reported on the plow purchases and the ARPA money that is being moved over to Parks and Recreation. C. Carlson reminded the commission of the Farmers Market and Fun Runs that have begun. The next BOS meeting is scheduled for July 3<sup>rd</sup>.

**Student Report:**

No student report.

**Communications:**

No communications to report.

**Unfinished Business:**

- a) Ex – Officio, C. Carlson will follow up with the first selectman about planning a Mental Wellness Fair for town employees for May 2025.
- b) J. Shelburn proposed the idea of offering a town wide Mental Wellness Fair at the community center. S. Firmin will start the planning process with L. Pappas when she begins the role of Wellness and Prevention Coordinator.
- c) Chairman, D. Hull and S. Firmin provided updates on the National Night Out planning. Reporting on confirmed vendors and activities for the community event.
- d) D. Hull and S. Firmin informed the commission members of the recent opioid settlement meeting with the first selectman and finance director. As of June 18<sup>th</sup>, the town has received \$130,600 in opioid settlement funds.
- e) At the meeting on June 18<sup>th</sup>, it was discussed that Youth and Family Services will have access to \$33,000 for the fiscal year 24/25. This amount will be used to supplement the salary of the Wellness and Prevention Coordinator and 2<sup>nd</sup> part time therapist, purchase drug boxes for the police department, and offer more programs and services.
- f) D. Hull and S. Firmin shared the proposed policy and procedures. P. Larkin presented his concerns suggesting the commission follows a specific criterion that would outline who is eligible to receive the funding and limit the number of awards one can receive.
- g) J. Shelburn presented an example of a standard application used in awarding ARPA funds and supported the idea of having a rubric or format.
- h) C. Carlson expressed her disagreement with implementing a rubric or format and suggested keeping the process simple.
- i) L. McGowan proposed reviewing the policy and procedures yearly.
- j) J. Shelburn motioned to approve the proposed policy and procedures. Seconded by L. McGowan. Approved unanimously.
- k) L. McGowan presented the commission with snack options that will be available for purchase at Bridebook park.

**New Business:**

- a) S. Firmin informed the commission, Child and Family Agency will have a new role with the fundraiser Touch a Truck. The Niantic Children’s Museum will take the lead in planning and organizing the event, while Miracle League will help the Children’s Museum expand the event. S. Firmin presented the idea of partnering with the Children’s Museum and Miracle League for this fundraising event.
- b) P. Larkin suggested obtaining clarification on the role Youth and Family Services would have at this event, as well as if volunteers would be needed. P. Larkin volunteered to help at the table if need be.
- c) P. Larkin motioned for S. Firmin to explore the Touch a Truck event further. Seconded by J. Shelburn. Approved unanimously

**Adjournment:**

Motioned to adjourn by J. Shelburn and seconded by D. Hull at 6:57pm.