

Bristol Early Childhood Alliance

Zoom Meeting Notes

June 3 2020 (11:00 – 12:00 p.m.)

In attendance: Cecelia Garay, Kelly Hayden, Kate Kerchaert, Donna Koser, Mary-Alice Petrucelli-Timek, Maureen Eaton, Donna Osuch, Cathy Plourde, Melissa Volpe, Rebecca Rossi, Karen Lombardi

Next BECA Meeting: After discussion, it was decided that BECA not hold a meeting in July. Our next meeting date is August 5, 2020.

Community Outreach: 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.

Collaborating Grants:

Dawn Leger connected Movia (<https://moviarobotics.com/>) to BECA for a grant opportunity. However, there was not enough time to apply. The group will continue to watch the grant and may apply the next time it is available.

CT Early Childhood Funders Collaborative Grant and the Office of Early Childhood has been extended. This will allow us more time to accomplish tasks promised in our proposal. There is also capacity building available, much like the William Caspar Graustein Memorial Fund used to provide. Donna K. has been participating and homework was assigned. After a brief discussion the group completed the PDSA Planning form (attached).

Subcommittee Updates:

Health Committee –Cathy Plourde (Chair of the Committee) was not able to be heard during the meeting due to technical difficulties. COVID 19 has been prioritized for the Health District and the next meeting date will be announced when it has been selected.

Trans to K – Folders will be distributed through the Food Distribution sites, the BOE and the United Way lobbies. Eventually, folders will also be available at the public library and City Hall. One Night, One Purpose was released virtually. The presentation can be found on www.MakingBristolBetter.com (under Planning for Kindergarten) and on the BOE website. Cecelia translated to Spanish.

Kindergarten registration total is 142 from the community, 66 of those registered are through Early Notification. It is not clear where the other registered Kindergarteners are from. Discussion was held on the possibility of parents/guardians not sending their young child to Kindergarten and/or holding them back from school.

Infant & Toddler – The committee has not met. Donna K, Mary-Alice and Kelly will meet in July to discuss the August Breastfeeding in the Park event.

Community Sharing:

Main Street Community Foundation: COVID 19 Response Funding is still available. Average grant is about \$500.00 and each submittal has a very quick turnaround. The need has slowed, however, it is

anticipated to pick back up in August. The Board is anticipated to meet on the 12th regarding the General Grant applications with announcements expected to be the week of June 15th. The office is slowly opening back up. Staff are working on a rotating schedule; spending partial time in the office and partial time working remotely. There is now a staff member present in the office each day (Monday through Thursday). However, an appointment is needed to enter the building. It is suggested that you call the office before stopping by.

Kate also mentioned that per an announcement at the Bristol Cares meeting, PPE (facemasks and thermometers) are available at the CT Chamber of Commerce. Reach out to Cindy at c.bombard@centralctchambers.org if your business is in need.

United Way: The United Way COVID 19 funding has also had few requests in the last few weeks and also anticipates the need to pick up in August. The United Way Adopt a Child Backpack program is running a bit different this year. It is anticipated that there will be a higher number of children in need of assistance and a lower amount of donors who can help. The United Way will only be asking for backpacks and school supplies. In lieu of back to school outfits, gift cards are being encouraged.

The COVID 19 Resource Guide is listed on the United Way website.

Parent & Child Center: Applications are still being processed over the phone. Appointments follow for wipes, diapers and food/formula (if available). At this time, the Center is not providing clothing. Sonja is back working part-time, which is good for the Spanish speaking clients.

WIC: Still assisting families, however, not requiring the usual height, weight, bloodwork, etc. Food items have been adjusted since many items are not available in the stores. WIC announced that their building has been sold and they and the Parent & Child Center will be moving. WIC continues to promote Kindergarten Registration and referrals for preschool. Many parents have reported that they do not send their child to preschool since they are home and feel it is not needed.

Next Meeting: *August 5, 2020 (Zoom or in person TBD)*



Change Title: Number of Children Who Have a Quality Preschool Experience	
Team Name: BECA	Topic: What barriers, if any, do families have with preschool enrollment. How to increase enrollment in preschool.
Cycle #: Start Date: TBD End Date: TBD	
Objective of Cycle <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Collect Data (Learn) <input type="checkbox"/> Test a change <input type="checkbox"/> Implement a change 	Please describe: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What do we want to accomplish? An understanding on what barriers parents have in accessing a quality preschool. 2. How will we know a change is an improvement (indicators)? An increase # of children who have a quality preschool experience. 3. What ideas do we have that will result in improvement (change to test)? <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Awareness Campaign on preparedness for Kindergarten (Message is Two years of Preschool is better than one.) b. Awareness of Kindergarten Laws (age of entry and when a child is eligible to enter) c. Promote - Introduction to structure helps with third grade level reading and preparedness for life (provide data showing improvement through preschool experience) Preschool prepares children for Kindergarten and is shown to improve the achievement gap. e. Tap into BOE and PowerSchool program that tells us the data on preschool.
Questions we want to answer with this PDSA cycle	Why are children not attending preschool (pre-COVID AND COVID)? Barriers for parents?
Predictions	Cost Knowledge about programs and SR funds COVID related concerns Transportation Capacity/Wait List

Tasks/Tools Needed to Complete the Cycle	Phones and manpower
Plan	Plan for this Test 1. Who will implement the change? BECA & SR partners 2. What - TBD 3. Where - TBD 4. When - TBD Plan for Collection of Data: 1. Who BECA & SR partners 2. What - TBD 3. Where - TBD 4. When - TBD
Do	Was the test carried out as planned? TBD What did you observe that wasn't part of the plan? TBD
Study	What did the data tell you? TBD What surprised you? TBD
Act <input type="checkbox"/> Adapt <input type="checkbox"/> Adopt <input type="checkbox"/> Abandon	What changes are to be made to the process (decisions made/action to take)? TBD