



*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, August 12, 2026, at 6:00 PM. in City Hall, 111 North Main Street, Bristol, CT.

AGENDA

1. Call to Order
 - a. Pledge of Allegiance
 - b. Attendance
2. Public Participation
3. Approval of Minutes
 - a. Approval of the June 10, 2026, Youth and Community Services Commission Regular Meeting Minutes
4. Supervisor's Report
 - a. Supervisor's Report
 - b. Year to Date Financials
 - c. Summer Program Update
 - d. BEST Update
 - e. Youth Diversion Team
5. Youth Report
6. New Business
 - a. CADCA Training Presentation

- b. By Commissioners
- 7. Old Business
 - a. By Commissioners
- 8. Adjournment

PER ORDER OF THE CHAIRPERSON
Officer Matthew Gotowala



Youth and Community Services Commission

Wednesday, June 10, 2026 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 6:00 p.m.

a. Pledge of Allegiance

b. Attendance

Members Present:

Matthew Gotowala, Chair
Deborah Ahl, Vice Chair
Cecilia Garay, Commissioner
Richard Kilby, Commissioner
Jonathan Lukasiewicz, Commissioner
Antonio Chatfield, Commissioner
RJ Motel, Commissioner
Donna Osuch, Commissioner
Ellen Zoppo-Sassu, Mayor
Steven Seymour, City Council Liaison
Stephen Bynum, Youth and Community Services Supervisor
Dr. Joshua Medeiros, Superintendent of Bristol Parks, Recreation, Youth and Community Services
Jeffrey Arduini, Community Services Coordinator
Ashante Malone, Youth and Family Coordinator
Raven Cody, Youth and Family Coordinator
Deedra Willingham, B.E.S.T Project Coordinator

Absent:

Ryan Broderick, Commissioner

2. Public Participation

Nothing to report.

3. Approval of Minutes

a. Approval of Minutes - April 8, 2026 - Youth Commission Regular Meeting Minutes

MOTION: Made by Commissioner Chatfield to Approve the April 8, 2026, Youth Commissioner Regular Meeting Minutes.
Seconded by Commissioner Motel; all in favor; motion carried.

4. Supervisor's Report

a. Supervisor's Report

Youth and Community Supervisor Stephen Bynum presented the Supervisor's Report. Supervisor Bynum provided updates on the number of intakes, families and clients receiving services and referrals. Community Service Coordinator Jeffrey Arduini is currently serving 90 active clients and provided updates on the Parent and Child Program. Discussion followed.

b. Project Aware End of the Year Staff Report

Youth and Family Coordinators Ashante Malone and Raven Cody presented the Project Aware End of the Year Staff Report. his included updates on several completed programs, such as Girls With a Purpose and Empower Hour, as well as upcoming events, including the 9th Annual Mayor's Back-to-School Pencil Hunt, which will be held in collaboration with the Bristol Board of Education on August 19, 2026, at Muzzy Field. Discussion followed.

c. Upcoming Summer Programming

Youth and Family Coordinators Ashante Malone and Raven Cody presented the Upcoming Summer Programming. Discussion followed.

d. B.E.S.T Update

B.E.S.T Project Coordinator Deedra Willingham presented the B.E.S.T Updates. Coordinator Willingham thanked the commission for their support, as the B.E.S.T Coordinator position was approved a Full-Time position. Coordinator Willingham also presented the information regarding the CADCA Conference in July. Coordinator Willingham also thanked City Council Member Steven Seymour for the use of his studio and resources for the Youth Coalition Podcast. Discussion followed.

e. Youth Diversion Team

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

f. Year to Date Financials

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

5. Youth Report

Commissioner Motel and Commissioner Chatfield presented the Youth Report, where they shared the first episode of the Youth Coalition Podcast with the commission. Discussion followed.

6. New Business

a. CADCA Training

Nothing to report as this was discussed during the B.E.S.T Update.

b. By Commissioners

Nothing to report.

7. Old Business

a. Youth and Prevention Leaders Awards Review/Discussion

Chair Matthew Gotowala presented the Review and Discussion of the Youth and Prevention Leadership Awards. Chair Gotowala thanked everyone for their help that evening with their flexibility due to the location change, and would like to revisit the application prior to next year's event. Discussion followed.

b. By Commissioners

Mayor Ellen Zoppo-Sassu shared some kind words about the role Youth and Community Services played during a recent case that required collaboration with other departments within the city.

Commissioner Lukaiewicz inquired about the "Be the Solution, Not the Pollution" Campaign. Superintendent Medeiros shared that Bristol Parks, Recreation, Youth and Community Services had launched the Green Team, in efforts to help spread awareness about littering as well as community clean-up opportunities. Discussion followed.

City Council Liaison Steve Seymour presented updates from the Ordinance Committee on the new Vape Ordinance. Discussion followed.

8. Adjournment

MOTION: Made by Commissioner Motel to adjourn at 7:01 p.m.
Seconded by Commissioner Chatfield; all in favor; motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,
Amaris Estrada
Recording Secretary
Youth and Community Services Commission

DRAFT



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Youth & Community Services Supervisor Report

Youth Commission

(August 12, 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: 0 (June - Present)
- Number of clients currently receiving services: 22 (Full-time staff, Contractors and Interns)
- Number of families referred by the BOE: 12 summer camp programs
- Number of families referred for (FWSN) Families with Service's Needs: 0

Community Services and the Parent and Child Program:

Case Management Services: 108 active clients

- Intakes (June - Present) Basic Needs (6), Relocation (1), Evictions (15) and Foreclosures (0)
- Intakes for the caring closet (9), SNAP Applications (2), Bus Passes (7), Husky Ins (2)
- (1) referrals made to Fair Rent Commission / (2) referral made to Fair Housing
- Rental Assistance (2), Security Deposit (2), Energy Assistance (3)
- Comm Services is seeing an increase in online hacking of SNAP Card accounts.

To learn more about the City of Bristol's Parks, Recreation, Youth & Community Services Department; visit us at www.Bristolrec.com

Join the conversation @BristolCTParksandRecreation on Facebook & @bristolctparksrecservices on Instagram



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Community Services has had a presence at the Farmers Market the last few weeks handing out reusable bags, and Community Resources Guides. Community Services was able to interact with the public and answer an array of questions about the Park Updates, Summer Youth Programs, and available resources in the community for someone experiencing hardship.

WIC had a diaper drive on 7/25 which was successful and they gave out their diapers on 8/8 at the farmers market.



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August 1 - September 30

VOTE FOR US TODAY!

Each summer, American Farmland Trust recognizes America's favorite farmers markets through their annual America's Farmers Market Celebration™. This summer, cast your vote for The Bristol Farmers Market between August 1 - September 30, 2026, to help us take home the top spot and the \$2,500 prize.

SCAN TO VOTE

or visit:
MARKETS.FARMLAND.ORG
and search for
The Bristol Farmers Market

BACK TO SCHOOL

CHILDREN'S CLOTHING DRIVE

Cleaning out your Children's closet? Donate the clothes to our Clothing Drive! All clothes will be given to families in need of "New" Back to School clothes!

DROP OFF AT THESE LOCATIONS

Childrens Library Department 5 High St- Bristol, CT	Bristol Child Development Center 339 West St
Imagine Nation 1 Pleasant St	Bristol Child Development Center 291 Burlington Ave

Sponsored by the Bristol Early Childhood Collaborative Health and Wellness Committee!

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Summer Programs

Roberto Clemente Baseball League

Bristol Youth Services partnered with the Bristol Boys and Girls Club for the Roberto Clemente Baseball league. This program ran for 5 weeks on Mondays from 10:30am to 1pm, beginning on June 29th and ending on July 27th, with the players being recognized at the BBGC family day on July 31st. By assisting with the league, staff continued to strengthen relationships with Bristol youth and families.



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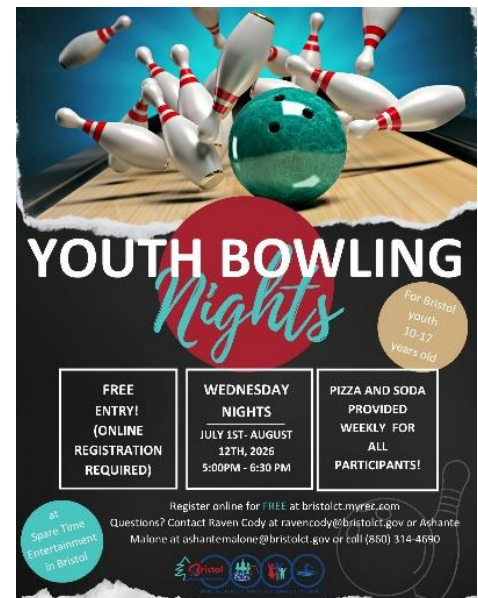
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Youth Bowling Nights

Youth Bowling Nights is for youth ages 10-17 years old and takes place at Spare Time. This program is free and provides youth with 1.5 hours of bowling, bowling shoes, and dinner each week. A new addition to the program this year includes a collaboration with the BBGC, with BPRYCS allotting 10 weekly slots for Cambridge Park youth. This meaningful partnership has resulted in a more consistent turnout in participants than past Summers.



Basketball League at Brackett Park

A free recreational basketball league run by Youth Services staff and Bristol Boys and Girls Club staff. This year, Pastor Tasha Harris with Bethel New England church has partnered with BPRYCS to coach a team. This league provides an opportunity to further develop sportsmanship skills, meet new friends in a team environment, and spend time in

the park! BPRYCS plans to provide a free pizza social for all program participants following the championship game on August 13th

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Financial Assistance Program

The financial assistance program received over 79 total application and provided a summer camp experience for over 120 youth. These youth participated in camps from Bristol Parks and Recreation, Bristol Boys and Girls club, Bristol Bulldogs and Cheer and more. Total support to eligible families equaled \$28,490.00

Social Worker in the Summer Camps:

Summer Camp 2026 has been a successful and positive experience for campers and staff. We are in our final week of camp and there have been no significant incidents requiring intervention and no reports made to the Department of Children and Families (DCF) throughout the summer. Staff have fostered a safe, supportive, and engaging environment, contributing to a smooth and enjoyable camp season for all participants.



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

Our department is very excited as we continue to prepare for this year's 9th Annual Mayor's Pencil Hunt and Back to School Bash. For the second year, BPRYCS is partnering with the Board of Education to co-host the Back-to-School Bash. This is a free event, where students and families are provided with school supplies and valuable community resources from local organizations attending the event. We look forward to another successful event supporting the youth and families in our community.

9TH ANNUAL MAYOR'S PENCIL HUNT AND BACK TO SCHOOL Bash!

In partnership with **Bristol Public Schools**

August 19, 2026
Rain Date: August 25, 2026

5:00 - 8:00 PM
Pencil Hunt Begins at 5:30 PM

MUZZY FIELD
15 Muzzy Street
Bristol, CT 06084

FEATURED ACTIVITY

9TH ANNUAL MAYOR'S BACK TO SCHOOL PENCIL HUNT

FOR PRE-K THROUGH 8TH GRADE STUDENTS ONLY

- ✓ Pencil Hunt Begins at 5:30 PM
- ✓ Silver & Gold Prize Pencils
- ✓ Every child receives an age-appropriate school supply goodie bag

FREE ACTIVITIES FOR EVERYONE!

- MEET SCHOOL STAFF
- COMMUNITY RESOURCE FAIR
- FACE PAINTING
- FOOD TRUCKS
- DJ & MUSIC
- FREE LIMITED HAIRCUTS
- FREE SCHOOL SUPPLY GOODIE BAGS
- RAFFLES & PRIZES

EVERYONE IS WELCOME!
While the Pencil Hunt is for students entering Pre-K through 8th grade, all attendees are invited to enjoy the event, meet school staff, visit community organizations, enjoy food trucks, music, and family fun all evening long!

QUESTIONS? Phone: (860) 314-4690
Email: AshanteMalone@BristolCT.gov or ErikaTreannie@bristol12.org

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- [@BristolCTParksandRec](https://www.facebook.com/BristolCTParksandRec)
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B.E.S.T. Updates

International Overdose Awareness Day

OVERDOSE AWARENESS DAY 2026

SATURDAY AUGUST 22ND
12PM-2PM
ROCKWELL PARK AMPHITHEATRE
63 DUTTON AVE IN BRISTOL

25 YEARS ON. STILL NEEDED.

#END OVERDOSE

BEST
Bristol
Eliminating
Substance Use
Together

TIME TO REMEMBER.
TIME TO ACT.

FREE ADMISSION
VENDORS
MUSIC
FREE FOOD TRUCKS
RECOVERY RESOURCES
FREE NARCAN AND MORE!

Join us for a day of remembrance and hope for the future.

BBD
Bristol-Burlington Health District

- Overdose Awareness day is Saturday 8/22 12pm-2pm at Rockwell Amphitheater. If you would like to come volunteer and help with the event reach out to me. Otherwise consider attending to get some resources.
- Podcast episodes are half way done, stay tuned for our YouTube channel and roll out. We are in the works of discussing the sustainability with the podcast.
- Our Mindful Yoga Series is more than half way done. Consider joining our free class Tuesdays 10-11a at the Stone House.
- 4-Point planning will begin soon, stay tuned for any trends to be mindful of.

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YEAR-TO-DATE BUDGET REPORT

FOR 2027 13

ACCOUNTS FOR:	ORIGINAL	TRANFRS/	REVISED			AVAILABLE	PCT
001 GENERAL FUND	APPROP	ADJSTMTS	BUDGET	YTD ACTUAL	ENCUMBRANCES	BUDGET	USE/COL
0017025 YOUTH & COMMUNITY SERVICES							
001 -20-70-7025-0000-000-432026-		YOUTH SERVICES BUREAU					
	-41,845	0	-41,845	.00	.00	-41,845.00	.0%
001 -20-70-7025-0000-000-432147-		ENHANCEMENT SERVICES					
	-20,360	0	-20,360	.00	.00	-20,360.00	.0%
001 -20-70-7025-0000-000-432157-		YOUTH SERVICES SUPPLEMENT					
	-12,135	0	-12,135	.00	.00	-12,135.00	.0%
001 -20-70-7025-0000-000-450301-		WELFARE EVICTION RECEIPTS					
	-9,000	0	-9,000	.00	.00	-9,000.00	.0%
001 -20-70-7025-0000-000-514000-		REGULAR WAGES & SALARIES					
	362,355	0	362,355	27,779.51	.00	334,575.49	7.7%
001 -20-70-7025-0000-000-515100-		OVERTIME WAGES & SALARIES					
	3,500	0	3,500	849.45	.00	2,650.55	24.3%
001 -20-70-7025-0000-000-515200-		PARTTIME WAGES & SALARIES					
	2,900	0	2,900	1,498.20	.00	1,401.80	51.7%
001 -20-70-7025-0000-000-517000-		OTHER WAGES					
	1,715	0	1,715	1,762.78	.00	-47.78	102.8%
001 -20-70-7025-0000-000-531000-		PROFESSIONAL FEES & SERVICES					
	20,000	0	20,000	.00	8,000.00	12,000.00	40.0%
001 -20-70-7025-0000-000-531115-		JRB COORDINATION					
	8,225	0	8,225	.00	8,225.00	.00	100.0%
001 -20-70-7025-0000-000-531120-		PROJECT AWARE					
	41,845	0	41,845	.00	10,950.00	30,895.00	26.2%
001 -20-70-7025-0000-000-531135-		ENHANCEMENT SERVICES					
	20,360	0	20,360	1,428.00	2,572.00	16,360.00	19.6%
001 -20-70-7025-0000-000-531136-		YOUTH SERVICES SUPPLEMENT					
	12,135	0	12,135	.00	279.00	11,856.00	2.3%
001 -20-70-7025-0000-000-553000-		TELEPHONE					
	710	0	710	.00	785.00	-75.00	110.6%
001 -20-70-7025-0000-000-581120-		CONFERENCES & MEMBERSHIPS					
	2,750	0	2,750	.00	800.00	1,950.00	29.1%
001 -20-70-7025-0000-000-581240-		WELFARE EVICTIONS & AUCTIONS					
	11,000	0	11,000	.00	.00	11,000.00	.0%
001 -20-70-7025-0000-000-581745-		NONREIMBURSEABLE INCIDENTALS					
	5,000	0	5,000	.00	.00	5,000.00	.0%
001 -20-70-7025-0000-000-587232-		RELOCATION COSTS					
	30,000	0	30,000	4,000.00	.00	26,000.00	13.3%
TOTAL YOUTH & COMMUNITY SERVICES	439,155	0	439,155	37,317.94	31,611.00	370,226.06	15.7%
TOTAL GENERAL FUND	439,155	0	439,155	37,317.94	31,611.00	370,226.06	15.7%
TOTAL REVENUES	-83,340	0	-83,340	.00	.00	-83,340.00	
TOTAL EXPENSES	522,495	0	522,495	37,317.94	31,611.00	453,566.06	

YEAR-TO-DATE BUDGET REPORT

FOR 2027 13							
	ORIGINAL APPROP	TRANFRS/ ADJSTMTS	REVISED BUDGET	YTD ACTUAL	ENCUMBRANCES	AVAILABLE BUDGET	PCT USE/COL
GRAND TOTAL	439,155	0	439,155	37,317.94	31,611.00	370,226.06	15.7%
** END OF REPORT - Generated by Stephen Bynum **							

7/1/25-6/30/26 YDT Statistics:

YDT had 18 Cases

We currently have 5 Open Cases and 2 pending

Open Cases: (Somes cases have more than one charge)

Charge	Number of Cases
Breach of Peace 2nd	3
Criminal Misc	2
Motor vehicle	2

Pending Cases:

Police Referral Beyond control	1
Thr. 2nd, Assault 3rd	1 case 2 Charges

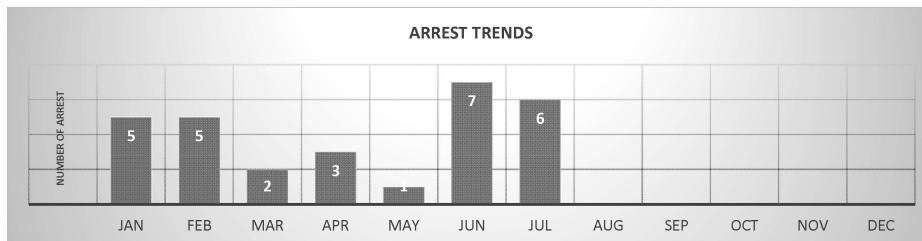
Total Open Cases Gender

Female	0
Male	5

BRISTOL POLICE DEPARTMENT
Community Relations Division
2026 Monthly Juvenile Arrest Report

ARREST STATISTICS:	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	YTD TOTAL
TOTAL JUVENILE ARREST	5	5	2	3	1	7	6						29
JRB REFERRAL	1	0	0	0	0	0	0						1
JUVENILE COURT REFERRAL	4	5	1	2	1	7	5						25
ADULT REFERRAL	0	0	1	1	0	0	1						3
MALE ARREST	4	5	1	1	1	7	6						25
FEMALE ARREST	1	0	1	2	0	0	0						4
REPEAT OFFENDER	2	2	0	1	0	1	0						6
MISDEMEANOR CHARGES	6	6	6	4	0	3	7						32
FELONY CHARGES	2	8	0	1	2	5	7						25
ALCOHOL OFFENSES	0	0	0	0	0	0	0						0
MARIJUANA OFFENSES	0	0	0	0	0	0	0						0
NARCOTICS OFFENSES	0	0	0	0	2	0	0						2
LARCENY OF M/V	1	4	0	0	0	1	4						10

AGE & SEX STATISTICS:	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	YTD TOTAL
AGE 8: MALE													0
FEMALE													0
AGE 9: MALE													0
FEMALE													0
AGE 10: MALE													0
FEMALE													0
AGE 11: MALE													0
FEMALE													0
AGE 12: MALE	1												1
FEMALE													0
AGE 13: MALE													0
FEMALE													0
AGE 14: MALE						1	4						5
FEMALE													0
AGE 15: MALE	2	2				3							7
FEMALE	1		1										2
AGE 16: MALE	1	2			1	2	1						7
FEMALE													0
AGE 17: MALE		1	1	1		1	1						5
FEMALE				2									2



PREPARED BY: Lt. Eric Hanson