



Youth Commission

Wednesday, October 22, 2025 at 6:00 p.m.

Bristol City Hall-111 North Main Street Bristol, CT 06010 Room G-1

1. Call to Order

Chair Matthew Gotowala called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

a. Pledge of Allegiance

b. Attendance

Members Present:

Matthew Gotowala, Chair
Deborah Ahl, Vice Chair
Jonathan Lukasiewicz, Commissioner
RJ Motel, Commissioner
Donna Osuch, Commissions
Erick Rosengren, City Council Liaison
Joshua Medeiros, Superintendent
Stephen Bynum, Youth and Community
Services Supervisor
Deedra Willingham, B.E.S.T Project
Coordinator
Aubrey Minkler, Community Services
Coordinator

Absent:

Ryan Broderick, Commissioner
Richard Kilby, Commissioner
Renee Singleton, Commissioner
Luke Viens, Commissioner

2. Public Participation

None.

3. Approval of Minutes

a. Approval of Minutes: August 13, 2025, Regular Meeting Minutes

MOTION: Made by Vice Chair Ahl to Approve the August 13, 2025, Regular Meeting Minutes

Seconded by Commissioner Osuch, all in favor, motion carried.

4. Supervisor's Report

a. Supervisor's Report

Youth and Community Services Supervisor Stephen Bynum presented the Supervisor's Report. Supervisor Bynum shared updates on the counseling intakes, referral and community services. Community Services Coordinator Aubrey Minkler presented updates on the Parent and Child Program. She stated the Caring Closet currently has a good supply but expressed concerns about November if the government shut down continues; discussion followed.

b. Year to Date Financials

Youth and Community Services Supervisor Stephen Bynum presented the Year-to-Date Financials. Supervisor Bynum stated that the accounts are all healthy and right on track for this time of year; discussion followed.

c. Project Aware Updates

Youth and Community Services Supervisor Stephen Bynum presented the Project Aware Updates. Supervisor Bynum presented the programs that have recently started and programs that are coming in the near future such as Girls with Goals, Empower Hour, Lunch Buddies, Young Women's Issues Group, and Young Men of the Future; discussion followed.

d. Youth Diversion Team

Youth and Community Services Supervisor Stephen Bynum presented the Youth Diversion Team Updates. Lieutenant Hanson assisted in gathering the information for the 2025 Monthly Juvenile Arrest Report. Supervisor Bynum discussed the role of the Youth Diversion Team and how they assist after an offense; discussion followed.

e. BEST Updates - Trends in Nicotine

B.E.S.T Project Coordinator Deedra Willingham presented the B.E.S.T Updates and Trends in Nicotine. Coordinator Willingham presented updates on sustainability efforts, community engagement, and upcoming initiatives. She also shared the Trends in Nicotine

presentation created by Amplify and shared some facts that relate to the Bristol Community; discussion followed.

5. New Business

a. Holiday Gift Giving Program

- **How to Apply**
- **Donor Recruitment and Suggestions**
- **Frequently Asked Questions**
- **How to Volunteer**
- **Upcoming Holiday Events**

Youth and Community Services Coordinator Aubrey Minkler presented the Holiday Gift Giving Program. Coordinator Minkler shared the general information about the program, such as how community members can donate or volunteer. The first holiday event will be the Stuff a Cruiser event on Saturday, November 8, 2025, from 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.; discussion followed.

6. Old Business

a. Board Member Self-Assessment

Superintendent Joshua Medeiros presented the Board Member Self-Assessment. The assessment is a tool created to allow existing and prospective board members to reflect on their services and experiences that help better support the board; discussion followed.

b. By Commissioners

City Council Liaison Erick Rosengren thanked the Youth Commission for their hard work and dedication. With the upcoming elections, he stated, "Regardless of what happens, I hope to serve on this board, but if not, it's been a pleasure."

7. Adjournment

MOTION: Made by Vice Chair Ahl to adjourn the meeting at 6:47 p.m.
Seconded by Commissioner Lukasiewicz, all in favor, motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,
Amaris Estrada
Recording Secretary,
Youth Commission