

Youth, Family and Human Services Commission Meeting  
Olive Chendali, East Lyme Community Center  
September 18, 2025, 6:00 pm  
Special Meeting

**Present:**

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

**Absent:** J. Hanna, N. Banever, V. Brush; Student Rep

**Also present:**

S. Firmin, Director; C. Carlson, Ex-Officio

**Call to Order:**

Chairman, D. Hull, called the special meeting to order at 6:08pm.

**Public Delegation:**

No members of the public were present.

**Minutes:**

Motion- L. McGowan moved to approve the June and August 2025 meeting minutes as submitted, seconded by J. Brush.

**Director's Report:**

- a) Director, S. Firmin, informed the commission that the social services link is live and can be found on the town website. Community members and other departments of the municipality can make a referral using the link created.
- b) S. Firmin receives a notification when a referral has been submitted.
- c) The commission was informed of a meeting that occurred earlier in the afternoon between S. Firmin, the Senior Center Director, HR, and the First Selectman regarding the social services transition.

**Ex-Officious Report:**

- a) Ex- Officio, C. Carlson discussed the East Pattagansett sidewalk project, which is grant funded.

**Student Report:**

No report.

**Communications:**

- a.) S. Firmin shared the thank you card that was sent by Kloter Farms after purchasing a shed through their company.

#### **Unfinished Business:**

- a) S. Firmin discussed the status of the Salem partnership.
- b) S. Miller reached out to S. Firmin for additional support as students and faculty members at Salem Elementary School grieve the loss of a teacher.
- c) S. Firmin has planned for a grief support group and the town therapist to provide services. S. Firmin is also available as an additional resource and is waiting for the principal to confirm dates and times.
- d) Other support groups are in the planning stages of being offered to the Salem community.
- e) Salem is working on identifying the needs of the community and YFHS will readminister the surveys through Bonnie Smith Consulting in February/March 2026. The plan is to include the 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> grade students that attend Salem Elementary School in the survey administration process.
- f) D. Hull discussed his partnership with Salem in his new role.
- g) The commission discussed Salem's contract with ELPS. EL BOE is still in the early renegotiation phase with Salem.

#### **New Business:**

- a) S. Firmin reported she is planning on submitting a CIP request to have the tower in the Youth Center removed and the electrical rewired. Ron Bence is working on obtaining a quote for S. Firmin to include in the request.
- b) Building maintenance has started working on the back closet in the Youth Center to convert it into an office.
- c) The commission discussed the BOF meeting that occurred on September 10<sup>th</sup>. During the BOF meeting, board members inquired about the cannabis grant funds and allocation of those funds. The BOF recalled during budget season the plan to use those funds to help supplement the salary of the Wellness & Prevention Coordinator, making that position full-time. During the BOF meeting, the finance director and First Selectman reported they are still contemplating allocating the funds to YFHS but feel it would be more beneficial giving back to the community than supplementing a salary.
- d) The commission questioned how the cannabis grant funds have been spent to date and if the funds have been used towards charging stations.
- e) C. Carlson reported this is an ongoing conversation with the BOS as well.
- f) Copies of the Operation Handbook were disseminated at the middle school back to school night.
- g) S. Firmin shared a speaker from "The Sober Truth" reached out regarding his interest in presenting at the schools. The commission was provided with a pricing sheet. However, the commission has concerns over the cost and are not in favor of this presentation because of the expense.
- h) J. Brush discussed her experience with the National Guard and shared the National Guard is looking for community partnerships.

#### **Adjournment**

Motion to adjourn by J. Brush, seconded by L. McGowan at 6:57pm.