

# Bristol Early Childhood Alliance

## Zoom Meeting Notes

January 5, 2022 (11:00 – 12:00 p.m.)

**In attendance:** Maegan Adams, Maureen Eaton, Sandra Godin, Tiffany Hoxie, Andrew Howe, Tracy Krasinski, Lauren Kittle, Donna Koser, Mary Alice Petrucelli-Timek, Karen Lombardi, Donna Osuch, Valerie Pelletier, Dimytra Phen (UW Intern), Kara Singleton, Jenn St. John and Mindy Wallen.

Members were invited to introduce themselves. Lots of new faces!! Welcome to BECA!

**Collaborating Grants:** Mary-Alice mentioned that the Bristol BOE, Adult Education and others met regarding workforce development. Early Childhood Workforce will be one of the four buckets that the committee will focus on. ARPA funding will be sought after. The funding proposal is due January 31, 2022. The workforce development committee is seeking ARPA funding from the City rather than the BOE. Donna Osuch mentioned that the ARPA information can be found on the city website, and suggested those who will be applying start the process to prompt a phone call. <http://www.bristolct.gov/1061/American-Rescue-Plan-Task-Force>. Donna Osuch sits on the committee and cannot help with proposals except through sharing/clarifying information that has been posted.

### Re-invent, re-imagine-re-vitalize:

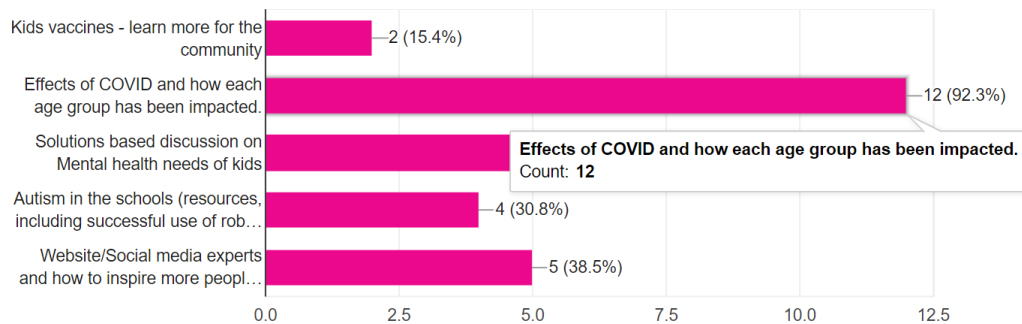
Members broke out into groups to discuss the top three topics:

1. Effects of COVID and how each age group has been impacted
2. Solutions based discussion on Mental Health needs of kids
3. Website/Social media exerts and how to inspire more people

Please check off your top three choices:

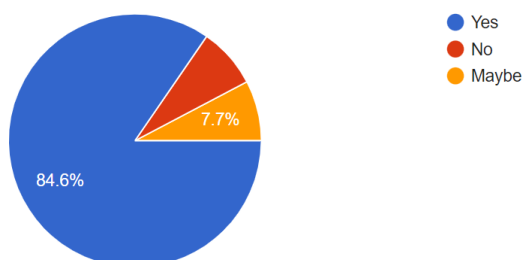


13 responses



In your field, have you seen an increase of children and families with depression & anxiety due to the pandemic?

13 responses



### **Group 1: Andrew, Maegan, Maureen and Tiffany**

Problems – childcare teachers on overload – balancing home and classroom. The holiday break was not helpful and providers need trainings for families. Possible speakers to address – Perhaps survey teachers to see what they need. A short list of possible speakers - Psychologists', Message Therapist, Wheeler Clinic (address mental health for both teachers and children), support for development delays and where to go.

There is a need for sustainable funding to help with both teachers and children.

### **Group 2: Dimytra, Donna O., and Sandra**

The group focused on mental health and “what can be done?”. One intervention that arose is a play based model (specialized training) that the FRC staff are trained in. Primary Project does not have a “universal screening” and it is not cheap to implement. A provider to be trained to talk about intervention might be helpful. It may be possible that the DESA screening be used. DESA is a free tool.

Medical profession to talk about things are seeing in their practices or and educator to speak about long term concerns/talks (that may or may not be known for some time).

The group also discussed a study of children in RI that is currently in peer to peer review. One alarming statistic claims that children born during the pandemic dropped (on average) 22 IQ points.

### **Group 3: Lauren, Mindy, Tracy and Valerie**

Overall discussion was around resiliency and how do we support our families. Mindy recently read an article around ACES that mentioned you have to have supports in place when you are asking children to be resilient. How do we figure out what supports are needed?

There has been a shift for our under 5-year-old children, who are not in preschool and home each day and not in a preschool setting. The group wonders what kinds of conversations are they having?

Families are afraid and are afraid to make their children afraid. However, children can sense this and know without knowing.

How do we share on Social Media – normalizing resilience?

### **Group 4: Jenn, Karen and Mary-Alice**

This group shared many of the same concerns as the other groups. This group spoke about using “Tik Tok”, especially if it is entertaining, to get messages across to our younger parents. One Tik Tok mentioned was on the news where a mother dressed her small girl up as Queen Elizabeth. Queen was pleased. Perhaps BECA/SR can introduce a “Book Toc” The group would like to investigate having Bristol children dress up as Book Characters with a message to read more books. Imagining is fun and incorporated Play to Learn. Challenge others to create Tik Toks or jump on a already established trend. Maegan (and Jo), Jennifer, Dimytra and Lauren.

The group also discusses “COVID Fog” and many people cannot focus on education right now. They need laughter since the mental health of families is very fragile at this time.

How do you teach resiliency at time like this? Most trauma events have an end but we are not seeing an end point to COVID. How do we give Hope? Tag Line – “Help with Hope”

**Subcommittees: Meeting notes to be sent.**

### **Community Sharing:**

United Way – Still time to register for our Live Discussion with Early Care and Education Providers for “Learning Speech and Language in Classrooms with COVID Measures”.

**MSCF** – Main Street Community Foundation General Grant Cycle opens February 1st. Deadline to apply is March 25th. Applications and guidelines at the following link. Be sure to call Kate Kerchaert before starting an application for a preliminary discussion: <https://www.mainstreetfoundation.org/apply-for-grant>

**Bristol FRC:** Currently recruiting for the UCONN People Empowering People Class (CONN PEP) More information can be found on their website: <https://sites.google.com/bristol12.org/bristolfrc/parent-leadership?authuser=0>

**Next Meeting:** *February 1, 2022 (Zoom)*