



# CT Office of Early Childhood Parent Cabinet

## Meeting Agenda

January 26, 2026  
6:00pm-8pm

Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/95071526626?pwd=xRemfhDqgXdjOb8soyEjjdRbiCHka9.1>

Meeting ID: 950 7152 6626 Passcode: 325048, +13092053325,,95071526626#,,,,\*325048# US

**Mission:** *To build strong connections, listen intentionally, and partner with Connecticut families of young children, communities, and OEC to incorporate the expertise of all parents throughout the early childhood system to ensure family-driven equitable policies and programs.*

**Co-Facilitators:** Parent Cabinet members: Amber Alessandro (region 5) & Shannon Knox (region 2)

**Timekeeper:** Chenae

**Meeting Purpose** (*Why is this meeting needed?*):

- To continue to strengthen relationships and communication
- Ensure members have tools and information needed to succeed in mission

**Intended Outcomes** (*What do we want to achieve by the end of this? What will success look like?*):

- Members have clarity on OEC updates and any questions answered
- Members provide input on final updated logic model and community conversation planning
- Members learn more about Local Needs Assessment and begin to think about how they could help
- Members give input on outreach strategies
- Members share ideas on new division structure and name

Time	Agenda Item	Facilitator/Presenters/Speakers
6:00-6:05pm 5 minutes	<b>Welcome</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Meeting guidelines</li> </ul>	Chenae R - Parent Cabinet Coordinator, OEC
6:05-6:15pm 10 minutes	<b>Connect Activity</b>	Shannon, Parent Cabinet member Region 2
6:15pm-6:20pm	<b>PC member Announcements, Highlights</b>	Amber, Parent Cabinet member

5 minutes		Chenae R - Parent Cabinet Coordinator, OEC
6:20-6:40pm 20 minutes	<p><b>OEC + Commissioner Office Announcements + Updates</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• OEC Reorganization <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Welcome Deputy Commissioner David Morgan</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Request for Applications (RFA's)/ Request for Proposals (RFP)/ Grants <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Early Start CT results</li> <li>○ Birth to Three RFP upcoming</li> <li>○ Preschool Development Grant Birth to 5</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Policy/Legislative <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Birth to Three Informational Forum at the LOB hosted by the Education Committee</li> <li>○ Early Childhood Education Endowment Advisory Board</li> <li>○ Federal Updates (Care 4 Kids) /CT Legislative Session</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Communications <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ OEC behavioral health webinar on Head Star</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p>Amber, PC member Interim Commissioner Elena Trueworthy, OEC Deputy Commissioner David Morgan, OEC  Kristen Dudanowicz, Director of Systems &amp; Policy Planning, OEC Cris Jimenez-Porrata PC member on Advisory Board Maggie Adair, Communications &amp; Legislative Program Manager, OEC  Lorna Thomas-Farquharson, Program Manager, Behavioral Health Initiatives, OEC + Karen Pascale, Head Start Collaboration Office Director, OEC</p>
6:40-6:50pm 10 minutes	<p><b>Other Advisory Committees + Parent Cabinet Subcommittee updates</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Wellness, Engagement, Lasting Leadership (W.E.L.L) subcommittee formerly the Community &amp; Family Engagement subcommittee <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Community Conversations planning (Danbury) - February</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Data subcommittee <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Logic Model updated final visual</li> <li>○ Updated Outreach Form</li> <li>○ Recent data of PC outreach</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p>Shannon, PC member  Co-Chairs- Lorna Thomas-Farquharson, Program Manager, Behavioral Health Initiatives, OEC + Mallory Paige PC member region 5  Co-chairs- Coral Wonderly, Data Scientist, OEC + Stephanie PC member, region 6</p>

<p>6:50-7:05pm 15 minutes</p>	<p><b>Parent &amp; Caregiver Survey Results</b></p>	<p>Amber, PC member Samantha Lawrence, UConn School of Social Work</p>
<p>7:05pm-7:10pm 5 minute break</p>	<p><b>5 minute Break</b></p>	<p>Chenae R - Parent Cabinet Coordinator, OEC</p>
<p>7:10pm-7:30pm 20 minutes</p>	<p><b>Local Needs Assessment</b></p>	<p>Shannon, PC member Karen Pascale, Head Start Collaboration Office Director, OEC Malissa Griffith, Parent Outreach Initiative Program Manager, OEC Jess Bialecki, Director of Early Childhood Education, Social Impact Partners</p>
<p>7:30pm-7:50pm 20 minutes (15 in breakouts + 5 minute share out)</p>	<p><b>Region check ins (2 regions paired)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Thoughts + Ideas on the new division name and structure?</li> <li>• Outreach + Engagement progress <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ How do we feel about focusing engagement on LGP community table meetings + non-LGP communities?</li> <li>○ Ideas on engagement in non-LGP communities?</li> <li>○ What do you think of the digital platform Slack or others to stay connected and share communication with parent ambassadors in real time, sharing files etc.? (no social media groups)</li> <li>○ How do you see the PC role with the Local Needs Assessment?</li> <li>○</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p>Shannon, PC member</p>
<p>7:50pm-8:00pm 10 minutes</p>	<p><b>Closing/Evaluation</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Any other questions or concerns?</li> <li>• Next meeting 2/23/2026</li> <li>• Evaluation link</li> </ul>	<p>Amber, PC member Chenae R, OEC</p>