

Youth, Family and Human Services Commission Meeting
Olive Chendali, East Lyme Community Center
February 13, 2025, 6:00 pm
Informal Discussion

Present:

D. Hull – Chairman
J. Brush
J. Hanna
S. Miller – Salem Rep
V. Brush – Student

Absent: J. Shelburn, C. Carlson, Ex-Officio

Also present: Youth and Family Services Director, S. Firmin

Call to Order:

Chairman, D. Hull, called the meeting to order at 6:05pm.

Public Delegation:

No members of the public were present.

Minutes:

January 2025 meeting minutes were tabled until there is enough for a quorum.

Director's Report:

- a) Director, S. Firmin, reported on the planning process for the Touch A Truck fundraiser and shared the press release.
- b) S. Firmin informed the commission the department was awarded the SOR grant through SERAC in the amount of \$5,000. This grant will focus on opioid prevention.

Ex-Officious Report:

No report.

Student Report:

- a) V. Brush shared the Winter Ball is coming up and the lack of interest surrounding this event from students. The commission explored possible activities that could increase student engagement.
- b) J. Brush reported on recent issues in the boy's bathroom at the high school.
- c) D. Hull notified the commission of the increase in alerts being received since installing vape detectors in some of the high school bathrooms.

Communications:

No communications to report.

Unfinished Business:

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- a) D. Hull informed the commission of the upcoming changes that will be made to the ordinance regarding the number of commission members permitted.

New Business:

- a) S. Firmin informed the commission of A. Dagle's resignation.
- b) D. Hull shared Nadina Banever will be fulfilling the vacant spot.
- c) S. Firmin discussed the recent hiring and spending freeze that was implemented and how it impacted access to grant funds. The commission was informed that as of February 12th, the department received approval to access funds to stay in compliance with grant requirements.
- d) D. Hull notified the commission of the specialty program at the middle school and the idea of selling items at the school store to help with additional activities. The department will use funds from the YSB grant to help purchase program supplies.
- e) D. Hull, S. Firmin, and S. Miller discussed increasing programs and services in Salem.
- f) S. Firmin and D. Hull also reviewed the budget proposal from the First Selectman and the decrease in hours to the social worker position. As well as the request to increase the Wellness and Prevention Coordinator to 35 hours in January 2026 after it was proposed by the First Selectman to keep the position at 28 hours per week.
- g) S. Firmin and D. Hull shared the plan to do a mailing fundraiser. The commission discussed various methods (i.e. Venmo, QR code) that could be used to receive donations from the community through the mailing fundraiser.

Adjournment:

Adjourned at 6:36pm.