

**Bristol School Readiness Council
Regular Meeting
November 6, 2024**

- The regular meeting of the School Readiness Council was held on November 6, 2024 on the Zoom Meeting Platform and called to order by Maureen Eaton at 12:16 PM.

Present: Matt Baronowski, Cecilia Garay, Maureen Eaton, Yesenia Fuentes, Michelle Herens, Donna Koser, Susan Adeife Lee, Amber Lipscomb, Alyssa McGhee, Brenda Moore, Valerie Pelletier, Jillian Romann, Erick Rosengren, Sarah Roy, Dina Schaffrick, Jennifer St. John, Courtney Sugarman, Kristina Tanguay, Valerie Toner

Absent: Maegan Adams, Wendy McGrath

Also Present: Sarah Ethier, Michelle Fangiullo

- **Welcome and Introductions**
- **Approval of School Readiness Council Meeting Minutes held October 2, 2024:**
 - ***Motion by School Readiness Council member Val Toner and seconded by Amber Lipscomb, it was a unanimous vote to approve the minutes of the School Readiness Council Minutes held October 2, 2024.***
- **Committee Updates**
 - Program Quality – Maureen Eaton and Michelle Fangiullo
 - Discussed staff and enrollment updates, including staff who seem to not want to work
 - Office of Early Childhood (OEC) updates:
 - New memo just released that OEC will pay programs 100% of monthly allocation if enrollment is 85% or higher
 - Request for Applications (RFA) should be released soon, and programs will apply based on utilization from FY23 and FY24
 - ECE Reporter data has not been accurate (family income related to SMI)
 - Highlights from Early Start CT Listening Sessions were shared
 - Local updates:
 - City Council, Board of Finance and Joint Board approvals for the Private Provider Payment (PPP) in process
 - Discussion and clarification about screening process
 - Donna requesting family information for Ready4K text alerts
 - Committee planning to hold a fall legislative event
 - Next meeting is November 13 at 10:00 at Edgewood Pre-K Academy and on Zoom
 - Health Committee – Kristina Tanguay
 - Ideas shared to bring “Circle of Security” class to community
 - Zoom educational classes for parents continue with Healthy Eyes for Growing Kids November 6th at 6:00 PM, and Donna shared link in chat and emailed Council
 - Discussion about dental screening of children by BBHD dental hygienists
 - Wellness Wednesday and the Seed Project provided updates
 - Committee is asked to bring ideas for Little Read books that address mental health and feelings

- Discussion about how to connect with Polish speaking families and growing committee
 - Next meeting is November 12 at 2:00 on Zoom
- Governance – Sarah Holmes
 - No report
- Community Outreach – Donna Koser and Jennifer St. John
 - 3rd annual Family Fun Day is starting planning process on November 18 at noon
 - Parent Ambassadors hosting sensory friendly movie night November 7 with a Community Conversation; movie is Winnie the Pooh
 - Polar Express is December 5 at 6:00 PM at the Bristol Public Library
 - Next Family Fun Day meeting is November 18 at 12:00 on Zoom
 - Next regular meeting is January 16 at 10:00 on Zoom
- Infant and Toddler – Maegan Adams and Michelle Herens
 - Children’s clothing drive: drop off clothing at the library now and at Farmers Market Saturday, and families/agencies can pick up November 13
 - November 2 at the Farmers Market with clothing drive flyers and Reading Buddies
 - Next meeting is November 19 at 1:30 on Zoom
- Transition to Kindergarten – Courtney Sugarman
 - October activities:
 - Case Consultation Committee will be discussed at next Program Quality meeting
 - Reviewed 2024-2025 timeline and made several updates
 - Kindergarten age change - waiting to hear Bristol’s process for next year’s Kindergarten cohort
 - Planning Fall Dine & Discuss:
 - Event will be Tuesday, November 19th from 5:30-7:00 at Imagine Nation
 - Topic will be addressing concerns about increase in young children with identified special needs: how we can support teachers, families and children
 - Smaller committee is planning details
 - Donna sent the Ready4K template to providers to gather family information
 - Next meeting is November 18 at 3:45 on Zoom
- **School Readiness Liaison Report – Donna Osuch**
 - Donna read thank you note from Mary-Alice Petrucelli-Timek
 - Office of Early Childhood (OEC) and other Updates
 - OEC Commissioner is on leave of absence. Deputy Commissioner Elena Trueworthy is Acting Commissioner, and Deb Flis is Acting Deputy Commissioner.
 - OEC will pay 100% of program allocations as long as enrollment is at or above 85%
 - Payments to programs: Bristol Comptroller wants to go back to monthly payments
 - While no details about application process for Early Start CT, website updated with funding formula for current state-funded programs; Donna going to calculate for programs
 - Listening Sessions held regarding Care4Kids child care subsidy program
 - Clarissa’s Battle film screening 11/16: <https://www.childcareforct.org/post/step-into-clarissa-s-battle-a-film-screening-and-participatory-panel-discussion-on-child-care>

- **Local Updates**
 - Donna shared results of demographic survey, and SRC very close to Bristol demographics
 - Continue to brainstorm combining BECA and SR (meetings with Mayor and United Way)
 - Transition to Kindergarten questions (waiver for next year?)
 - Healthy Eyes for Growing Kids on Wednesday, November 6, 6:00-7:00 PM on Zoom
 - Dine & Discuss on Tuesday, November 19, 5:30-7:00
 - Grant Award Letters for Private Provider Payment (PPP) winding their way through City
- **Quality Enhancement Report:**
 - The second quarter funds for Quality Enhancement were drawn down, and Donna informed programs about availability
 - FRC finished toddler discipline series and will offer again in spring due to high interest but low attendance; preschool series November 12 and 21 at Edgewood at 6:00 PM
 - FRC also hosting home child care play and learn meetings
 - Library planning programs late winter and early spring using Quality Enhancement funds
- **Monitoring Visits Report**
 - In October,
 - Edgewood Pre-Kindergarten Academy (EPKA) filled 149/149 part day/part year spaces
 - Bristol Child Development Center (BCDC) had 123/129 (95%) full day/full year spaces filled and 56/56 CDC infant/toddler spaces filled
 - Imagine Nation, A Museum Early Learning Center (INMELC) had 119/119 full day/full year Pre-K spaces and 8/8 infant/toddler spaces filled; looking for one pre-K
- **Resignations:** none
- **Appointments:** none
- **Old Business:** none
- **New Business:** none
- **Community Sharing:**
 - Jenn shared that the Parent Cabinet held its first region 6 meeting, and they're discussing more hours for Parent Ambassadors and Cabinet members. She is also part of an advisory committee to review and rewrite the CT ELDS (Early Learning Development Standards).
 - Val Pelletier said that Head Start is opening a new preschool classroom on South St. Head Start will be serving 78 children, including Early Head Start.
 - Jillian shared that Bristol Public Schools will review data about current children who received the Kindergarten waiver to determine how to best move forward this year.
- **Adjournment: Meeting was adjourned at 12:58 PM.**

Next regular meeting date: December 4, 2024 on Zoom

Respectfully Submitted,

Donna Osuch
School Readiness Liaison

UNAPPROVED