

**Bristol School Readiness Council
Regular Meeting
January 8, 2025**

The regular meeting of the School Readiness Council was held on January 8, 2025 on the Zoom Meeting Platform and called to order by Jillian Romann at 11:50 AM.

A recording of this meeting is at:

https://zoom.us/rec/share/9mh8LO7XvorUINVTCO8a5Bvu1ViWD8t2ZQSWul7KE_iKkx6poYKVkdgy7YhnH5Ts.Vm9bU9tz45IXLOtY?startTime=1736355351000

Passcode: +5*8vwx5

Present: Maegan Adams, Matt Baronowski, Cecilia Garay, Yesenia Fuentes, Michelle Herens, Donna Koser, Amber Lipscomb, Brenda Moore, Jillian Romann, Sarah Roy, Dina Schaffrick, Courtney Sugarman, Kristina Tanguay

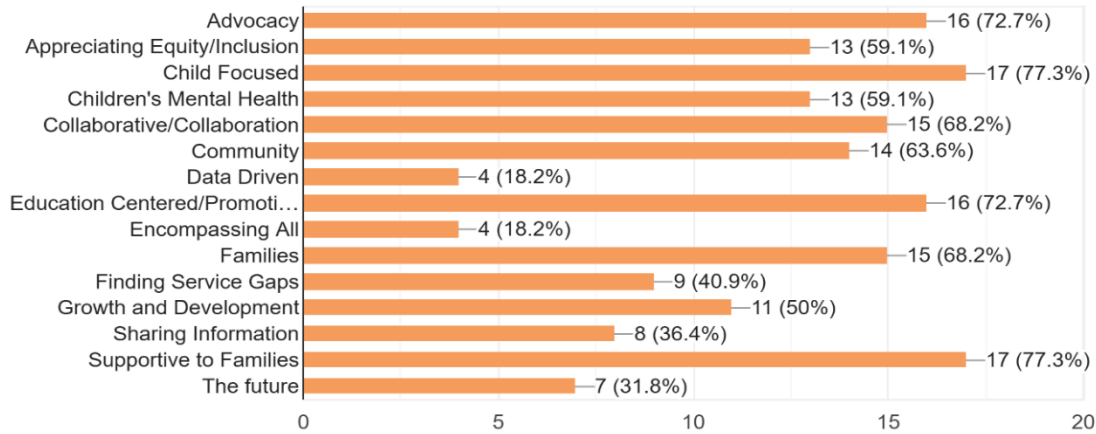
Absent: Susan Adeife Lee, Alyssa McGhee, Wendy McGrath, Valerie Pelletier, Erick Rosengren, Jennifer St. John, Valerie Toner

Also Present: Stephanie Daniele, Sarah Ethier, Christie Ganavage, Sandra Godin, Kate Kerchaert, Tracy Krasinski, Yolande Lazaruz-Guerrero, Aubrey Minkler, Tim O'Connor, Susan Sadecki, Kara Singleton

- **Welcome and Introductions**
- **Presentation about consolidation:**
 - Overview of Bristol Early Childhood Alliance (BECA) changes:
 - In July, School Readiness and all state-funded programs will be called Early Start CT, and our council will be referred to as a Local Governance Partner
 - Bristol has had two groups working on early childhood, but the state will only recognize and fund one
 - The new council will continue to oversee the staff, who will continue to support the programs and council and its work; the work will expand to include more family and community engagement
 - Rebranding – evaluating effectiveness and key values:
 - Group reviewed the list of key values that were generated at recent BECA meetings, and everyone was invited to click on the values they want to see moving forward (see graph below).

Please check all of the "key values" that you feel should drive the work of Bristol's Local Governance Partner (LGP) to help redesign our agenda and mission.

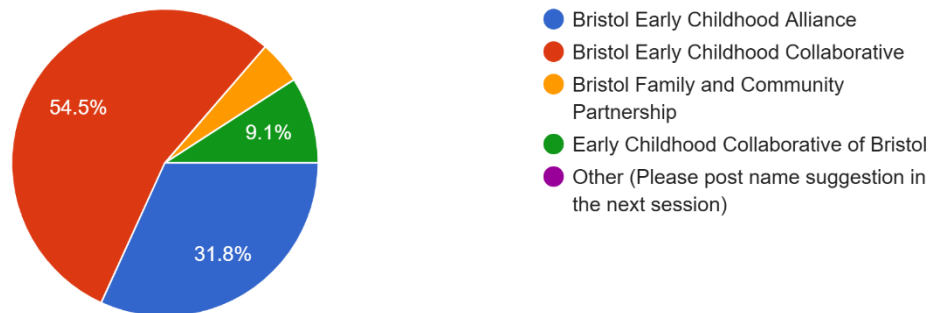
22 responses



- Voting on new consolidated name: a survey link was shared for participants to vote on the narrowed down short list of the top names, and Bristol Early Childhood Collaborative received the most votes (see below).

BECA provided input on their top name choices (Results in the chart below). To further help in this process, please pick your top name from the shorte...of Early Childhood (OEC) "Early Start CT" program.

22 responses



- **Approval of School Readiness Council Meeting Minutes held December 4 2024:** Council was short of a quorum and did not call for vote
- **Overview of Bristol Early Childhood Alliance (BECA):**
 - Donna Koser shared a highlights video of BECA activities in 2024 and described the activities.
- **Committee Updates**
 - Program Quality – Michelle Fangiullo
 - No report
 - Next meeting is January 15 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 class for parents held December 11 about respiratory illness
 - Discussion about how to improve dental health of young children with BBHD dental hygienist
 - Wellness Wednesday and the Seed Project provided updates
 - Next meeting is January 14 at 2:00 on Zoom
- **Governance – Sarah Holmes**
 - No report
- **Community Outreach – Donna Koser and Jennifer St. John**
 - An Eagle Scout project resulted in a refurbished Little Read Library, and they held a ribbon cutting on December 28.
 - Parent Ambassadors are planning Snack & Chat events at the library this winter, and one with Coach Kevin and baseball cards has a change of date, possibly to March
 - The next survey focuses on early literacy. It will be open from January 17 - February 14. Please reach out if you have an opportunity to provide the survey to families with children between the ages of birth to age 6.
 - Next meeting is January 16 at 10:00 on Zoom
- **Infant and Toddler – Maegan Adams and Michelle Herens**
 - Although attendance was lighter than anticipated, a productive discussion was held around virtual awareness campaigns for Maternal Mental Health and Breast-Feeding Awareness week.
 - Next meeting is January 21 at 1:30 on Zoom
- **Transition to Kindergarten – Courtney Sugarman**
 - No report
 - Next meeting is January 13 at 3:45 on Zoom
- **School Readiness Liaison Report – Donna Osuch**
 - **Office of Early Childhood (OEC) and other Updates**
 - Legislative Session starts today, and the Governor’s office and legislative leadership have shared that they intend to make early childhood education a priority
 - Current School Readiness programs submitted their applications for funding for next year, but OEC has not released the second round of Request for Applications yet, and they are getting further behind in their process
 - Donna K and Donna O attended a meeting in Hartford with OEC, the Children’s Collective and statewide liaisons December 11 to discuss the Local Governance Partners; there was a follow-up meeting yesterday with plans to meet regularly.
 - Programs were notified Monday evening about family fee replacement funding for this February 2025 for their full day/full year preschool families.
 - **Local Updates**
 - Continue to brainstorm combining BECA and SR (met with Comptroller and HR, and presented to Joint Board on December 17)

- Donna presented the draft School Readiness budget for \$50,000 (City portion) and \$200,000 (State portion). Council was short of a quorum and did not call for vote
 - Donna passed Infant CLASS and Toddler Class, and can reliably assess all of our state-funded classrooms. CLASS is short for Classroom Assessment Scoring System, and is an observation tool to assess effective teacher-child interactions in classrooms. Bristol used administrative funds for six professionals to be trained in 2023.
- **Quality Enhancement Report:**
 - The third quarter funds for Quality Enhancement were drawn down, and the City should receive them by the end of January
 - FRC will offer toddler discipline series and preschool series in spring and will share flyers when available
 - FRC also hosting home child care play and learn meetings
- **Monitoring Visits Report**
 - In December,
 - Edgewood Pre-Kindergarten Academy (EPKA) filled 149/149 part day/part year spaces
 - Bristol Child Development Center (BCDC) had 127/129 (98%) full day/full year spaces filled and 56/56 CDC infant/toddler spaces filled; are full now
 - 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
- **Resignations:** none
- **Appointments:** none
- **Old Business:** none
- **New Business:** none
- **Community Sharing:**
 - Val shared Head Start enrollment data: Lake Ave has 2 preschool rooms (36/36) and 2 Early Head Start rooms (12/16); South St has 3 preschool rooms (44/54); need to hire 2 teachers
 - The Head Start/DCF Statewide Partnership Meeting “Together for CT Families” has been scheduled for January 24th. Tracy will send the registration link to Donna O.
 - Main Street Community Foundation has scholarships available for those who wish to return to college or further their degree in Early Childhood. Also, the general grant cycle opens February 3. Please reach out to Kate Kerchaert or Susan Sadecki to ensure that your project or pilot aligns with the foundation’s grant making goals. www.mainstreetfoundation.org
 - Child First is fully staffed, and they hope to serve new referrals more quickly going forward.
- **Adjournment: Meeting was adjourned at 12:57 PM.**

Next regular meeting date: February 5, 2025 on Zoom

Respectfully Submitted,
Donna Osuch
School Readiness Liaison

UNAPPROVED