

Youth, Family and Human Services Commission Meeting
Olive Chendali, East Lyme Community Center
August 14, 2025, 6:00 pm
Informal Discussion

Present:

D. Hull – Chairman
S. Miller – Salem Rep
L. McGowan

Absent: J. Shelburn, J. Brush, J. Hanna, N. Banever, V. Brush; Student Rep; C. Carlson; Ex-Officio,
S. Firmin; Director

Also present:

Call to Order:

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

Public Delegation:

No members of the public were present.

Minutes:

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

Director's Report:

- a) Director, S. Firmin, provided a report for the Chair to share with the commission.

Ex-Officious Report:

No report.

Student Report:

No report.

Communications:

No communications to report.

Unfinished Business:

- a) The commission discussed the success of the National Night Out and how it brought the community together.
- b) D. Hull informed the commission of the meeting S. Firmin and the First Selectman, Dan Cunningham, had with the Salem First Selectman. It was reported the meeting focused on the use of the opioid settlement and nip funds. Salem would like to include the 7th and 8th graders in the upcoming youth survey, offer support groups in Salem, and work on identifying community outreach initiatives the town can benefit from.
- c) S. Miller discussed her new role in Salem and how it will allow her to offer more community outreach initiatives.

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Cecilia M. Miller, Director
Youth, Family & Human Services

New Business:

- a) S. Firmin has been in communication with Salem to help offer additional support to the community, students, and staff after the town lost a teacher in a car accident this summer.
- b) S. Firmin has partnered with the Husky Project through UCONN. This initiative presents opportunities for organizations to receive free tickets to UCONN games. The department has signed up to receive free tickets to football games and soccer games.
- c) L. McGowan shared the COA special revenue budget proposal.

Adjournment:

Adjourned at 6:37pm.

Directors Report: August 14, 2025

- Sophie Dubreuil started July 1st as the full-time social services case manager. She had been filling the role after the full-time social worker resigned.
- The department uses Veoci for data entries. S. Firmin worked with Dillinger to create a social services workflow within Veoci. A referral link will be available for community members and departments of the municipality to fill out.
- S. Firmin receives the notification when a new referral has been made, and S. Dubreuil will complete the follow-up process/case management.
- Now that the department is using Veoci, S. Dubreuil will no longer need to enter client information and notes into the database (schedules plus) used by the senior center. This will help maintain confidentiality.
- New department signs were placed on the doors so people can easily find the department.
- The order has been placed for a shed which will be delivered on September 17th. After the shed is delivered, the back closet in the Youth Center will be converted into an office.
- The Wellness and Prevention Coordinator will be taking a leave of absence to student teach for her master's program. She will be gone from the end of August until the end of November. S. Firmin and the intern will assume the duties of the Wellness and Prevention Coordinator.
- A "Shine the Light on Literacy" event was held on July 26th which showcased the award-winning book written by ELPS student, Abby Aiello. 30 people attended the event.
- A backpack event is being held August 19th at Lillie B. Haynes. The department was able to get 140 backpacks donated and a \$500 community donation sponsorship from Charter Oak to buy school supplies.
- A welcome back mentor celebration was held on August 12th. Mentors will resume meeting with their mentees in September.

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