



*City of Bristol
Youth Commission*

INFORMATION TO ACCESS THIS MEETING

<https://bristolct-gov.zoom.us/j/85852635281?pwd=IRy3Ua04nOCtOfUZr0UITPDvVbSPJg.1>

The regular Youth and Community Services Commission meeting will be held on Wednesday, June 10, 2026, at 6:00 PM. in Bristol Parks, Recreation, Youth and Community Services Office, 51 High Street, Bristol, CT 06010.

AGENDA

1. Call to Order
 - a. Pledge of Allegiance
 - b. Attendance
2. Public Participation
3. Approval of Minutes
 - a. Approval of Minutes - April 8, 2026 - Youth Commission Regular Meeting Minutes
4. Supervisor's Report
 - a. Supervisor's Report
 - b. Project Aware End of the Year Staff Report
 - c. Upcoming Summer Programming
 - d. B.E.S.T Update
 - e. Youth Diversion Team
 - f. Year to Date Financials
5. Youth Report

6. New Business
 - a. CADCA Training
 - b. By Commissioners
7. Old Business
 - a. Youth and Prevention Leaders Awards Review/Discussion
 - b. By Commissioners
8. Adjournment

PER ORDER OF THE CHAIRPERSON
Officer Matthew Gotowala



Youth Commission

Wednesday, April 8, 2025 at 6:00 p.m.

Bristol Parks, Recreation, Youth and Community Services – 51 High Street, Bristol CT 06010

1. Call to Order

Chair Matthew Gotowala called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m.

a. Pledge of Allegiance

b. Attendance

Members Present:

Matthew Gotowala, Chair
Richard Kilby, Commissioner
Jonathan Lukasiewicz, Commissioner
Antonio Chatfield, Commissioner
RJ Motel, Commissioner
Alexander Parenti, Commissioner
Donna Osuch, Commissioner
Steven Seymour, City Council Liaison
Stephen Bynum, Youth and Community
Services Supervisor
Absent:
Deborah Ahl, Vice Chair
Ryan Broderick, Commissioner
Cecilia Garay, Commissioner

2. Public Participation

None.

3. Approval of Minutes

a. Approval of Minutes - February 11, 2026, Regular Meeting Minutes

MOTION: Made by Commissioner Chatfield to approve the February 11, 2026, Regular Meeting Minutes.

Seconded by Commissioner Osuch; all in favor; motion carried.

4. Supervisor's Reports

a. Supervisor's Report

Youth and Community Services Supervisor Stephen Bynum presented the Supervisor's Report. Supervisor Bynum provided updates on the number of recent intakes, referrals, and community concerns. Supervisor Bynum welcomed Jeffrey Arduini as the temporary Community Services Coordinator. Community Services Coordinator Arduini is currently assisting 72 active clients with community needs and resources. Discussion followed.

b. Project Aware Updates

Youth and Community Services Supervisor Stephen Bynum presented the Project Aware Updates. Discussion followed.

c. BEST Update

Youth and Community Services Supervisor Stephen Bynum presented the BEST Updates. Supervisor Bynum presented the "Standing in the Gap" fundraiser event hosted by the Salvation Army. Supervisor Bynum asked the commission if they were interested in becoming a sponsor, and announced that Drug Take Back Day would be on April 25, 2026. Discussion followed.

MOTION: Made by Commissioner Lukasiewicz to be a Bronze Sponsor for the "Standing in the Gap" fundraiser event hosted by the Salvation Army.

Seconded by Commissioner Motel; all in favor; motion carried.

d. Youth Diversion Team

Youth and Community Services Supervisor Stephen Bynum presented the updates from the Youth Diversion Team. Discussion followed.

e. Year to Date Financials

Youth and Community Services Supervisor Stephen Bynum presented the Year-to-Date Financials. Discussion followed.

5. Youth Report

Commissioner Chatfield presented the Youth Report. Commissioner Chatfield presented the impact of the Northeast Middle School Student Council and some of their accomplishments. Discussion followed.

Commissioner Motel stated that the Youth Coalition are starting a Podcast and stated if any Youth Commissioners were interested in being a part it, to reach out to him or BEST.

6. New Business

a. Community Clean-Up Day

Youth and Community Services Supervisor Stephen Bynum presented information on Community Clean Up Day on April 25, 2026. Details will be shared with the public in the upcoming week. Discussion followed.

b. Connecticut Youth Services Association Website - <https://ctyouthservices.org>

Youth and Community Services Supervisor Stephen Bynum presented the Connecticut Youth Services Association Website as they have just undergone some website changes. Discussion followed.

c. YSB Day at the Capital, Friday, May 1st, 2026

Youth and Community Services Supervisor Stephen Bynum presented the information on YSB Day at the Capital on Friday, May 1, 2026. Supervisor Bynum offered the opportunity to any of the Under 21 Commissioners if they wished to attend. Discussion followed.

d. Child Abuse Awareness Week

Youth and Community Services Supervisor Stephen Bynum stated that it is Child Abuse Awareness Month. The Youth and Community Services team will be setting up a table at Page Park on April, 14, 2026, and at Rockwell Park on April, 16, 2026, from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

e. Youth and Prevention Leaders Awards - Voting and Program Discussion

Chair Matthew Gotowala presented the Youth and Prevention Leaders Awards — Voting and Program Discussion. Discussion followed.

MOTION: Made by Commissioner Chatfield to award all the submitted nominees with the Youth and Prevention Leaders Award.

Seconded by Commissioner Motel; all in favor; motion carried.

f. Financial Assistance Program

Youth and Community Services Supervisor Stephen Bynum presented the Financial Assistance Program. This program is to help families in need of financial assistance that can be put towards summer camp and other departmental programs. The department awarded \$25,000 - \$30,000 in assistance in 2025 and is aiming for the same amount in 2026. Discussion followed.

g. By Commissioners

Nothing to report.

7. Old Business

a. Youth and Community Services Commission - Name Change Update

Youth and Community Services Supervisor Stephen Bynum presented the Youth and Community Services Commission Name Change Update. The name change has been approved by the Ordinance Committee and will be referred to City Council for final approval.

b. By Commissioners

Nothing to report.

8. Adjournment

MOTION: Made by Commissioner Lukasiewicz to adjourn at 7:10 p.m.
Seconded by Commissioner Chatfield; all in favor; motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,
Amaris Estrada
Recording Secretary
Youth Commission



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Youth & Community Services Supervisor Report

Youth Commission

(June 10, 2026)

I. Counseling Updates

The Youth and Community Services Division is responsible for the coordination of a comprehensive community-based youth services bureau and the delivery of essential life services for Bristol residents in need. The Bureau strives to enhance the networking and support between family, school, peer, and community environments. Direct services include juvenile diversion programming, individual and family counseling, crisis support and positive youth development opportunities

This report is being generated to reflect data for individual and Family Counseling, Intakes and Referrals:

- Number of intakes conducted by staff: 4 (April - Present)
- Number of clients currently receiving services: 22 (Full-time staff, Contractors and Interns)
- Number of families referred by the BOE: 13 (Positive Youth Involvement Programs)
- Number of families referred for (FWSN) Families with Service's Needs: 2

Community Services and the Parent and Child Program:

Case Management Services: 90 active clients

- Intakes (April - Present) Basic Needs (28), Relocation (0), Evictions (8) and Foreclosures (0)
- Intakes for the caring closet (14), SNAP Applications (4), Bus Passes (11), Husky Ins (1)
- (2) referrals made to Fair Rent Commission / (4) referral made to Fair Housing
- Rental Assistance (4), Security Deposit (2), Energy Assistance (2)

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Project Aware – Final Updates

Girls with Goals

The Girls with Goals program ended Eastern High Schools on April 28th, 2026 with Youth and Family Coordinator Ashante Malone and the departments intern Grace Card as facilitators.

Topics covered during this group were Mental Health, Self-Care, Self – Image just to name a few. Speakers included Prudence Crandall who gave a presentation on teen dating violence and healthy relationships as well as YWCA who gave a presentation that focused on Consent.

BEHS ended with 8 students that had consistently participated in our Girls with Goals Group and according to surveys completed by group members, they enjoyed the group and expressed appreciation for the ability to do so in post-group surveys that were distributed.

Girls with a Purpose

Girls With A Purpose (GWAP) ended on April 8th, 2026 with 8 girls that consistently participated in the group that took place at Bristol Youth Services. The goal of this group is to increase self-esteem, self- awareness, & self- confidence. At the final group meeting, students were asked to complete surveys where each member expressed enjoying the group.

Empower Hour

Empower Hour concluded on May 14th and ran for eight sessions. Program facilitators recruited for this program through outreach at the elementary schools, however, noticed a decline in participation as the program continued. The program began with 8 participants however concluded with 4 consistent participants. This program addressed topics such as self-awareness, impulse control, relationship building, emotion regulation, and responsible decision-making. When asked to provide feedback, 100% (4/4) of participants reported they enjoyed the group, 100% (4/4) reported they felt a sense of belonging in the group, and 75% (3/4) reported they learned or further developed a new or existing social skill.

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Young Woman's Issues Group

The Young Women's Issues Group concluded at BPA on April 29th, 2026. The group had 9 participants throughout the duration of the group. In addition to the field trip to Tunxis Community College, the students also visited the Institute of Cosmetology in Plainville. The young women reported they enjoyed the group and were saddened for the group to conclude. On June 3rd, group facilitators Raven Cody and Ashante Malone were able to conduct a post-group check in with group members before the end of the school year.

Leaders in Learning

Bristol Youth Services facilitated a Leaders in Learning program for 5th grade students at South Side School from 3/24/26 to 5/5/26. The program was very successful with 7 consistent participants. Group facilitators (Raven Cody, LMSW, Youth & Family Coordinator, and Grace Card, BSW intern) received positive feedback from parents, teachers, and school staff, reporting observing increased impulse control and consideration before actions. When asked to provide feedback, 100% (7/7) of group members answered "agree" or "strongly agree" to enjoying the group and feeling a sense of belonging. 86% (6/7) of group members answered "agree" or "strongly agree" to learning or further developing a new skillset.

Upcoming Summer Programs

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Basketball League at Brackett Park

A free recreational basketball league run by Youth Services staff and Bristol Boys and Girls Club staff, with support from the Bristol Police Department. This program will take place on Thursdays from 11am-1pm at Brackett Park, beginning on July 2nd and ending on August 13th. This league includes six weeks of regular season games with one week of playoffs with a championship game. This is an opportunity to further develop sportsmanship skills, meet new friends in a team environment, and spend time in the park!

Roberto Clemente Baseball League

Bristol Youth Services partners with the Bristol Boys and Girls Club for this league. This program runs for 5 weeks on Mondays from 10:30am to 1pm, beginning on June 29th and ending on July 27th. This program runs at Cambridge Park, and meets to play baseball games once a week. This is an opportunity for youth to further develop sportsmanship skills, meet new friends in a team environment, and get more involved in their community. A goal of this program for this Summer is to have more family engagement and involvement with the league.

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Youth Bowling Nights

Youth Bowling Nights is for youth ages 10-17 years old and will be taking place at the Bristol Spare Time. This year BPRYCS is collaborating with the Bristol Boys and Girls Club and reserving 20 spots for their members to join us (10 for West Street Club Members and 10 for Cambridge Park Club members who will also have transportation provided for them. This program is free and provides youth with 1.5 hours of bowling and dinner each week. This program will run from 5:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday night's beginning on July 1st and ending on August 12th. Registration can be found and completed on our website.



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Social Worker in the Summer Camps

Youth and Family Coordinator, Ashante Malone, has been assigned as this year's Summer Camp Social Worker. She'll be stationed at Eastern High School but also available to the Little Explorers Camp that will be located at Mountain View Elementary and Teen Camp participants at Stafford Elementary School this year.

The camp social worker is expected to provide campers with the support to make healthy, responsible, and respectful choices. The camp social worker will monitor campers to support staff throughout the camp day and address inappropriate or disruptive behavior. Ashante is also available to support campers who are experiencing symptoms such as anxiety, impulsiveness, frustration, and more to help campers get acclimated to camp, support social interaction, and fully enjoy their camp experience.

Summer Camp hours are Monday-Friday 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

9th Annual Mayor's Pencil Hunt and Back to School Bash

For the 2nd year in a row BPRYCS is looking to partner with the Board of Ed for the Back-to-School Bash which will feature the 9th Annual Mayors Pencil Hunt. While logistics are still being discussed, the event will be held on August 19th, 2026 with a tentative rain date of August 25th. The event is a fun way to gather some school supplies for the new school year, as well as connect with some friends (or make new ones) over the Summer! Similar to last year we are hoping local organizations will attend to provide useful resources and materials to our Bristol youth and families.

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B.E.S.T. Updates

The full-time position has been adopted—thank you to those who supported its sustainability and to those who included it in the budget. This allows us to continue the important work already underway as we further define the logistics and scope of this role.

We have officially concluded the four-point goals for the school year and will revisit the program to make updates as needed moving forward.

CADCA (Community Anti-Drug Coalitions of America) is an organization dedicated to creating safer, healthier, drug-free communities. Participants from across the country attend to network, engage in workshops, and more. This year, we were able to offer this opportunity to four individuals who will be traveling to Orlando, FL in July for training and learning.

Our **Community Clean Up Day** is scheduled for Saturday, June 27th at Rockwell Park. The meeting location will be the front entrance near the maintenance building, from 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM. Registration is not required but is appreciated. All supplies and cleanup kits will be provided—just come ready to participate.

The **Mindful Choices Yoga Series** will begin at the end of June at Rockwell Park in the amphitheater from 10:00–11:00 AM. Registration is not required. Participants are welcome to bring their own yoga mats, though mats will also be available on a first-come, first-served basis. Lastly, an update on our **podcast project**—a big thank you to Steve Seymour for his instrumental support throughout this process. We are now halfway through recording episodes. Next steps will include determining how to best utilize the recordings and how to share and amplify our messaging moving forward.

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YEAR-TO-DATE BUDGET REPORT

FOR 2026 13

ACCOUNTS FOR:			ORIGINAL	REVISED				AVAILABLE	PCT	
001	GENERAL FUND		APPROP	BUDGET	YTD ACTUAL	MTD ACTUAL	ENCUMBRANCES	BUDGET	USE/COL	
0017025 YOUTH & COMMUNITY SERVICES										
0017025	432026	YOUTH SERVICES BURE	-41,845	-41,845	-41,844.00		.00	-1.00	100.0%*	
0017025	432147	ENHANCEMENT SERVICE	-12,995	-20,360	-20,359.91		.00	-.09	100.0%*	
0017025	432157	YOUTH SERVICES SUPP	-18,385	-12,134	-12,133.52		.00	-.48	100.0%*	
0017025	450301	WELFARE EVICTION RE	-9,000	-9,000	-6,045.65		.00	-2,954.35	67.2%*	
0017025	514000	REGULAR WAGES & SAL	294,025	297,120	254,580.39		.00	42,539.61	85.7%	
0017025	515100	OVERTIME WAGES & SA	4,000	4,000	462.98		.00	3,537.02	11.6%	
0017025	515200	PARTTIME WAGES & SA	2,500	2,500	13,656.60		.00	-11,156.60	546.3%*	
0017025	517000	OTHER WAGES	1,700	1,700	1,711.44		.00	-11.44	100.7%*	
0017025	531000	PROFESSIONAL FEES &	20,000	20,000	6,787.50		1,212.50	12,000.00	40.0%	
0017025	531115	JRB COORDINATION	8,225	8,225	4,050.00		.00	4,175.00	49.2%	
0017025	531120	PROJECT AWARE	41,845	41,845	22,561.18		13,810.50	5,473.32	86.9%	
0017025	531135	ENHANCEMENT SERVICE	12,995	20,360	8,377.20		.00	194.20	11,788.60	42.1%
0017025	531136	YOUTH SERVICES SUPP	18,385	12,134	8,273.93		.00	750.00	3,110.07	74.4%
0017025	553000	TELEPHONE	700	700	505.35		.00	194.65	.00	100.0%
0017025	581120	CONFERENCES & MEMBE	1,400	1,400	1,007.75		.00	225.25	167.00	88.1%
0017025	581240	WELFARE EVICTIONS &	11,000	11,000	6,660.00		.00	.00	4,340.00	60.5%
0017025	581745	NONREIMBURSEABLE IN	2,300	2,300	1,208.40		.00	300.00	791.60	65.6%
0017025	587232	RELOCATION COSTS	30,000	30,000	23,595.17		.00	500.00	5,904.83	80.3%
TOTAL YOUTH & COMMUNITY SERVICES			366,850	369,945	273,054.81		.00	17,187.10	79,703.09	78.5%
TOTAL GENERAL FUND			366,850	369,945	273,054.81		.00	17,187.10	79,703.09	78.5%
TOTAL REVENUES			-82,225	-83,339	-80,383.08		.00	.00	-2,955.92	
TOTAL EXPENSES			449,075	453,284	353,437.89		.00	17,187.10	82,659.01	

YEAR-TO-DATE BUDGET REPORT

FOR 2026 13

	ORIGINAL APPROP	REVISED BUDGET	YTD ACTUAL	MTD ACTUAL	ENCUMBRANCES	AVAILABLE BUDGET	PCT USE/COL
GRAND TOTAL	366,850	369,945	273,054.81	.00	17,187.10	79,703.09	78.5%

** END OF REPORT - Generated by Amaris Estrada **

YEAR-TO-DATE BUDGET REPORT

FOR 2026 13

ACCOUNTS FOR:	ORIGINAL	REVISED					AVAILABLE	PCT
106 SPECIAL GRANTS & DONATIONS	APPROP	BUDGET	YTD ACTUAL	MTD ACTUAL	ENCUMBRANCES	BUDGET	USE/COL	
1067025 YOUTH & COMMUNITY SERVICES								
1067025 432150 26G09 JUV DIVERSION	0	-18,000	-18,000.00	.00	.00	.00	100.0%	
1067025 531125 26G09 JUVENILE DIVER	0	18,000	4,300.00	.00	3,900.00	9,800.00	45.6%	
TOTAL YOUTH & COMMUNITY SERVICES	0	0	-13,700.00	.00	3,900.00	9,800.00	100.0%	
TOTAL SPECIAL GRANTS & DONATIONS	0	0	-13,700.00	.00	3,900.00	9,800.00	100.0%	
TOTAL REVENUES	0	-18,000	-18,000.00	.00	.00	.00		
TOTAL EXPENSES	0	18,000	4,300.00	.00	3,900.00	9,800.00		

YEAR-TO-DATE BUDGET REPORT

FOR 2026 13

	ORIGINAL APPROP	REVISED BUDGET	YTD ACTUAL	MTD ACTUAL	ENCUMBRANCES	AVAILABLE BUDGET	PCT USE/COL
GRAND TOTAL	0	0	-13,700.00	.00	3,900.00	9,800.00	100.0%

** END OF REPORT - Generated by Amaris Estrada **