



**INFORMATIVE MEETING INFORMATION
SUFFIELD SOCIAL SERVICES COMMISSION
FRIDAY, APRIL 10, 2026 – 8:30 AM
SUFFIELD COMMUNITY AID – 450 SOUTH ST., SUFFIELD**

Commission Members Present: Chair Robin Zatony, Mark Blackaby and Sharon Bruno
Members Absent: Vice Chair Nathan Prusi, Ann Bauchiero, and Laura Eisenhaure
Department Heads Present: Joann Moriarty – Youth Services
Bethany Sullivan – Senior Services
Lauren Marino – Suffield Community Aid
Jason Joyce – Suffield Housing Authority

SINCE THERE WERE NOT ENOUGH COMMISSION MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE FOR A QUORUM, THIS WAS AN INFORMATIONAL GATHERING ONLY.

1. Chair Zatony began the informational gathering at 8:30 am. Chair Zatony confirmed Commission Members and Department Heads listed above were present.
2. The February 6, 2026 Regular Meeting Minutes were tabled until the June 5, 2026 meeting.
3. Public Comment – None
4. Department Updates (no formal report needed) – please discuss favorites, needs, trends, and forecasts
 - d. Joann Moriarty - Youth Services – The State of Connecticut is changing how juvenile arrest are handled at a community level which requires extensive training for Youth Services. Suffield Sidekicks has been actively recruiting teens, especially seniors at the High School. Ms. Moriarty thanked Chair Zatony and the Suffield Observer for recruitment of the seniors. YS is sponsoring a Situational Awareness and Personal Safety Workshop for Kids, at the HIVE Empowerment Center in Windsor Locks, on May 16th. The workshop will be free for Suffield youth. YS is sponsoring a Safe Sitter Babysitting Safety Course at the Suffield Ambulance Association on Saturday, April 25th. With the support of the Superintendent's office, Youth Services was able to provide all families in the school district with an on-line, on-demand link to the Screenagers documentary via school messenger. The documentary addresses the mental health consequences of youth over-using technology and social media while providing families with practical strategies for setting boundaries. The Suffield Prevention Council is gaining momentum with 9 members attending meetings regularly. Having a prevention council is a requirement of two grants that financially support Suffield Youth Services. Seeking membership from parents, healthcare, faith or religious groups, media, and any caring community members. Additional information, along with a meeting schedule, can be found on the Town of Suffield Youth Services page. The Youth Leadership Council teens are excited to visit with McAlister students on April 27th to read books on friendship and kindness and have discussion about what it means to be a good friend. Thank you to Joy Tierney for helping to organize this! Having a Youth Council is also a requirement of two grants that financially support Youth Services.

Joann distributed April "Suffield Family Connections" monthly newsletter - a collaboration with Ann Bauchiero. Reminder that all Suffield Youth Services programs are posted on the Youth Services Facebook page and registration is through SuffieldRec.com
 - a. Jason Joyce – Suffield Housing Authority – Things are going well. The housing wait list officially closed on March 31, 2026. There are 50 people on the wait list. Easter Bingo with the seniors was well attended. Gift cards and canned goods have been received to replenish stock. Barbecue planning will begin shortly and they are looking to add outdoor activities.
 - b. Lauren Marino – Suffield Community Aid – 90 spring/Easter baskets were given to families. Ms. Marino thanked Ms. Salerno and her team for gathering food items needed for the baskets. Usage of the food pantry

is trending up. Rental rebates will continue to the fall. Camperships have increased in value to help in aiding children to attend camp this summer.

- c. Bethany Sullivan – Senior Services – New flooring has been installed in the Senior Center due to a grant received. They are looking to update with fresh paint and large, framed photographs. Mary Ann Brewster will be retiring from the kitchen. A celebration for Mary Ann will be on Wednesday, June 3, 2026 at the Senior Center. Anyone interested in attending, please RSVP to Ms. Sullivan. Ms. Brewster’s Assistant is stepping up the fill the vacancy. They are looking for another assistant and are close to acquiring someone. AARP free tax prep help has been available for ten weeks. It was very busy with many appointments. American Senior Benefits was in to discuss retirement. Six seniors have passed away, and four of their obituaries mentioned the Suffield Senior Center.
5. Old Business
 - a. Town Green Bandstand – The base is in and is expected to be completed in June. A celebration will be held on July 3, 2026.
 - b. Augmenting Senior Rides with Volunteers Task Force – Chair Zatony spoke with Peter LeClerc who shared that he spoke with the Town Attorney regarding this proposal and are waiting to hear back. A pilot program will see how it will work for seniors.
6. New Business
 - a. Balance Project – Anna Kristen – Chair Zatony sent an email to Commission members with information about this project. Ms. Kristen has a lot of projects to help children and parents find things to do that are not technology driven.
 - b. Summer Fair – is coming up. No date was provided.
7. The next Regular Meeting of the Suffield Social Services Commission (SSSC) will be held on Friday, June 5, 2026, 8:30 am-9:30 am, at Suffield Community Aid (450 South St.) with zoom option available.
8. **Chair Zatony concluded the informative meeting at 9:02 am.**

Respectfully submitted,

Connie Irwin
Recording Secretary