Daniel A. Micari, Commissioner, Chairperson
Barbara Bajurny, Commissioner
Andrew Collins, Commissioner, Secretary
Gloria Ewings, Commissioner
Ruth Ann Graime, Commissioner
Joseph Krolikowski, Commissioner
Jacqueline Olsen, City Council Liaison
Diane Salmoiraghi, Commissioner

Commission for Persons with Disabilities
Bristol, CT 06010

Meeting Agenda
March 12, 2025

7:00 PM – City Hall, 3rd Floor Meeting Room 3-1 and Virtual Format

Our Mission

To promote inclusion and improve the quality of life for people in Bristol with a disability, by providing a network of partnerships with local resources that foster self-sufficiency, dignity, and respect.

Reasonable Accommodation Statement

The Bristol Commission for Persons with Disabilities is committed to equal access to, and participation in, all meetings and Commission-sponsored programs and events. Individuals who require an accommodation in order to fully participate, including physical access, communication assistance, or other special need, should contact Daniel A. Micari at damicari@yahoo.com, at least seven business days prior to the scheduled meeting, program, or event.

Present:
Absent:
Call to order
Pledge of Allegiance
Approval of Minutes: February 12, 2025

Presentation: Amy Martino, Director of Pupil Personnel Services, Bristol Public Schools
Topic: Overview of special services

New/Current Business
*Tentative speakers for April and beyond
*Update on installation of smoke/CO detectors

Old Business

*Lesson on American Sign Language

Correspondence

*From Chairman Micari to Mary Etter, Executive Director of the Bristol Adult Resource Center:
Mary, On behalf of the Bristol Commission for Persons with Disabilities, I extend a sincere thank you for speaking at last evening's Commission meeting.
Your informative presentation highlighted BARC's rich history and its continued service delivery and wide range of individual and family supports in the Bristol Community.
The recent move to 225 North Main Street, is indeed an exciting new chapter in BARC's ever expanding service delivery, including administrative services and program offerings, and the addition of autism supports, art offerings , dog treats and the "new face" of the hidden cafe in downtown Bristol.
The Bristol Commission for Persons with Disabilities is committed to supporting BARC and its Mission, as a "Community Partner".

Sincerely,
Daniel (Dan) Micari , Chair
Bristol Commission for Persons with Disabilities

Public Participation

Motion to adjourn: **Meeting adjourned:**
Next meeting: April 9, 2025 at 7:00 PM
City Hall, 3rd Floor Meeting Room 3-1
Presentation: TBD

Submitted by,
Andrew Collins, Secretary

Join Zoom Meeting

https://bristolct-gov.zoom.us/j/88512009314?pwd=cDdReHV2VWt3eVE2SnYySFhMeWtvdz09 Passcode: 12345

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Commission for Persons with Disabilities
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Meeting Minutes
February 12, 2025

7:00 PM – City Hall, 3rd Floor Meeting Room 3-1 and Virtual Format

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Present: Micari, Collins, Ewings, Graime, Krolikowski, Olsen, Salmoiraghi
Absent: Bajurny
Call to order: 7:03 PM, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance
Approval of Minutes: January 15, 2025 (Ewings/ Krolikowski, passed)

Presentation: Mary Etter, Executive Director of the Bristol Adult Resources Center
Topic: Services at the Bristol Adult Resource Center

Mary Etter introduced herself and spoke on some background information regarding the Bristol Adult Resource Center (BARC). BARC was originally founded in 1957 and concentrates on providing services to those with developmental disabilities.

BARC recently moved some of its operations to 225 North Main Street (fifth floor). The move was funded with American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds.

BARC was Bristol's largest recipient of ARPA funds with about $1.5 million. The new location will include an expansion of the existing Hidden Café to offer food options. This is in addition to the location BARC has on Jerome Avenue.

BARC provides a variety of services to assist those with disabilities including providing assistance with employment and other training. Part of the expansion includes new training and services. There is a stronger focus on working with those with autism including a new sensory room at the North Main Street location. The current sensory room at BARC's Lake Avenue location will remain in operation.

BARC supports about 140 individuals. BARC focuses their support on adults of all ages beginning around 21 years of age usually out of high school and includes the elderly.

BARC also supports group homes. Currently, BARC oversees 12 group homes that are operated in several different arrangements including direct ownership and rental agreements. Ms. Etter stated that two more houses are slated to be added by donations from landlords.

BARC is currently planning a fundraising event which is scheduled to take place at the DoubleTree on May 16. Ticket prices are $85 each.

Ms. Etter expressed concern over the uncertainty over federal funding. BARC receives half of its funds from the state and the other half from the federal government. There would be problems if Medicaid payments were stopped. There is also concern about the proposed disestablishment of the United States Department of Education.

Throughout the presentation, Ms. Etter answered questions and reacted to comments from commissioners and members of the audience.

New/Current Business

* At the time of the meeting, no speakers had been confirmed for any future meetings.

*Due to the absence of Commissioner Bajurny, there were no updates regarding the installation of the smoke/CO detectors.

*Chairman Micari stated that he is waiting on updates regarding the establishment of the state Bureau for Deaf, Deafblind and Hard of Hearing Services. Regarding this, Deb Reed stated that there have been delays in hiring people. They are needed to assist blind children, teachers, etc.

Old Business

*Jon Sahlin, ASL interpreter, led the Commission in teaching ASL signs related to

Valentine's Day.

Correspondence

*Chairman Micari sent a message to Dr. Sabrina Trocchi, President and Chief Executive Officer, Wheeler Clinic, thanking her for the presentation that she gave at the January 15, 2025, meeting.

*Chairman Micari sent a message to Donna Crowe, Owner of Crowes Crafty Corner, thanking her for the presentation that she gave at the January 15, 2025, meeting.

Public Participation

*Jon Sahlin stated that his band will be playing at Bleacher's on April 19 ahead of a planned event in Florida called Deafstock scheduled for later that month.

*George Reed emphasized the importance of contacting legislators and officials at the local, state, and federal levels of government to advocate for those with disabilities.

Motion to adjourn: Ewings/Krolikowski, passed **Meeting adjourned:** 7:45 PM

Next meeting: March 12, 2025, at 7:00 PM
City Hall, 3rd floor meeting room 3-1
Presenter: Amy Martino, Director of Pupil Personnel Services, Bristol Public Schools
Topic: Overview of special services

Submitted by,
Andrew Collins, Secretary