

## ***Bristol Early Childhood Alliance***

### Zoom Meeting Notes

April 1, 2020 (11:00 – 12:00 p.m.)

**In attendance:** Donna Koser, Mary Alice Petrucelli-Timek, Maureen Eaton, Donna Osuch, Melissa Volpe, Rebecca Rossi, Linda Rich, Sarah Holmes, Mindy Wallen, Amanda Sawyer, Coral Richardson, Karen Lombardi

**Program Information:** Donna K. has mentioned that many of the programs that BECA was going to participate in have either been postponed or cancelled. Information has been shared on Making Bristol Better website and Facebook. Members were asked to send any updates to her to be added.

Members shared how they are connecting families during the COVID 19 epidemic:

***Imagination*** - Imagination at Home and Boys & Girls Club at Home is in place for families.

***Mary-Alice*** has introduced “reach out” – sharing phone numbers with permission from those who want to be involved.

***WIC*** has continued appointments over the phone so that benefits can be given over the home (disaster protocol). It is working out really well.

***FRC*** is posting on Facebook and Twitter - Storybook every Thursday morning, Craft every Wednesday and a Music & Movement on Tuesdays. Well checks to families continue via phone. Sparkler is continuing with families as well. Linda reported that many of the children are in need of connections to others. BOE is providing breakfast and lunch on M – W – F (covering the weekends) – available for all children (up to age 18) in Bristol. Bristol All Heart has a lot of volunteers to also help with delivery (Hotline #860-584-6253). FRC staff are helping with deliveries to families who need it. Complete list is on the BOE website. Food back-pack programs continue every other Saturday. FoodShare Mobile was struggling with volunteers and FRC staff have also been helping.

***United Way*** is working on an updated Resource Guide for COVID outbreak with different resources and updates (hours, closures, etc.). Main Street Foundation and the United Way have both set up COVID RESPONSE FUNDS. United Way funds is primarily for individuals who are having difficulties and the Main Street Foundation has mini grants to help non-profits who are having trouble meeting the needs of their clientele.

***Main Street Community Foundation*** has a Rapid Response Fund for \$500.00 or less for organizations. Funds are for basic needs and are not receiving the usual funds at this time.

### **Collaborating Grants:**

CT Early Childhood Funders Collaborative Grant and the Office of Early Childhood – since the COVID 19 crises, we need to change a few of the things we have promised to do in our application. In a meeting last week, it was decided to Pivot to expend the funds by June 30<sup>th</sup>. For instance, technology will be used instead to bring families together instead of in person focus groups, phone calls will be used instead of door knocking, etc.

OEC has agreed to pay SR programs through the end of the Fiscal Year at their March level. A lump sum for April, May and June will be delivered by Mary-Alice to help programs pay operation costs, etc. CDA grant information and updates from the OEC has been shared with the programs in Bristol.

A recent grant from the Barnes Foundation was declined at this time due to an increase need for funding support for the COVID crisis. This grant supports the BECA Coordinator and Donna O. asked if there was anything that members felt strongly about that the Coordinator can help with during this time. Email Donna O. at [dosuch@uwestcentralct.org](mailto:dosuch@uwestcentralct.org).

**Subcommittee Updates:**

**Health Committee** – No update. Outreach programs have been postponed or cancelled.

**Trans to K** - Kindergarten Registration on-line is still in the works. Kindergarten folders are available on-line at [www.MakingBristolBetter.com](http://www.MakingBristolBetter.com). Getting the printed folders into the hands of parents is unknown at this time and Mary-Alice is working on a plan. Dine & Discuss has been cancelled. May Kindergarten Parent Orientation “One Night, One Purpose” is on hold at this time.

**Infant & Toddler** – The committee did not meet this week. The committee is still planning to hold the Breastfeeding in the Park event in August.

**Community Sharing:** Donna K. invited programs to email her or call her if they have something they want shared on the Facebook page and the website.

Sarah, Donna O shared that there is Free technology available for programs to connect with staff and families. Google Voice or Google Meet is free through gmail accounts. Zoom is free for 40 minutes. Facebook messenger can also be used for small connections.

Donna K. shared that she is able to set up Zoom for the committees to meet if the Chairs decide to do so.

**Next Meeting:** *May 6, 2020 (Zoom or in person TBD)*