



*City of Bristol
School Readiness*

*INFORMATION TO ACCESS THIS
MEETING*

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*ID: 92046208066
passcode: 355413*

Ladies and Gentlemen:

The regular School Readiness Council meeting will be held on Wednesday, February 5, 2025, at 11:45 AM on Zoom.

1. Welcome and Introductions
2. Consolidation of the Bristol Early Childhood Alliance and School Readiness Council
 - a. Rebranding
 - b. Approval of new name, Bristol Early Childhood Collaborative
3. Approval of Minutes
 - a. Regular Meeting - January 8, 2025
 - b. Special Meeting - January 22, 2025
4. Committee Reports
 - a. Program Quality
 - b. Health Services
 - c. Governance
 - d. Community Outreach
 - e. Infant and Toddler
 - f. Transition to Kindergarten

5. City School Readiness and Child Day Care Liaison Report
 - a. Office of Early Childhood Updates
 - b. Local Updates
 6. Quality Enhancement Report
 7. Monitoring Report
 8. Resignations
 9. Appointments
 10. Old Business
 11. New Business
 12. Community Sharing
 13. Adjournment
 14. Next meeting date March 5, 2025
- PER ORDER OF THE CHAIRPERSON, Jillian Romann

**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

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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

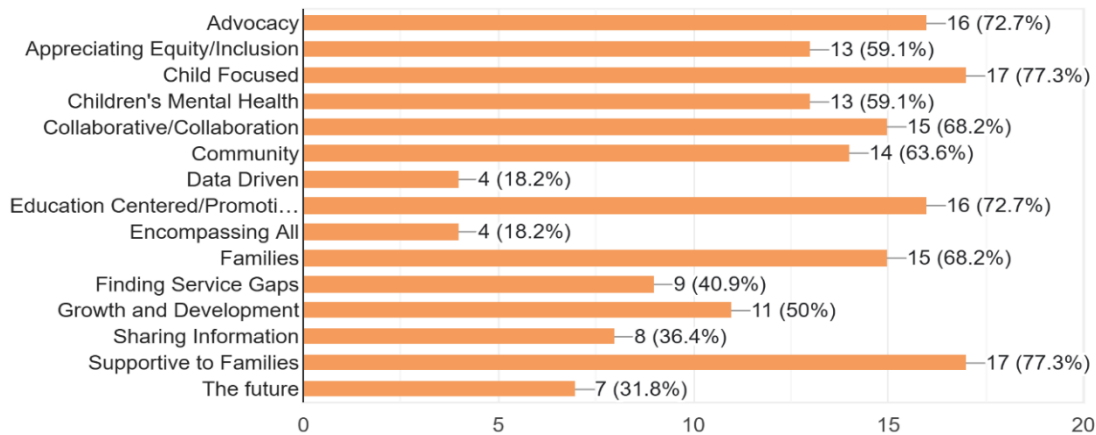
Absent: Susan Adeife Lee, Alyssa McGhee, Wendy McGrath, Valerie Pelletier, Erick Rosengren, Jennifer St. John, Valerie Toner

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.

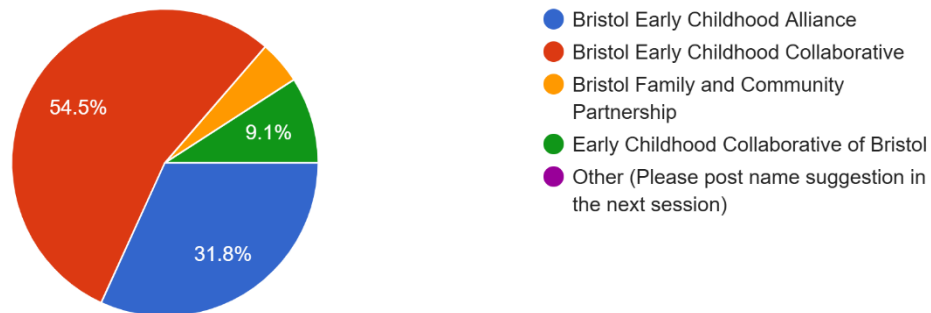
22 responses



- 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

**Bristol School Readiness Council
Special Meeting
January 22, 2025**

The Special Meeting of the School Readiness Council was held on January 22, 2025 on the Zoom Meeting Platform and called to order by Jillian Romann at 12:03 PM.

A recording of this meeting is at:

https://zoom.us/rec/share/qqImMKFFVsp9Nc7l5inN19vFI_zHTEZsFdEmSlpZBIZLi-phwJ9l9PeLjY3fxy4.lsfPaMwHQurnvBZe?startTime=1737565461000

Passcode: Sy&qg#2h

Present: Maegan Adams, Matt Baronowski, Cecilia Garay, Yesenia Fuentes, Michelle Herens, Donna Koser, Amber Lipscomb, Alyssa McGhee, Wendy McGrath, Brenda Moore, Jillian Romann, Sarah Roy, Dina Schaffrick, Jennifer St. John, Courtney Sugarman, Kristina Tanguay, Valerie Toner

Absent: Susan Adeife Lee, Valerie Pelletier, Erick Rosengren

- **Welcome and Introductions**
- **Approval of School Readiness Council Meeting Minutes held December 4 2024:**
Motion by School Readiness Council member Michelle Herens and seconded by Jennifer St. John, it was a unanimous vote to approve the minutes of the School Readiness Council Minutes held December 4, 2024.
- **School Readiness Liaison Report – Donna Osuch**
 - Local Updates
 - Donna presented the draft School Readiness budget for \$50,000 (City portion) and \$200,000 (State portion): *Motion by School Readiness Council member Jennifer St. John and seconded by Valerie Toner, it was a unanimous vote to approve the School Readiness budget for \$50,000 and \$200,000.*
- **Adjournment:** Meeting was adjourned at 12:10 PM.

Next regular meeting date: February 5, 2025 on Zoom

Respectfully Submitted,
Donna Osuch
School Readiness Liaison

Program Quality
Wednesday, January 15, 2025 15, 2025

Present: Maegan Adams, Sarah Ethier, Michelle Fangiullo, Donna Osuch, Courtney Sugarman, Pam Testa
Absent: Renee Dailey, Laurie Nadeau, Val Pelletier, Cindy Rogers

Welcome and Introductions:

- **Select new co-chair:** Renee volunteered to co-chair the committee with Michelle – thank you!

Staffing and enrollment update:

- **Staffing:**
 - We neglected to discuss staffing concerns
- **Enrollment:**
 - BOE has 5 openings with their additional 15 spots
 - BCDC is full at Burlington Ave and West St
 - INMELC is full
- **BristolWORKS!:** bring to Kim's attention that students are confused because they do not earn credits now; could we shorten the class by number of weeks and/or number of hours?

OEC Updates:

- **RFA update:**
 - **First round approvals** – programs have not yet heard they are approved, just that they are being reviewed.
 - **Second round** – OEC has not shared when they will open up the second competitive round; BOE might apply, and BCDC will apply for lost spaces
- **Family Fee Replacement funding for FD/FY preschool** – see memo and FAQ for details related to OEC subsidizing \$80.25 family fee per child based on enrollment in April 2024 for full-day/full-year preschool spaces only – to spend down ARPA funds.

Local updates:

- Donna will request **invoices for Q3 COLA and Private Provider Payment (PPP)** this week
- **Merging BECA and School Readiness** – working to become one entity and they met jointly last week for the first time. Both groups already share most of the committee work, and some committees will be merging in the future. Suggestion to look at strategic goals, not committees
- **Dine & Discuss** is April 1st at 5:30 PM; Michelle will check if we can hold at INMELC
- Donna will reach out regarding program and classroom **monitoring**
- Donna will update and email **Expenditure Report for July 1 – December 31, 2024**

Meetings regarding shared children – current communication is working

Communication with legislators – Donna did not hear back from legislators so did not hold breakfast meeting in December. Donna will continue to try to communicate with legislators to share state changes

- **CT Early Childhood Alliance 2025 Policy Agenda:** <https://www.cteca.org/policy>

Next Meeting Date Wednesday, February 12 at 10:00 a.m. at Edgewood Pre-K Academy and Zoom

Respectfully Submitted,
Donna Osuch

Health Committee Notes

January 14, 2025

The regular meeting of the Health Committee was held on January 14, 2025, on Zoom Meeting Platform and called to order by Tina Tanguay.

Present: Maegan Adams, Sherry and Tad Bartles, Stephanie Daniele, Donna Koser, Donna Osuch, and Tina Tanguay

Welcome and introductions:

School Readiness/BECA changes and consolidation:

- Donna provided an overview about School Readiness and the Bristol Early Childhood Alliance working to become one entity – and they met jointly last week for the first time. Both groups already share most of the committee work, and some committees will be merging in the future. This is an ongoing process, so feel free to share ideas.

New Priorities/Ideas:

- **Behavioral Health –**
 - Perhaps bring back “Circle of Security.” Ask Jenn if she’s being trained in it and can offer to broader community. Could we get a small grant to offer it?
- **Zoom series for parents –**
 - Debriefed respiratory illness with Tina held in December – 2 parents attended and recording being posted January 22 on Wellness Wednesday; event went well
 - Reschedule gardening and healthy eating (Leo) for late February/early March
- **Dental Screening for preschool children update** – Barbara Lozier, dental hygienist from BBHD shared via email and two attachments:
 - The safety dental net which can be found on the State Department of Health website. It’s a list of dentist and clinics that provide care and some if not all on a sliding fee scale.
 - Community Health Clinic Dental clinics. Throughout the year, they host Mission of Mercy events to bring free dental care to homeless persons. During February, they participate in the annual Give Kids a Smile event as part of National Children’s Dental Health Month, by holding free dental clinics for kids across their sites.
 - Mission of Mercy (MOM) this year is June 20-21 at New Britain High School. Connecticut Foundation for Dental Outreach has information on the MOM this year. Everything from how to register, who can attend, how to volunteer. Volunteer positions are open to non-dental/medical people as well. The website is cfdo.org
 - Connecticut Dental Health Partnership (CTDHP). <https://ctdhp.org> This is a site that will help with all things HUSKY. Their number is 1-855-283-3682.

Updates about ongoing ideas:

- **Wellness Wednesday** – This project to promote health information on social media and the website continues, and Donna Koser is requesting content from all partners. She shared a link for committee members to add items: <https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1HUbOc-IDFBh74UfiGyEQ1cHpUcbBlyWVOYXSZQJ10RY/edit?gid=0#gid=0>
- **Seed Project** – unsure about future of Ocean State Job Lots’ participation, though both Donnas received an email February 16th from UConn indicating the program will continue
- **Little Read** – Donna O reaching out to Purchasing Dept. to help buy books this year

Other:

- Diversity, equity and inclusion – will wait until committee structure finalized before conducting new recruitment

Respectfully Submitted,
Donna Osuch

Infant & Toddler Committee

Zoom Meeting Notes

January 21, 2025, from 1:30 – 2:30 p.m.

In attendance: Maegan Adams, Michelle Fangiullo, Yesenia Fuentes, Donna Koser, Tracy Krasinski, Jill Mahoney, Donna Osuch, and Kaitlyn Rondeau

Members present discussed the following items.

Committee Discussion: An update was provided to members who have not been able to attend the joint BECA/SR meetings. BECA and SR will be merged into one Local Governance Partner (LGP) with a rebrand (logo, website, social media, etc.). With the merger of the Council and the Alliance, there is an opportunity to merge committees with overlapping concerns/strategies.

Members present mentioned that it is important to hold on to and not lose the Infant & Toddler component in the newly formed LGP.

As the committee merges take place, there will most likely be more work around data collection/sharing and goals to turn the curve.

Equity and Inclusion: BECA has asked that all committees think about equity and inclusion. The committee has decided to put a pause on diversifying the committee until after the merging of BECA/SR.

Presentation: Jill Mahoney provided a brief history on how the CT Partnership for Children evolved from a Discovery community serving only Naugatuck.

All of CT can apply for diapers through the website: <https://ctpfc.org/programs/valley-diaper-bank/>

Agencies on the call are also able to reach out to Jill **in an emergency: (203) 819-5281** - CT Partnership for Children will do what they can to help.

Events: The committee continues to try to figure out how to re-configure events to engage families.

April – Baby Shower. Donna will reach out to Val about moving forward.

May – Maternal Mental Health Month – virtual tips will be shared on social media.

August – Breastfeeding Awareness Week – virtual tips will be shared on social media.

Opportunities for Infants and Toddlers – At a standstill.

Next Steps / Updates

- The Infant and Toddler committee meeting has been cancelled for February.

Next Meeting: *March 18, 2025, on ZOOM*

Transition to Kindergarten Committee

January 13, 2025

The regular meeting of the Transition to Kindergarten Committee was held January 13, 2025 on Zoom Meeting Platform and called to order by Christina Macioci at 3:50 PM.

Welcome and Introductions:

Attendees: Donna Koser, Christina Macioci, Meghan Nadeau, Donna Osuch, Misty Palaia, Dina Schaffrick, Courtney Sugarman

School Readiness/BECA Changes and Consolidation

- Donna provided an overview about School Readiness and the Bristol Early Childhood Alliance working to become one entity – and they met jointly last week for the first time. Both groups already share most of the committee work, and some committees will be merging in the future. This is an ongoing process, so feel free to share ideas.

Transition to Kindergarten Activities

- January/early February activities:
 - Hold Transition Meetings for students with IEPs – Courtney is meeting this week with supervisors to discuss the process, and planning for the meetings to begin in March. When asked how meetings would occur, Courtney thinks the meetings will be virtual, but that she hopes school teams visit the students at EPKA.
 - Start Early Notification – Donna will send forms to community programs soon
 - Start the process to educate PK4 parents on social media and website using videos made in 2023
- Kindergarten age change - Bristol is assessing children in Kindergarten who received a waiver and will then make a decision about how to move forward next year; Kindergarten teachers hope that BPS will ask them about behavior and other concerns
- Early Learning Kits – we have approximately 50 bags filled with manipulatives and books for families whose children did not attend pre-K, and we want to get rid of them this spring. Some ideas generated include:
 - Give to families who request a Kindergarten waiver (if Bristol continues)
 - Reach out to family child care providers and ask if they could use kits/pass out
 - Give to FRCs to share with family child care providers and at play groups

Dine & Discuss

- *Addressing Concerns about the Increase in Young Children with Identified Special Needs: How We Can Support Children, Families and Teachers* on Tuesday, April 1, 2025, from 5:30-7:00 PM

Ready 4K

- We have 369 families enrolled, and Donna will remind programs that need to submit

Next Meeting February 10, 2025 at 3:45 on Zoom