***Bristol Early Childhood Alliance***

ZOOM

November 2, 2022 (11:00 – 12:00 p.m.)

**In attendance:** Maegan Adams, Jennifer Bilbraust, Maureen Eaton, Christie Ganavage, Cecelia Garay Sandra Godin, Sarah Guerette, Chief R. Hart, MaryBeth Hicking, Andrew Howe, Kate Kerchaert, Lauren Kittle, Donna Koser, Lyndsey Martin, Manny Martinez, Donna Osuch, Kristen Peck, Jenn St. John, Kara Singleton, and Rachael Witkewicz

**Introduction:** Maureen and Lauren welcomed all in attendance and asked members to introduce themselves.

**Collaborating Grants**:

CHEFA, https://chefa.com/ , announced Loan and Grant Opportunities for Nonprofit Organizations and is seeking letters of interest. Non-profit grants: https://chefa.com/grant-programs/nonprofit-grants

SR is submitting an LOI to support the BOE Behavioral Support Specialist position.

Maegan, chair of Bristol Family Fun Day, asked for members to keep watch for funding support for the June event. Sponsorship or grant opportunities.

Kristen shared an opportunity for space for community partners. The Bristol Early Childhood Center will be moving to the PreK Academy sometime next year. There will be space available for programs who interact with preschoolers (i.e., FRC, Parent & Child Program, etc.). There might also be opportunity to provide before and after care for preschoolers. The Bristol School Readiness Liaison will also be housed in the Academy. Reach out to Kristen for more information at kristenpeck@bristolk12.org.

**Check In:**

Presentations, Operation Opioid Inc. and BBHD, were the focus of our last two meetings. Members were asked if anything stood out or if committees were using the information gathered to set committee goals.

Donna K. and Donna O participated in a CTCC CQI Training offered through CT Children’s Collective/PDG Grant. The following was created as a “homework” assignment and was brought to members present to see if this fits our goals and ask for help in reaching out to potential members:



**BECA Committees:**

**Health –** the committee continues to look at what has been done in the past and what programs/initiatives will continue. Currently brainstorming some of the concerns in Bristol around children and family health.

The hat and mitten project will continue again this year and be placed on Appetite for Reading shelves and Rec and Read shelves throughout the colder months to encourage children to play outdoors in all seasons. Looking into a Teddy Bear Clinic for Family Fun Day in June.

**Infant & Toddler –** the committee continues to research neonatal abstinence, what does Bristol currently offer for family support and what do families need for support. This committee continues to brainstorm what goals they will set moving forward.

**Outreach –** The BECA Coordinator, SR Liaison and Parent Ambassador have scheduled to attend PTA meetings to inform parents/guardians of “Making Bristol Better” and what we do. Ask how we can help and hope to gain more followers, members and assistance in spreading the word about services and resources.

Jen, our Parent Ambassador had a Regional Meeting yesterday with the Office of Early Childhood Parent Cabinet member who oversees our region. The group is looking to hold a regional outreach event.

Bristol Family Fun day will be held in June and is looking for BECA members to participate. Participants are asked to provide a table with an activity for children. Sponsors are also needed to help offset the cost.

Jen had a conversation with Laura Bailey who is interested in writing an article about “Family Fun Day”. Perhaps the article can also ask the community for financial support.

**Community Sharing:**

**Parent** & Child Program: The Holiday Gift Giving program is live on myrec and is seeking referrals for families who need assistance. There are still available Thanksgiving baskets if members had a family who could use one. Send inquiries to Lauren at LaurenKittle@bristolct.gov.

**FRC:** Recruiting for both participants and sponsors for Christmas. There are 100 families between the 3 schools who will be receiving Turkey and fixings for Thanksgiving. Reach out to Sandra for more information: sandragodin@bristolk12.org.

**UWWCC** – Joy of Sharing Food Drive will be held November 14, 15 and 16th. Non-perishable food, paper goods and cleaning products can be dropped off at United Way (440 No. Main Street, Suite D, Bristol) between 10:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m.

Joy of Sharing Toy Drive will be held on December 5, 6th and 17th. New unwrapped toys can be dropped off at United Way. Please reach out to Nancy with any questions at nmicloskey@uwwestcentralct.org.

**BBHD –** will begin post-partum visits and invites members to email flyers for playgroups, upcoming events and other useful information for parents.

**SR** – Bristol works will be offering trainings funded by ARPA funds. Workforce trainings for Early Childhood will be included. A director has been newly hired and is looking to recruit members to help design the program. Reach out to Donna at donnaosuch@bristolct.gov if interested.

**Next meeting: December 7, 2022 (on ZOOM)**