YOUTH SERVICES COMMISSION
EAST GRANBY, CONNECTICUT

MINUTES
August 18, 2025

1. CALL TO ORDER

A regular meeting of the East Granby Youth Services Commission was held Monday, August 18, 2025, at East Granby Farms in the white house. Robert Ravens-Seger called the meeting to order at 6:30pm. Members also present were Evan Hanks, Sara Kleinman, Bonnie Jones, Art Reardon, and Swastika Gupta. Alicia Van Neil (Program Coordinator) was also present.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

3. CORRESPONDENCE

None.

4. APPROVE MINUTES

S. Kleinman made a motion to approve the minutes of the May 19, 2025, meeting. B. Jones seconded the motion. 5 approved, 1 abstained. Motion carried.

5. OLD BUSINESS

A./B. Programming/Prevention-

A Van Neil reported that the Counselor-In-Training program went well this summer for the two camps run by the Parks and Recreation Commission. There were about 20 CITs. One thought for next year is to consider adding programming for 12-13 year-olds. There currently aren't any camps or leadership opportunities for this age group in town. Fall programming is getting ready to go. Alisa Ruggerio finished her training and will be offering Girls Circle sessions on positive role-modeling, friendship and leadership. Mason Williams will be holding Boys Council sessions as well. Both will be at Seymour and possibly at the Middle School. A Van Neil talked to Joel Ziff (7th and 8th grade health teacher at the Middle School) about offering QPR training (suicide prevention) in 7th grade classes and substance use/misuse in 8th grade classes quarterly during the school year. A Van Neil will be talking to Nicole Jones, the 6th grade health teacher, about going into 6th grade classes to talk about social media use. Jason Turdy will be presenting (and juggling) about kindness, advocating for yourself and anti-bullying in September with the Middle School students. Trooper White will present to the 6th grade students and their parents, and possibly Scott Driscoll will present to 7th – 12th grade students, about social media use. The check-in program will continue monthly in the Middle School from October through April. The Commission will continue supporting Middle School activities such as an Afterschool Dance and Community Day (field day). A book club event was held over the summer with "Sleepless Generation." Only a few people attended but a good discussion was had. The book club was together with the FarmingtonValley Health District and the East Granby Public Library. There are copies of the book available if anyone wants to read it. The Commission also

purchased the second half of the books for the Resilience Grows Here section at the East Granby Public Library. There will be a kick-off event at the library in November for a month of Mental Health Awareness programs. The East Granby Family Resource Center will be adding their books to the Resilience Grows Here section as well.

C. **YAC Update-** A Van Neil reported that interviews of student members for the upcoming school year took place in the spring and went well. She thanked S Kleinman and M Williams for helping with the interview process. The Middle School YAC will have co-facilitators this year- Donna Mattera and Mason Williams. The High School group will have one facilitator- Jennifer Kovaleski, with support from Becky Hayes and Mason Williams.

Motion: A Reardon made a motion to accept the slate of new YAC student members for the 2025-2026 school year as presented. E Hanks seconded the motion. All approved. Motion carried.

D. **JRB Update-** A Reardon reported that the state came out with new guidelines for them. The document went from 27 pages to 197 pages, so a lot of changes will be required to fulfill them. Instead of being the Juvenile Review Board, they will become a Trauma Informed Restorative Diversion Youth Team. Members of the team will need much more training, and more steps will be required for background checks. Town staff will have to be more involved as well. More training and additional background checks will require more funding as well. The current board will continue as-is for now while the changes are considered and carried out. A Reardon, B Jones, A Van Neil, and Justine from FVHD will be putting a plan of action together before the next quarterly meeting.

6. NEW BUSINESS

A. **Town Volunteer Fair-** Youth Services will not have a presence at this year's fair due to member availability.

B. **Finances-** B Ravens-Seger asked A Van Neil for an update on finances. A Van Neil reported that the Prevention Grant for 2025-2026 is not mandating that a specific topic be covered. A proposal is being put together to continue focusing on mental health awareness and substance prevention at the Middle School. A Van Neil also mentioned the Commission will be asking for funding to hold another Needs Assessment this year. It has been four years since the last one was held and it would be beneficial to capture the current 12 grade students before they graduate. The Youth Services Grant in the town budget did not change from last year. A Van Neil mentioned the funds for clerking came off the budget two years ago and needs to be corrected.

7. PUBLIC COMMENT

None

8. ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by S Gupta and seconded by S Kleinman to adjourn the meeting at 7:14pm. Votes were unanimous. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,
Jennifer Kovaleski
Youth Services Commission Clerk