

**Bristol Early Childhood Collaborative
Regular Meeting
October 1, 2025**

The regular meeting of the Early Childhood Collaborative (BECC), formerly School Readiness Council was held on October 1, 2025 on the Zoom Meeting Platform, and called to order by Chair Sandra Godin at 12:04 PM.

A recording of this meeting is at: https://bristolct.gov.zoom.us/rec/share/F4KwKSsJ0adUlvD29d7b0_2RggJywAylG0lYA6T1HNpSYHm2AbNhOMYd5F3lef-L.LsiButOj83VNOuKb
Passcode: \$Qz\$18dh

Present: Maegan Adams, Michelle Fangiullo, Cecilia Garay, Sandra Godin, Michelle Herens, Kate Kerchaert, Amber Lipscomb, Melissa Mendez, Brenda Moore, Kaitlyn Rondeau, Dina Schaffrick, Kara Singleton, Jennifer St. John, Claire Strillacci, Courtney Sugarman, Iris White

Absent: Stephanie Daniele, Yesenia Fuentes, Susan Adeife Lee, Liz McGuire, Valerie Pelletier, Erick Rosengren

Also Present: Dagmary Balanta, Sarah Ethier, Donna Koser, Dawn Leger, Aubrey Minkler, Whitney Shufelt

- **Welcome and Introductions**
 - Nominations and approve Co-Chair – ***Motion by BECC member Jennifer St. John and seconded by Amber Lipscomb, it was a unanimous vote to approve Maegan Adams as co-chair to serve with Sandra Godin.***
- **Approval of Bristol Early Childhood Collaborative Meeting Minutes held September 3, 2025:**
 - ***Motion by BECC member Amber Lipscomb and seconded by Michelle Fangiullo, it was a unanimous vote to approve the minutes of the regular Bristol Early Childhood Collaborative Minutes held September 3, 2025.***
- **Transition:**
 - Strategic Framework report – Donna shared the Strategic Framework which came out of the June retreat by Fio Partners, and we'll work on it at a future meeting.
 - Vision and Mission Statements – BECC members worked in small breakout groups to discuss the following:
 - 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: A Connected community where every child and family is supported, valued, and prepared for lifelong success in school and life.
 - We will send a survey with the options discussed for members to vote.
 - New Logo update – Sandra and Donna shared logo options from WORX, and BECC members discussed. We will include logo questions in the survey before reaching out to WORX.
- **Committee Updates – all committee notes were emailed after the meeting**
 - Program Quality – Michelle Fangiullo

- Next meeting is October 8 at 10:00 at Imagine Nation and on Zoom
- Health and Wellness Committee – Maegan Adams and Stephanie Daniele
 - Next meeting is October 14 at 2:00 at City Hall Room 1-3 and on Zoom
- Governance – TBD – no report
- Community Outreach – Jennifer St. John – no report
 - Next meeting is October 16 at 10:00 on Zoom
- Transition to Kindergarten – Courtney Sugarman
 - Next meeting is October 27 at 3:45 on Zoom
- **Bristol Early Childhood Collaborative Liaison Report – Donna Osuch**
 - Office of Early Childhood (OEC) and Shine Early Learning Updates
 - Bristol signed contract with Shine Early Learning, though question by Corp Counsel has not been addressed. We submitted our Match Letter and other documentation once the contract was signed, and the budget was submitted 9/30.
 - Shine has held several trainings/meetings this week, specifically on the monitoring tools and process, and the regular monthly check-ins.
 - OEC has held Listening Sessions about the Early Childhood Education Endowment and plan to hold more. Donna will share.
 - Commissioner Beth Bye retired September 30, and Deputy Commissioner Elena Trueworthy will take her place.
 - Local Updates
 - Donna held an orientation for new members, and is holding another one next Wednesday, October 8th at 1:00. Anyone interested is welcome.
 - Donna is working with HR to hire a new position, Family and Community Outreach Coordinator, and three (3) Parent Ambassadors.
 - Donna attended the CT Association for the Education of Young Children (CTAEEYC) Conference September 25th, and will attend the national conference November 19-22, 2025, in Orlando.
- **Resignations:** none
- **Appointments:** none
- **Old Business:** none
- **New Business:** none
- **Community Sharing:**
 - Informational meeting at JF Kennedy Apartments **today, October 1, 2025, at 4:30** to learn more about impact of government shutdown
 - CT Hospital Association received a grant supporting women who recently gave birth, and Bristol Health is participating. Connecticut Urgent Maternal Warning Signs Bracelet Initiative-- <https://cthosp.org/connecticut-urgent-maternal-warning-signs-bracelet->

[initiative/](#) and to learn more, here's a free webinar for Community-Based Organization Healthcare Providers and Staff Training <https://www.school-network.net/Courses/Register/32276>

- Superintendent will share information she received from the Commissioner of Education about impact of shutdown on education funding
 - Main Street Community Foundation has a new, unique grant cycle opening today for resident artists. The Love of Art Fund will award stipends of \$1,000-\$5,000. Go to www.mainstreetfoundation.org and the grant tab.
 - Family Resource Centers have a new Program Director, Laura Callachan, most recently from United Way of Greater New Haven. They have started play groups and home visiting.
 - The First Five Years Fund sent an overview of the shutdown related to early care and education programs: <https://www.ffyf.org/resources/2025/10/state-of-play-shutdown/>
- **Adjournment:** Meeting was adjourned at 1:05 PM

Next regular meeting: November 5, 2025 on Zoom

Respectfully Submitted,
Donna Osuch
School Readiness Liaison