

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

RECEIVED FOR RECORD  
EAST LYME, CT  
2025 MAR 14 A 11:04  
Cassidy M. Miller  
TOWN CLERK

**Present:**

D. Hull – Chairman  
J. Brush  
L. McGowan  
J. Shelburn  
J. Hanna  
V. Brush

**Absent:** S. Miller

**Also present:** Youth and Family Services Director, S. Firmin; Ex-officio, C. Carlson; BOS member, Jason Deeble

**Call to Order:**

Chairman D. Hull called the meeting to order at 6:03pm.

**Public Delegation:**

No members of the public were present.

**Minutes:**

J. Shelburn moved to approve the January 2025 and February 2025 meeting minutes as submitted, seconded by J. Brush  
Approved unanimously.

**Director's Report:**

- a) Director, S. Firmin, shared participants from the previous years have been emailed regarding this year's Touch a Truck event. Some participants have already submitted their vehicle registration and attendees have started purchasing tickets.
- b) J. Shelburn informed the commission she will be volunteering with Miracle League for the event, helping with parking at Niantic Center School. L. McGowan volunteered to help Youth & Family Services during the event.
- c) S. Firmin also presented the flyer for the Hartford Yard Goats game scheduled for Sunday, June 15<sup>th</sup>. Youth and Family Services reserved a section and has 100 tickets available for the game. Kids will have the opportunity to run the bases post-game. J. Hanna will share the flyer with the Police Department.

**Ex-Officious Report:**

- a) Ex-Officio, C. Carlson, reported the BOS have completed budget presentations and the BOF began presentations on 3/12.

**Student Report:**

- a) Student, V. Brush, discussed the positive impact Mr. Kydd has had at the high school since assuming the role of principal.

- b) J. Brush reported on the issues occurring in the high school restrooms, specifically with the males engaging in vandalism and stuffing the toilets. Vaping has also occurred but the vape detectors installed this year have been successful in alerting administration when students are vaping.
- c) The commission discussed reports made by students that they can purchase vapes at a store in New London. It was mentioned that SERAC could conduct a compliance check in that area.
- d) J. Hanna spoke about the level of security at the new cannabis shop in town.

**Communications:**

No communications to report.

**Unfinished Business:**

- a) S. Firmin revisited the discussion on the Rx & Illicit Drug Summit being offered in April. It was proposed to purchase the virtual package with funds from the opioid settlement which would allow on demand access to all accredited sessions for 3 months. The commission agreed it was good use of the funds, emphasizing the ability to share the training with the Youth Coalition, schools and other town departments.
- b) J. Hanna proposed using material from the training to develop a curriculum for students at the high school level and potentially middle school students in 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grades.
- c) J. Hanna spoke about the current drug trends and the increase in use seen in East Lyme and other local communities.
- d) J. Brush presented the idea of having an individual from town, who has struggled with substance abuse, speak in her classroom at the high school. Sharing how impactful she feels it would be for students.

**New Business:**

- a) S. Firmin reported on her meeting with the Salem First Selectman regarding funding and support to bring more programs and services to Salem. The commission was informed of the idea to utilize the social worker 1 day a week in Salem. As well as using Salems opioid settlement and nip grant funds towards the Wellness and Prevention Coordinator position.
- b) Salem's First Selectman requested a proposal that will be presented to Salem's BOF.
- c) S. Firmin has a meeting scheduled with the finance director to complete this request.
- d) S. Firmin shared the BOS presentation went well. Noting the social worker position was reinstated to full-time and it was agreed to revisit increasing the Wellness & Prevention Coordinator position to full time with grant funds soon.
- e) Chair, D. Hull informed the commission of the cannabis prevention grant the town will be receiving. Noting that these funds will be used in Youth & Family Services.
- f) National Night Out is approaching and the commission discussed having a rain day plan.
- g) S. Firmin will connect with Superintendent Newton to explore the possibility of moving the event inside the high school if it should rain on the day of the event.
- h) It was proposed to have a dunk tank and suggested that D. Hull participate in this activity as the commission feels it would be a great attraction to those attending the event.

**Adjournment:**

J. Shelburn motioned to adjourn at 6:42pm, seconded by J. Brush. Approved unanimously.