YOUTH SERVICES COMMISSION
EAST GRANBY, CONNECTICUT

MINUTES
October 19, 2026

1. **CALL TO ORDER**
A regular meeting of the East Granby Youth Services Commission was held Monday, October 19, 2026, at the East Granby Town Hall. Bonnie Jones called the meeting to order at 6:30pm. Members also present were Evan Hanks, Sara Kleinman, and Art Reardon. Swastika Gupta was absent. Alicia Van Neil, program coordinator, Tracey Yeomans, new member, and Angela Uttberg, interim Youth Services Director, were also present.

2. **PUBLIC COMMENT**
None.

3. **CORRESPONDENCE**
None.

4. **APPROVE MINUTES**
A Reardon made a motion to approve the minutes of the April 20, 2026, meeting. E Hanks seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion carried. E Hanks made a motion to approve the minutes for the June 15, 2026, meeting. S Kleinman seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion carried.

5. **OLD BUSINESS**

A/B. Programming/Prevention-
A Uttberg reported that she is working with the Resilience Grows Here program which currently includes a Composting Program. The first Middle School lunchtime reset session will be next Wednesday. Communication with families will be sent out afterwards. The Dog Therapy program is scheduled at both Allgrove and Seymour schools and will start in about two weeks. A Van Neil mentioned that the Girls Circle program is on hold until A Uttberg can be trained in November. The facilitator that was scheduled to lead the program is now unable to.

C. High School and Middle School Updates- No updates.

D. YAC Update- A Van Neil reported that she will be working on getting the High School group back up and running in a new format soon. A Uttberg is leading the Middle School group with co-facilitator E Hanks. They have 21 student members this school year and they attended a team-building activity at the Wilderness School. E Hanks added that the members, along with other middle school students, prepped for the Halloween party this afternoon. This event will be held at Newgate Prison on Saturday, Oct. 24. There will be 40 stations led by students at this event.

E. JRB Update- A Reardon reported that they had a good quarterly meeting. One member is not renewing their term and the group decided not to replace them at this

time due to low case numbers. B Jones, case manager, will hold a training session at the next meeting.

F. Needs Assessment – A Van Neil reported that the results are back from the Spring 2026 assessment. Comparisons are being made with the first assessment done in 2022. The question now is what to do with the results. About half of the students wanted to hear the outcome so a decision needs to be made on how to share the results with them. A presentation was held for the parents in 2022 but there wasn't a huge turnout. A Reardon mentioned that East Granby is acknowledged for holding this assessment and two within a few years of each other. He mentioned the self-harm is very concerning. A Van Neil liked that these results highlighted what the students were doing well with. The data is broken out for the Middle and High Schools so that results can be given separately. She mentioned that she will have a meeting with the school principals, Josh- Chief Operating Officer, and Justine from FVHD to go over the results and discuss how to share them with students and families. B Jones commented on the result that many students said they don't have adults in the buildings that they feel safe confiding in. She suggested encouraging teacher-student connections. Suicide was also a big topic. B Jones and S Kleinman mentioned that gambling came up as a concern, even among middle school students. E Hanks mentioned there was a low answer rate for the senior class. B Jones suggested giving presentations for the staff on the results. A Van Neil discussed the 5-yr plan to bring mental health awareness into the high school.

6. **NEW BUSINESS**

A. Public event presence – B Jones and A Van Neil held a discussion about bringing the Youth Services Commission into the schools during public event times, such as orientations and open houses. Board members will be needed to help man the tables and be present at these events. The Youth Services Commission already talks to the rising 6th grade parents.

7. **PUBLIC COMMENT**
None

8. **ADJOURNMENT**
A motion was made by A Reardon and seconded by S Kleinman to adjourn the meeting at 7:11pm. Votes were unanimous. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,
Jennifer Kovaleski
Youth Services Commission Clerk