

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

Zoom Meeting Notes

May 6, 2020 (11:00 – 12:00 p.m.)

**In attendance:** Sherry & Tad Bartles, Maureen Eaton, Cecelia Garay, Kelly Heyden, Kate Kerchaert, Donna Koser, Karen Lombardi, Donna Osuch, Linda Rich, Rebecca Rossi, Mary Alice Petrucelli-Timek, Valerie Toner and Melissa Volpe

**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 to the dedicated page “COVID 19 and Families” on Making Bristol Better. Members/Partners are asked to share the two videos from Making Bristol Better’s Facebook page 1. Mary Alice (English) and 2. Cecelia (Spanish) on registration for Kindergarten. To those who purchased The Chamber of Commerce Duck Race tickets, the event has been postponed until October 11<sup>th</sup>. PLTI is still going strong on Zoom.

### **Collaborating Grants:**

As mentioned in our last meeting, state funding has been secured with the UW and the Parent & Child Center will provide home visiting and phone calls on “having a preschool experience”. Focus groups are planned to be virtual. The UW will collect information and report back.

Bristol was not invited to apply for funding from the Caplan Grant Foundation. However, a committee meeting was held this past week about the possibility of submitting a second Letter of Intent (LOI). The committee would like to have a conversation with a local company who creates robots to help children in the classroom and home. This might be the new focus of the LOI to address the newest needs of children who are now learning in the home setting with no or little supports.

### **Subcommittee Updates:**

**Health Committee** – Outreach programs have been postponed or cancelled. The May meeting had been cancelled. On behalf of the committee, Catherine provided information on healthy eating and snacks at each of the “Grab n Go” lunch sites.

**Trans to K** – The BOE has moved to online Kindergarten Registration. MAPT is trying to get information into the local newspapers. To date there are 82 families registered and another 183 children who will automatically be registered through the city preschools. The Kindergarten folders that are available on the Making Bristol Better website will also be available to families at several “reverse parades” being held at the school. MAPT will also be handing some out through the “Grab n Go” lunch sites. Thankfully, two preschools sent the folders home when schools announced closure.

**Infant & Toddler** – Amanda has taken a new position and is now working per diem. The committee has not had a meeting and a new chairperson will be selected once a new-hire has been selected.

**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.

**Main Street Community Foundation:** Kate shared that there is a COVID 19 Rapid Response Fund. Email or call if there is an urgent need for nonprofit organizations. Also available are Immediate Response Grants to individuals who are experiencing financial hardships. Call or email so the Foundation can match the need to the funds available.

**Parent & Child Center:** Continues to serve families and taking application for new families. Diaper and wipes are still available. Families in need are encouraged to call and make an apt for pick up. Some formula is also available. The Center began uploading YouTube videos for classes, such as “cooking”, “play groups” and more.

**United Way:** Bristol Community Services has joined forces with the United Way. If individuals or families have been impacted financially by COVID-19 they can reach out via phone: (860) 314-4690 or email [StephenBynum@bristolct.gov](mailto:StephenBynum@bristolct.gov).

Donna O. provided the link for the updated Greater Bristol COVID-19 Resource Guide: <https://www.uwestcentralct.org/sites/uwestcentralct.org/files/COVID-19%20%20Resource%20Guide%20042720.pdf> and reminded everyone about the Bristol All Heart Hotline: 860-584-6100

**WIC:** Karen reported that if anyone is struggling, they continue to hold appointments over the phone. Due to the limited supplies in stores, there has been an increase in the food listed, making more foods available to families with children under 5, pregnant and or breastfeeding.

**Library:** Summer Reading Program and Summer lunches is unknown at this time. The book drops have opened again and is asking for books to be returned. No-one is able to donate to the library at this time.

**Next Meeting:** *June 3, 2020 (Zoom or in person TBD)*