

Bristol Early Childhood Collaborative
Regular Meeting
November 5, 2025

The regular meeting of the Early Childhood Collaborative (BECC), formerly School Readiness Council was held on November 5, 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/bzD4pGutCdbwsy1dQM8_s4N7p1OkPrMGNteVhtoR6kT9BUQ5WWgJ-oE399CQTi5f.sx2sbE8MKv6OfGyy
Passcode: DxSQs*7=

Present: Maegan Adams, Stephanie Daniele, Michelle Fangiullo, Yesenia Fuentes, Cecilia Garay, Sandra Godin, Michelle Herens, Kate Kerchaert, Susan Adeife Lee, Amber Lipscomb, Liz McGuire, Brenda Moore, Kaitlyn Rondeau, Dina Schaffrick, Whitney Shufelt, Kara Singleton, Jennifer St. John, Claire Strillacci, Courtney Sugarman

Absent: Melissa Mendez, Valerie Pelletier, Erick Rosengren

Also Present: Donna Koser, Alyssa McGhee, Aubrey Minkler,

- **Welcome and Introductions**
 - Welcome new Family and Community Outreach Coordinator, Jennifer St. John, starting in her new role November 14, 2025
- **Approval of Bristol Early Childhood Collaborative Meeting Minutes held October 1, 2025:**
 - ***Motion by BECC member Amber Lipscomb and seconded by Jennifer St. John, it was a unanimous vote to approve the minutes of the regular Bristol Early Childhood Collaborative Minutes held October 1, 2025.***
- **Committee Updates – all committee notes were emailed after the meeting**
 - Program Quality – Michelle Fangiullo
 - Programs discussed staffing and enrollment – openings at Bristol Child Development Center and Imagine Nation
 - BOE seeking additional money from the State to upgrade Edgewood and need Board of Finance approval; special BOF meeting November 6 at 4:00 in Council Chambers
 - Next meeting is November 12 at 10:00 at Bristol Child Development Center and on Zoom
 - Health and Wellness Committee – Maegan Adams and Stephanie Daniele
 - Committee reviewed prior goals of the Health and Infant Toddler committees to see how they could consolidate
 - Members looked at lots of health data to help prioritize goals
 - Next meeting is November 12 at 2:00 at City Hall Room 1-3 and on Zoom
 - Governance – TBD – no report
 - Community Outreach – Jennifer St. John

- Committee discussed coat and clothing drive for young children
 - Polar Express is being organized by the Library on 12/15, and we need to reach out to Walmart
 - Committee discussed offering surveys at every event asking families what they want or need
 - Shared logo concerns and updates about social media
 - Special Education Hub will be promoted when more content on Facebook group
 - Planning for Family Fun Day 2026 will start soon – let Jennifer or Maegan know if interested in helping
 - Brainstormed different ways to reach families
 - Next meeting is January 15, 2026 at 10:00 on Zoom
- Transition to Kindergarten – Courtney Sugarman
 - Superintendent Iris White and Carly Fortin attended to participate in discussions
 - Reviewed May Parent Orientation and agreed that purpose of event is to share information with parents about kindergarten expectations, and teachers “want eyes on students”; discussed long list of changes and ideas
 - Discussed play-based learning goal and how to implement legislation:
 - Teachers want unstructured time not tied to curriculum to support social-emotional learning
 - Carly asked teachers to identify where they see time in the schedule
 - Courtney has resources she will share at the next meeting
 - Next meeting is November 17 at 3:45 on Zoom
- Strategic Framework:
 - Approve Vision and Mission Statements
 - ***Motion by BECC member Donna Koser and seconded by Kaitlyn Rondeau, it was a unanimous vote to approve the Bristol Early Childhood Collaborative Vision Statement: A connected community where every child and family is supported, valued, and prepared for success in school and life; and Mission Statement: 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.***
 - Update Strategic Framework – Donna shared the Strategic Framework priorities, BECC’s role, strategies and activities from the June retreat with Fio Partners, and small groups worked on the first priority, Increase Access & Sustainability. Strategies are in italics, and comments are below and next to strategies in parenthesis:
 - *Secure Office of early Childhood (OEC) funding to support Bristol’s early childhood programs.* (first strategy should be changed as the programs will secure funding, not BECC – instead, “align our work to oversee and support high quality”)
 - *Increase visibility through marketing, social media, and resource-sharing platforms.* (logo important; add outreach and engagement activities)
 - *Partner with community businesses and libraries to share resources and promote programs.*
 - *Promote investments in prevention vs crisis mitigation.* (broad concept, not strategy or activity; reword as not family-friendly; combine with third bullet)

- *Explore feasibility and benefits of seeking 501(c)3 status or partnership with another fiscal agent for grant eligibility.* (diversify funding; City helpful as fiduciary and provides match)
 - Everything trickles down from the first priority
 - Parent Ambassadors (PAs) coming on soon will be able to help go into businesses and make connections
 - How will we reach people in the community? Help increase awareness of resources
- **Bristol Early Childhood Collaborative Liaison Report – Donna Osuch**
 - Office of Early Childhood (OEC) and Shine Early Learning Updates
 - Shine Early Learning holding monthly meetings with liaisons and fiduciaries
 - First quarter report to Shine was postponed since they had not shared the report template or paid out many communities yet
 - OEC met with programs recently to share they will receive 8% increase to their reimbursement rate, retroactive to 10/1/2025. They'll have to sign new contracts.
 - Private programs also received an unexpected ARPA payment from FY2021 to be used for staff salaries, materials, furniture.
 - New Deputy Commissioner of OEC was approved – David Morgan from Team Inc. in Derby
 - Local Updates
 - Approve 2026 Meeting Schedule – ***Motion by BECC member Kaitlyn Rondeau and seconded by Jennifer St. John, it was a unanimous vote to approve the 2026 Meeting Schedule of the Bristol Early Childhood Collaborative.***
 - A priority once Jennifer starts will be to hire our Parent Ambassadors.
 - Donna attended the Pyramid Model Conference in Mystic October 27-28, and will attend the National Association for the Education of Young Children conference November 19-22, 2025, in Orlando.
 - Now that we're a couple of months into the new structure, please let Donna know if you have questions or want another orientation to better understand everything.
- **Resignations:**
 - Kate Kerchaert, Main Street Community Foundation, effective November 14, 2025
 - Jennifer St. John, Parent Cabinet, effective November 14, 2025
- **Appointments:**
 - Donna Koser, United Way of Central and Northeastern CT
 - Whitney Shufelt, Main Street Community Foundation
- **Old Business:** none
- **New Business:**
 - Loss of Federal Benefits – Bristol Public Schools mobilizing with community organizations to increase food at local pantries
- **Community Sharing:**
 - WIC is open with business as usual, though seeing an influx of new families; fully booked

- Main Street Community Foundation reached out to local food pantries and keeping lines of communication open.
- **Adjournment:** Meeting was adjourned at 1:05 PM

Next regular meeting: December 3, 2025 on Zoom

Respectfully Submitted,
Donna Osuch
School Readiness Liaison