

# ***Bristol Early Childhood Alliance***

## Zoom Meeting Notes

November 4, 2020 (11:00 – 12:00 p.m.)

**In attendance:** Maureen Eaton, Kate Kerchaert, Lauren Kittle, Donna Koser, Mary Alice Petrucelli-Timek, Karen Lombardi, Shannon Michelson (UW Intern), Donna Osuch, Catherine Plourd and Melissa Volpe, .

Members were invited to introduce themselves.

**Community Outreach** – Appetite for Reading Volunteers adopted the rest of the “Adopt a Reading Buddies” funded by the Bristol Rotary. Donna K. announced that the United Way has received funding to offer the Parent Leadership Training Institute (PLTI) beginning in January, 2021. This year, the training will be offered virtually and Donna asked for members to share the information widely. It is a great opportunity for parents, grandparents and community members who would like to learn how to learn how systems work, local and state government and more.

**Collaborating Grants:** The Alliance has provided a letter of support to the Parent & Child Program for the OEC grant that is due in December. The grant is due on January 15<sup>th</sup> of 2021.

Mary-Alice shared information on a Women’s Business Development opportunity available for programs with less than 20 employees.

The Dept. of Economics Community Development grant should open up next week. It is a very easy application.

The Funders Collaborative and the OEC have announced their continuation of funding. More information should be forthcoming. Donna O. will reach back out once the RFP process is known.

### **Subcommittees:**

**Infant & Toddler** The committee has not met for some time and the new chair and committee is excited for the next meeting being held on November 9<sup>th</sup> on Zoom.

**Health Committee** the next meeting will be held virtually on Zoom on November 10<sup>th</sup>. The committee will look at ways to support healthy eating, nutrition and emotional well-being of Bristol. Flu season is upon us and it is strongly recommended to get the flu shot this year. Reminder: Pre-K students are required to receive their flu shot by Dec. 31<sup>st</sup>.

**Transition to K.** – the next committee meeting will be held on November 16<sup>th</sup> to discuss what activities can continue and what should be cancelled. The committee will discuss how to get kids registered earlier this coming year since there are not many children in pre-k and the committee will have a smaller reach.

Case consultation is meeting on Nov. 19<sup>th</sup> on Zoom at 3:00 p.m. Providers will meet with other experts in the field to discuss challenges, receive feedback and assistance.

To date 175 Kindergarten surveys have been returned and the UW intern is currently placing the data in a spreadsheet. What has been noticed to date, is the amount of children without a preschool experience. It was also noted that many parents did not realize there were two sides to the survey (COVID data). Cathy Plourd has offered to look into access of BOE data regarding preschool experience.

### **Community Sharing:**

**WIC:** WIC waivers are being given through February. Clients do not have to go into the office. The Thangsgiving Drive will continue for larger families. Farmers Market vouchers continue to be offered through November (where communities have extended times). Shopping online is offered in states and it is hoped that this will be available in CT for families who do not wish to go out or cannot go out to the store.

**MSCF** – Kate invited everyone to visiting the website, [www.mainstreetfoundation.org](http://www.mainstreetfoundation.org), for upcoming grants and to call the office with any questions. COVID 19 emergency needs fund is still available to those who are eligible.

**Child First:** Currently accepting new clients. Child First is looking for opportunities to help families this holiday. Members shared Bristol Salvation Army, Youth Community Services and United Way.

**School Readiness:** Mary-Alice shared that the School Readiness Council has written letters of support for the Community Dev. Block Grant and invited others to join her at a meeting regarding this grant on Monday November 9<sup>th</sup> at 4:45 p.m.

Mary-Alice shared information on a Women’s Business Development opportunity available for early childhood programs that are within 60 days of shutting down for lack of funds. She described many of the caveats the grant would require and noted that Bristol’s School Readiness programs will not be applying.

A Dept. of Economic Community Development grant should open up next week and is for small businesses and nonprofits with less than 20 employees or less than \$1.5 million in annualized payroll expenses. It is supposed to be a very easy application.

**United Way:** Donna O. asked everyone to be on a look out for the next Farmers to Families event. United Way hopes to offer two more events on a Saturday in Bristol. Donna O. also invited everyone to join the UW on Zoom for its Wine Tasting event being held on Friday, November 13<sup>th</sup>. Tickets can be accessed on the following Eventbrite: [www.eventbrite.com/e/united-way-annual-fall-wine-tasting-tickets-124271440223](http://www.eventbrite.com/e/united-way-annual-fall-wine-tasting-tickets-124271440223)

**Parent & Child Program:** The drive by diaper collection held on October 24<sup>th</sup> was a great success.

**Bristol BOE:** Cecelia shared that a new site for Spanish speaking families has been created to share information from the BOE and the community. Donna K. will share the information via email and post on Making Bristol Better.

**Head Start:** Currently, Head Start is being operated under HRA (previously CDI) and waiting for a site visit so they may re-open. Lake Ave renovations are planned to occur this year.

**Next Meeting: *Dec 2, 2020 (Zoom)***