

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

Present:

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

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TOWN CLERK

Absent: S. Miller

Also present: Director; S. Firmin, Ex-Officio; C. Carlson; Community member; Kenzie Llyod

Call to Order:

Chairman D. Hull called the meeting to order at 6:02pm.

Public Delegation:

Kenzie Llyod was present to observe.

Minutes:

J. Shelburn moved to approve the October 2025 meeting minutes as submitted, seconded by L. McGowan.

Approved unanimously.

Director's Report:

- a) Director, S. Firmin, informed the commission of the department's partnership with the Elks Lodge for the winter boot program.
- b) Youth, Family & Human Services is accepting applications for the holiday assistance programs and collecting food donations. It was shared that the department has already dropped off food donations to St. Johns on two separate occasions due to the community's generosity.
- c) J. Shelburn will share the flyers for the holiday assistance programs and D. Hull will follow up with the schools to help identify families.
- d) S. Firmin has collaborated with the Yard Goats again and families will have the opportunity to purchase discounted tickets to attend a Yard Goats game over the summer on 8/1/26.
- e) The commission was notified that SNAP benefits are fully available to recipients.

Ex-Officious Report:

- a) Ex-Officio, C. Carlson, updated the commission on the food donation collection site at the Town Hall, the upcoming swearing in ceremony for the elected municipal officers, and the police department's plan to provide high monitoring in certain areas in which speed is an issue.

- b) D. Hull informed the commission of the positive feedback received regarding the increase in police presence at the schools. In addition to the “handle with care” program the police department is implementing. Noting he will be the point of contact for the police department.

Student Report:

- a) Student, V. Brush, reported she is working on having therapy dogs visit the schools each week following Thanksgiving.
- b) V. Brush discussed how the high school recognized veterans on Veterans Day. Reporting students really appreciated hearing different readings and experiences from veterans, sharing her grandfather is a veteran that participated.

Communications:

- a) None

Unfinished Business:

- a) S. Firmin informed the commission that the bulk mailing is in production. Residents and businesses should start to receive the donation letter by the weekend.
- b) D. Hull informed the commission of the cannabis grant budget presented by the finance director. Highlighting Youth, Family & Human Services will only receive \$2500 out of the \$25,000.
- c) D. Hull reminded members of the commission of the initial agreement made between YFHS, the First Selectman, & the finance director to use the cannabis grant to help supplement the salary of the Wellness & Prevention Coordinator so she can become full-time.
- d) The commission discussed the statue and who should oversee the spending of the funds.
- e) Commission members were updated on the new office space for the Wellness & Prevention Coordinator.

New Business:

- a) S. Firmin reported the Rx & Illicit Drug Conference is being held again in April in Nashville and presented the idea to have police officers and YFHS attend. The commission was informed of the group rates available and having the expenses covered by the opioid settlement funds. The commission agreed this is a good use of funds.
- b) S. Firmin & D. Hull presented the idea of holding a holiday party in 2026 to help raise funds for YFHS.
- c) D. Hull explained another town’s success with an annual fundraising party.
- d) The commission will work on identifying potential venues for next year and incorporating a silent auction/raffle.
- e) S. Firmin informed the commission of the incorrect disbursements received for Q1 & Q2 of the YSB grant. Reporting CYSA learned that individual payments may differ due to three main factors: use of latest census numbers, cost of living adjustments, and a DCF administrative fee. The commission was notified of CYSA requests to DCF to pursue resolution and allow YSBs to be grandfathered for both years of the current biennium.

Adjournment:

J. Shelburn motioned to adjourn at 6:50pm, seconded by J. Brush. Approved unanimously.