



*City of Bristol
School Readiness*

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Passcode: 053493*

Ladies and Gentlemen:

The regular Bristol Early Childhood Collaborative (formerly School Readiness Council) meeting will be held on Wednesday, October 1, 2025, on Zoom.

1. Call to Order, Welcome and Introductions
 - a. Nominations and approve second Co-Chair
2. Approval of Minutes
 - a. Regular Meeting - September 3, 2025
3. Transition
 - a. Strategic Framework Report
 - b. Vision and Mission Statements - small groups
 - c. New Logo update - small groups
4. Committee Reports
 - a. Program Quality
 - b. Health and Wellness
 - c. Governance
 - d. Community Outreach
 - e. Transition to Kindergarten

5. City School Readiness and Child Day Care Liaison Report
 - a. Office of Early Childhood and Shine Early Learning Report
 - b. Local Updates
6. Monitoring Report
7. Resignations
8. Appointments
9. Old Business
10. New Business
11. Community Sharing
12. Adjournment
13. Next meeting date November 5, 2025

PER ORDER OF THE CHAIRPERSON, Sandra Godin

**Bristol Early Childhood Collaborative
Regular Meeting
September 3, 2025**

The regular meeting of the Early Childhood Collaborative (BECC), formerly School Readiness Council was held on September 3, 2025 in Room 1 at the Bristol Public Library and on the Zoom Meeting Platform, and called to order by Liaison Donna Osuch at 12:07 PM.

Present: Maegan Adams, Stephanie Daniele, Cecilia Garay, Sandra Godin, Michelle Herens, Kate Kerchaert, Susan Adeife Lee, Amber Lipscomb, Liz McGuire, Valerie Pelletier, Erick Rosengren, Dina Schaffrick, Kara Singleton, Jennifer St. John, Iris White

Absent: Yesenia Fuentes, Alyssa McGhee, Brenda Moore, Kaitlyn Rondeau, Courtney Sugarman

Also Present: Dagmary Balanta, Michelle Fangiullo, Chantal Gauvin, Donna Koser, Melissa Mendez, Aubrey Minkler, Claire Strillacci

- **Appointments: Motion by BECC member Maegan Adams and seconded by Amber Lipscomb, it was a unanimous vote to approve the following appointments to serve on the Bristol Early Childhood Collaborative.**
 - Stephanie Daniele, Parent
 - Michelle Fangiullo, Imagine Nation
 - Sandra Godin, Bristol Family Resource Centers
 - Kate Kerchaert, Main Street Community Foundation
 - Melissa Mendez, Wheeler Health ECCP
 - Kaitlyn Rondeau, WIC
 - Kara Singleton, Wheeler Health
 - Claire Strillacci, Bristol Public Library
- **Welcome and Introductions**
 - Second Co-Chair – we will vote to add a second co-chair in October and welcome everyone who is interested to reach out to Donna or Sandra to learn more
 - Orientation Presentation (attached) – Donna shared an orientation that included many changes from School Readiness to Early Start CT. She will hold another orientation for new members and anyone interested that will help members better understand our work. The Office of Early Childhood (OEC) also shared a fact sheet describing the endowment that will fund the new system, and Donna will attach with the minutes.
- **Approval of School Readiness Council Meeting Minutes held June 4, 2025:**
 - **Motion by BECC member Jennifer St. John and seconded by Amber Lipscomb, it was a unanimous vote to approve the minutes of the regular School Readiness Council Minutes held June 4, 2025.** Note that this was our final meeting as the School Readiness Council.
- **Transition:**
 - Vision and Mission Statements – Fio Partners proposed the following from the retreat:
 - Draft Mission: To connect and empower families, educators, and community partners to ensure that all children in our community – from birth through age eight – have access to the resources, relationships, and opportunities they need to thrive.

- Draft Vision, Version A: A Connected community where every child and family is supported, valued, and prepared for lifelong success in school and life.
 - Draft Vision, Version B: A caring and connected community that works together, so every child and family feels included, gets the support they need early on, and is ready to learn, grow and succeed in school and in life.
 - We will work in small groups at the October meeting to finalize.
- Website and Social Media update – Donna Koser shared slides with QR codes to our social media pages and how to find our web page. The original website is still active, but it redirects people to the City of Bristol’s page (slides attached that also include draft vision and mission statements)
- New Logo update – Sandra shared that we expect to see a few new logo options by next week. We’re working with WORX and are pleased with their work so far.
- **Committee Updates**
 - Program Quality – Michelle Fangiullo
 - Discussed staffing and enrollment updates
 - Office of Early Childhood (OEC) and Statewide Updates:
 - OEC created a monitoring tool they expect all liaisons to use, which Donna shared. She presented briefly to staff at community PD days.
 - Early Start General Policies are in process of being updated
 - ECE Reporter – programs are having trouble uploading large batches
 - There are two new roles at OEC: Director of Operations Sam Reinstein, and Ombudsman Michelle Cook (michelle.cook@ct.gov and 860-996-0229)
 - Care4Kids developing a new policy manual and has a public portal for feedback: <https://www.ctoec.org/care-4-kids-feedback-form/>
 - Next meeting is September 10 at 10:00 at Bristol Child Development Center and on Zoom
 - Health and Wellness Committee – Maegan Adams and Stephanie Daniele
 - August meeting was combined Health and Infant Toddler committees – discussed and shared each committee’s goals, priorities and activities. Agreed that goals for both are outdated, should be reviewed annually and could be braided together.
 - Collecting data for next meeting
 - Health and Infant Toddler committees will combine and be called Health & Wellness
 - Next meeting is September 9 at 2:00 at City Hall Room 1-3 and on Zoom
 - Governance – TBD
 - No report
 - Community Outreach – Jennifer St. John
 - Stephanie connected with a mom who offered to do a braiding event for back-to-school
 - Members asked to think about how to evaluate effectiveness of our efforts – data driven with a focus on outcomes
 - Logo is being redesigned by WORX, and social media pages and website updated
 - Next meeting is October 16 at 10:00 on Zoom

- Transition to Kindergarten – Donna Osuch
 - Discussion about transition to kindergarten activities for May and June, including the Parent Orientation (need to clarify goals) and survey in May and the Fire Truck raffle
 - Kindergarten registration opened February 1, and 316 children registered by 6/1
 - Winners of the Fire Truck ride to their first day of Kindergarten were Gianna Palma going to Greene-Hills and Eyad Merghani going to Hubbell
 - Next meeting is September 15 at 3:45 on Zoom
- **Bristol Early Childhood Collaborative Liaison Report – Donna Osuch**
 - Office of Early Childhood (OEC) and Shine Early Learning Updates
 - Bristol received its contract from Shine Early Learning but waiting to sign until Corp Counsel gives okay. We submitted our startup plan 9/2, and the budget is due by 9/30.
 - Local Updates
 - Donna creating a “newsletter” to inform our local and state delegation, and will also share with BECC members
 - We have a draft Strategic Framework from Fio Partners from the June retreat. We will look at it next month when we finalize vision and mission statements (attached).
 - The membership and meeting survey many completed over the summer showed a strong preference to continue meeting the first Wednesday at noon, with in-person meetings in September, October, May and June and Zoom the rest of winter/spring. There will always be a virtual option.
 - Later in the fall we will complete a demographic survey to see if our membership represents Bristol’s families
 - Donna will hold another orientation for new members, and anyone interested is welcome
 - Donna is working with HR to hire a new position, Family and Community Outreach Coordinator, and three (3) Parent Ambassadors
 - Once the Parent Ambassadors (PA) are hired, we plan to start a Parent Council with representation from every Bristol early childhood program and elementary school (Kindergarten or first grade parent), run by the PA’s
- **Resignations:**
 - Donna Koser, United Way of West Central CT
 - Alyssa McGhee, Wheeler Health ECCP
 - Wendy McGrath, Tunxis Community College
 - Jillian Romann, Bristol Public Schools
 - Sarah Roy, Bristol Family Resource Centers
 - Val Toner, Bristol Public Library
- **Old Business:** none
- **New Business:** none
- **Community Sharing:**

- Main Street Community Foundation has two grant cycles open for gender-based programs. The Women & Girls Fund is open through 9/26, and the Men & Boys Fund is open until 9/19. Call Kate to discuss your program before applying.
 - The Rapid Response parent survey for parents with children age 6 and younger is open and attached. You can print the flyer or email to families, but the flyer is not allowed to be posted on social media.
 - United Way of Central and Northeastern CT is recruiting volunteers for their Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) Program.
 - The Office of Early Childhood (OEC) has a parent and caregiver survey (attached), created by UConn School of Social Work, for parents with children age 5 and younger. Parents who complete the survey will receive a \$30 gift card.
 - Family Resource Centers Play & Learn Groups will start the last week of September. They also have a group for family child care providers – please share with providers.
 - Bristol Public Library is moving up their fall programming to the week of 9/15. The schedule is on their website, and flyers are available upstairs or online. September is Library Card Sign Up Month, and the library has new cards available – everyone should get their new card.
- **Adjournment: Meeting was adjourned at 1:09 PM.**

Next regular meeting date: October 1, 2025 at Bristol Public Library and on Zoom

Respectfully Submitted,
Donna Osuch
School Readiness Liaison

Strategic Framework: Bristol's Early Childhood Collaborative (BECC)

Our Mission

The mission is still under development. Below is a working draft for member input and consideration:

To connect and empower families, educators, and community partners to ensure that all children in our community—from birth through age eight—have access to the resources, relationships, and opportunities they need to thrive.

Our Vision

The vision is still under development. Feedback on vision emphasized a need for simpler, emotionally connected, community-rooted, and family-friendly language. Below are two working drafts of BECC's vision for the Bristol community for member input and consideration.

Version A: A connected community where every child and family is supported, valued, and prepared for lifelong success in school and in life.

Version B: A caring and connected community that works together, so every child and family feels included, gets the support they need early on, and is ready to learn, grow, and succeed in school and in life.

How We Fulfill Our Vision

- **Support Families from the Start** – Focus on early support, beginning at birth.
- **Partner with Families** – Make sure families feel welcome, heard, included, and engaged in shaping solutions.
- **Respect All Cultures** – Offer programs that match the needs and backgrounds of all families.
- **Promote Community Collaboration** – Bring together parents, providers, schools, and organizations to work hand-in-hand.
- **Help Kids Get Ready for School** – Support early learning and make sure children are prepared to move smoothly from preschool into kindergarten.
- **Invest in a Skilled Early Childhood Workforce** – Advocate for training and support for those who care for and teach young children.

- **Advocate for Affordability and Access** – Push for policies and funding that make early childhood programs affordable for all families.
- **Connect and Align Services** – Help programs work together and share information.
- **Use Data and Stories to Drive Change** – Make decisions based on children and families' real-life experiences and evidence-based practices of what works.

Our Core Values – Guiding How We Behave

- **Child and Family-Focused:** We support learning, health, and well-being at home, in school, and in the community for the whole child and their family.
- **Inclusion:** We welcome all families by honoring diverse experiences and breaking down barriers to access.
- **Community-Rooted:** Our work is informed by, accountable to, and grounded in the needs and voices of our community.
- **Collaboration:** We work across sectors to build strong relationships and shared goals.
- **Responsiveness:** We listen, adapt, and act based on real-time community needs and feedback.
- **Innovation & Learning:** We embrace new ideas and use data and stories to drive improvement.

2025 – 2028 Strategic Priorities & Guidelines as Collaborative

Priorities for Our Work with Our Community	Guidelines for Our Collaborative
Priority 1: Increase Access & Sustainability Priority 2: Influence Community and State-Level Policy Through Advocacy and Communications Priority 3: Increase Engagement and Connection by Acting as The Community Table Priority 4: Enhance Program Quality & Alignment Priority 5: Advance Health & Well-being	Guideline 1: Demonstrate Impact & Strengthen Accountability Guideline 2: Cultivate Inclusive, Shared Leadership Guideline 3: Plan for Long-Term Sustainability & Growth

Priority 1: Increase Access & Sustainability

BECC's Role:

- Advocates - championing diverse and sustained funding from state, private, and local funders.
- Collaborators - fostering community connections and engagement needed to diversify and increase funding sources for childcare and early childhood education.

Supporting Strategies and Activities:

- Secure Office of Early Childhood (OEC) funding to support Bristol's early childhood programs
- Increase visibility through marketing, social media, and resource-sharing platforms.
- Partner with community businesses and libraries to share resources and promote programs.
- Promote investments in prevention vs crisis mitigation
- Explore feasibility and benefits of seeking 501(c)(3) status or partnership with another fiscal agent for grant eligibility.

Priority 2: Influence Community and State-Level Policy Through Advocacy and Communications

BECC's Role:

- Promoters - elevating family voices and parent leadership
- Communicators – community presence attending and speaking out at public meetings, forums
- Subject Matter Experts – knowledge of legislative/administrative policies and how they impact programs and families

Supporting Strategies and Activities:

- Train and support parent advocates to speak at public forums.
- Partner with state and local advocacy organizations.
- Create family-friendly, data-informed communication materials.
- Prepare and deliver public comments at local meetings and community forums
- Identify and monitor key policy barriers and engage decision-makers.
- Gather and share community stories alongside data to humanize needs.

Priority 3: Increase Engagement and Connection by Acting as The Community Table

BECC's Role:

- Convener – offering and fostering connections
- Community Experts in Birth to 8
- Community Resource Hub (Plants and Roots!)

Supporting Strategies and Activities:

- Recruit and support diverse parent leaders and ambassadors.
- Establish clear participation pathways (e.g., core members vs. contributors).
- Offer orientation and mentorship for new members.
- Adapt meeting times and formats to improve accessibility.
- Develop multilingual, jargon-free communication tools.
- Use journey mapping to identify gaps and representation needs.

Priority 4: Enhance Program Quality & Alignment

BECC's Role:

- Lead Partner/Liaison – manage multiple partners equitably
- Quality Control – monitor to ensure maintenance of high-quality programming
- Data Resource – conduct early childhood (e.g., infant toddler, transition to kindergarten) assessments and share data

Supporting Strategies and Activities:

- Ensure alignment with Office of Early Childhood (OEC), Shine Early Learning (Intermediary) and Local Governance Partner (LGP)
- Define what “quality” looks like in the local context.
- Foster alignment between the Bristol Public School district and early learning community programs, including transition to kindergarten.
- Create space for providers to share best practices.
- Monitor and support continuous improvement among partners.
- Explore collaboration with higher education to expand workforce training.
- Collect, assess, and analyze relevant data.

Priority 5: Advance Health & Well-being

BECC's Role:

- Promoter – championing the whole child/whole family
- Advocate – creating ‘bridges’
- Convener/Organizer – hosting committee meetings and engaging members

Supporting Strategies and Activities:

- Broaden and promote the definition of “health” to include behavioral, family, and community well-being.
- Build partnerships/collaborations with hospitals, public health, and community mental and behavioral health providers (e.g. Bristol Health, Wheeler Health, BBHD).
- Create bridges between health, early childhood programs and transition to kindergarten (e.g. pediatrics to early childhood, maternity to community programs, parents to community, community to schools, etc.)
- Engage in cross-sector planning and referral pathways.

- Assess current committee structure for priorities and strategies, accessibility, flexibility in scheduling and participation
- Foster and sustain committee engagement through intentional outreach, interactive meeting design, and regular feedback.

Sample Metrics for Success

Priority Area	Sample Metrics
Access & Sustainability	Monitor and pursue diversified funding to support long-term sustainability; resource distribution tallies; increased engagement on social media platforms
Advocacy	Number of advocacy actions taken; number of parent leaders trained
Connection – Acting as a Community Table	Percentage of meetings with parent/family participation; number of new members oriented
Program Quality & Alignment	Number of partner meetings held; quality improvement plans initiated
Health & Well-being	Number of partner agencies engaged; number of referrals; family satisfaction scores

Turning Strategy into Action: Implementation & Accountability Guidelines and Aligned Tactics and Metrics

To ensure the strategic framework translates into meaningful action, the following guidelines, drawn from the retreat output, are designed to support consistent progress, promote shared responsibility, and enable clear tracking of activities throughout the year in preparation for longer-term planning.

The guidelines can also be used to support the development of an annual work plan that aligns with BECC’s priorities, identifies specific action steps, and designates responsible individuals or teams. By establishing regular checkpoints, feedback loops, and clear roles, this approach strengthens transparency, reinforces commitment to shared goals, and supports continuous learning and improvement.

Guideline 1: Demonstrate Impact & Strengthen Accountability

Objective: Build a data-informed culture that values participation, elevates community voice, and drives continuous improvement.

This guideline supports Priority 2: Advocacy and Communication by ensuring that policy efforts are informed by real-time community input and Priority 4: Program Quality & Alignment by providing mechanisms to monitor participation, collaboration, and access.

Key Tactics	Key Metrics & Supporting Activities
Track Engagement & Reach	• Monitor attendance rates: aim for majority participation (e.g., 70%+ of 40 members). • Require committee participation from all members and track fulfillment. • Track service penetration (families accessing more than one program). • Monitor network density: number of providers actively collaborating. • Count new member organizations/groups joining annually. • Collect booth sign-ups and count resources disseminated at outreach events.
Create Feedback Loops	• Disseminate short feedback surveys post-meeting and after events. • Use QR codes to gather real-time feedback from families. • Ask targeted questions: What do they know about the collaborative? What services do they use? What do they need?
Improve Accessibility	• Consider alternative meeting times/formats (e.g., evening or virtual). • Design parent-centered agendas. • Implement journey mapping to identify service and representation gaps.
Evaluate Progress	• Develop benchmarks for incoming members. • Conduct annual member self-assessment survey to monitor and gauge satisfaction and gain perspectives and input.

Guideline 2: Cultivate Inclusive, Shared Leadership

Objective: Foster a collaborative leadership model rooted in equity, accountability, and shared responsibility.

This guideline strengthens Priority 3: Engagement and Communication by fostering community leadership and broadening access to the collaborative. It also advances Priority 5: Health & Well-being, where diverse and sustained engagement, particularly from parents, is essential to shaping responsive, cross-sector participation.

Key Tactics	Key Metrics & Supporting Activities
Implement Shared Leadership	• Rotate meeting hosts. • Dedicate time in meetings for business and relationship-building. • Vote by consensus.

Onboard & Support New Members	• Review and update orientation process • Create an annual check-in process. • Pair new members with mentors. • Develop a leadership pipeline.
Promote Representation & Equity	• Encourage diverse leadership. • Approach employers to support participation. • Design inclusive meetings.
Model Collaborative Values	• Ensure neutral, organized facilitation. • Emphasize positivity, flexibility, and responsiveness. • Groundwork in community need.

Guideline 3: Plan for Long-Term Sustainability & Growth

Objective: Position the collaborative for long-term relevance, adaptability, and resource development.

This guideline underpins Priority 1: Access and Sustainability by ensuring that BECC can continue to address the evolving needs of children and their families, and it reinforces Priority 5: Health & Well-being by ensuring that BECC's family-centered strategies remain grounded in lived experience and supported by a strong infrastructure.

Key Tactics	Key Metrics & Supporting Activities
Assess Organizational Structure	• Explore 501(c)(3) or 'Friends of' group. • Leverage existing fiscal sponsorship.
Undertake Broad Community Assessment to Support and Inform Long and Short-Term Planning Efforts	• Hold an annual retreat. • Conduct annual survey. • Involve parents, providers, city leaders, and youth voices.
Center Parent & Community Leadership	• Develop parent advocacy training. • Re-engage former service users. • Build a community calendar.
Be Realistic, Respectful, and Responsive	• Align strategies with member capacity. • Consider wellness and constraints. • Review peer practices.

Draft Vision

A Connected community where every child and family is supported, valued, and prepared for lifelong success in school and life.

Draft Mission

All Bristol educators, community partners and families with children from birth through age eight have access to the resources, relationships, and opportunities they need to thrive.

Program Quality
Wednesday, September 10, 2025

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

Welcome and set agenda:

Staffing and enrollment update:

- **Staffing:** discussed staffing needs, including toddler teacher (BCDC) and toddler asst. (INMELC)
- **Enrollment:**
 - BOE is full in current space– can't take more children and will refer waiting list to community programs
 - BCDC has 4 openings for 3-yr-olds at West and 6 openings for 4-yr-olds at Burlington
 - INMELC needs 10-12 to reach 85% capacity of 102 for preschool

Edgewood/Giamatti update:

- It's been challenging, especially the logistics
- BOE seeking additional money from the State for more upgrades to Edgewood, and the City share would be less than current share; seeking BOE and BOF approval

OEC and statewide updates:

- **OEC and Shine monitoring requirements** – Donna shared what liaisons have to input into ECE Reporter related to monitoring, and it's relatively minimal
- **ECE Reporter** – problems with updated system include inability to bring in large batches
- **Early Start CT General Policies** (12/17 have been updated): <https://www.ctoec.org/general-policies/>
- **Endowment Listening Sessions** – Donna will email flyer to register for in-person sessions; OEC also presenting/listening at Early Care Connection on 9/29, 9:30-11:00
 - BCDC modeled impact of free pre-K, limited parent fees and having to pay teachers the same rate as Kindergarten teachers, using the Narrow Cost Analysis from 2022
 - Suggest updating the analysis, including and not including Care4Kids
- **Commissioner Beth Bye announced her retirement**, effective September 30, 2025, and Governor appointed Elena Trueworthy as interim until the legislature can confirm
- **Concerns** – Registry harder to use, harder to find items, long time to process documents, and no evidence that NAEYC annual report has been uploaded

Local updates:

- New vision, mission, logo and website for Bristol Early Childhood Collaborative (BECC) under construction
- Surveys for parents/caregivers

Concerns for Legislators or local officials:

- Last month suggestion to let legislators know about endowment and loss of funding in 2027 (parent fee goes away for families earning less than \$100,000)
- Other ideas to share? Access and funding

Compare program policies:

- BCDC updated family handbook – child will be late if arrive after 9:30; need a note and won't be accepted after 11:00

Other:

- Courtney is working with Sarah Ethier to develop a schedule for regular visits to community programs – please schedule mornings only
- New social worker who needs time to adjust (Sarah supporting)
- Anne resuming community visits this week probably, but Courtney will confirm

Next Meeting Date Wednesday, October 8 at 10:00 a.m. at Imagine Nation and Zoom

- November 12, 2025 at 10:00 at BCDC
- December 10, 2025 at 10:00 at TBD
- January 14, 2026 at 10:00 at TBD
- February 11, 2026 at 10:00 at TBD
- March 11, 2026 at 10:00 at TBD
- April 8, 2026 at 10:00 at TBD
- May 13, 2026 at 10:00 at TBD
- June 10, 2026 at 10:00 at TBD

Respectfully Submitted,
Donna Osuch

Health and Wellness Committee Notes

September 9, 2025

The Health and Wellness Committee (newly combined meeting of the Health and Infant Toddler Committees) was held on September 9, 2025, at City Hall and on Zoom Meeting Platform and called to order by Donna Osuch.

Present: Maegan Adams, Dagmary Balanta, Hilary Camacho, Stephanie Daniele, Michelle Fangiullo, Michelle Herens, Amber Lipscomb, Melissa Mendez, Donna Osuch, and Kaitlyn Rondeau

Welcome and introductions:

- Co-chairs were discussed, and Maegan Adams and Stephanie Daniele agreed to co-chair

Bristol Early Childhood Collaborative (BECC) strategic planning:

- Donna briefly shared Strategic Framework from Fio Partners from the June 4th retreat

Update Health & Wellness committee goals, priorities, and activities:

- Data shared:
 - WIC first trimester enrollment is 25.7%, lower than state goal of 40%; breastfeeding initiation is 84.9%, higher than state goal of 80%; breastfeeding duration of 6-12 months is 39.2%, lower than state goal of 50% - all data from January-March 2025
 - Wheeler Health in Bristol is not serving a large number of young children, but other cities seeing decline in vaccination rates. Donna found vaccination rates of Kindergarten students by school, and Bristol's numbers are between 95.7% - 100% (above 95% is good). Questions about parochial school rates, home school rates, and number of children being home schooled – Donna will ask BPS.
 - Wheeler also asked about children born with prenatal drug or alcohol exposure, number of children involved in accidents due to lack of supervision (anecdotally increasing), cannabis use by parents, and local CAPTA data
 - Donna looked at different data sets, such as vaccination rates listed above, childhood lead poisoning, poverty and SNAP, but did not have time to organize the data. She will ask BBHD for updated data and organize the data before October.
- Committee members will bring additional data to the October meeting

Next steps:

- Kaitlyn will gather prior year's WIC data to compare to data she presented
- Michelle H will look at Bristol Health CAPTA data
- Melissa will look for data related to children involved in accidents
- Donna will ask Lauren at DCF for Bristol CAPTA data, BBHD for local data, and organize data found by numerous sources. She will also ask BPS about home schooling rates.
- Everyone invited to bring data and information to next meeting to help determine priorities for combined committee (breastfeeding, vision, dental, maternal and children ages birth-8, barriers such as transportation/access, engagement, etc.)

Next meeting is October 14, 2025 at 2:00 at City Hall and on Zoom, and November meeting changed to Wednesday, November 12 at 2:00 due to Veteran's Day holiday on regular meeting date

Respectfully Submitted,
Donna Osuch

Transition to Kindergarten Committee

September 15, 2025

The regular meeting of the Transition to Kindergarten Committee was held September 15, 2025 on Zoom Meeting Platform and called to order by Donna Osuch at 3:49 PM.

Welcome and Introductions (add missing partners):

Attendees: Kristen Akeley, Christina Macioci, Donna Osuch, Misty Palaia, Dina Schaffrick, Jennifer St. John, Courtney Sugarman, Gail Zimmerman

- With principal changes, suggestion to invite LaTanya Farrell to represent principals. Donna planning to meet with each principal and will see if anyone else is interested.
- Invite new FRC Program Director Laura Callachan and Hubbell Kindergarten teacher Mr. Brunette
- Need South Side Kindergarten teacher, as Erin is now teaching pre-K

Transition to Kindergarten Activities

- Summer activities:
 - Fire Truck rides were won by Green-Hills and Hubbell students
 - Parent Survey Report – Donna shared just finished, draft report:
 - 209 surveys completed from all schools, all paper, offered in English & Spanish
 - 92.3% attended preschool, compared to 88% in 2024
 - 98% parents have high school diploma, compared to 95% in 2024
 - 47% read to their child daily, compared to 50% in 2024
 - 75% of children receiving 10 or more hours of sleep, compared to 73%
 - 63% of children receive 3 or more hours physical activity per day, compared to 67% in 2024
 - 11% of children spend no time on hand-held devices compared to 7% in 2024, but 8% spend more than 2 hours/day on devices, compared to 6% in 2024.
 - 95% of parents strongly agree or agree that local funding should support early childhood education, compared to 94% in 2024.
- Review 2025-2026 timeline – ran out of time and will discuss in October
- Kindergarten age change impact so far – ran out of time and will discuss in October
- Transition of children with IEPs – ran out of time and will discuss in October

Update Goals

- Play-based learning
 - Law, but not enough time in day to implement – would like to find 20 minutes
 - New literacy curriculum very tight
 - Courtney has some resources she can share at the next meeting

Ready 4K

- We have 417 families enrolled

Dine and Discuss – ran out of time and will discuss in October

Other

- Donna meeting with Iris and Carly re: Parent Orientation and Kindergarten transition
 - Slides – not all being used (too many)
 - Tour – some schools offer and some don't
 - Staff volunteer their time – could they be paid?
 - Parent feedback – too much information, confusing, redundant, too early
 - Materials – some schools found that morning, some added materials
 - What to do with students and siblings
 - Need to clarify purpose of May event (Tour of classrooms? Meet staff? Learn school procedures? Answer questions?)
 - Teacher suggestions – tour, interaction with students, smaller groups
- With 2 Monday holidays in October, Donna will survey the committee to see which date they would prefer meeting, October 6 or 27

Next Meeting October 6 or 27, 2025 at 3:45 on Zoom