

Bristol Early Childhood Alliance

Zoom Meeting Notes

December 1, 2021 (11:00 – 12:00 p.m.)

In attendance: Meagan Adams, Cecilia Gary, Sandra Godin, Lauren Kittle, Kate Kerchaert, Donna Koser, Karen Lombardi, Donna Osuch, Mary Alice Petrucelli-Timek, Catherine Plourde and Alexandra Strahowski

Community Outreach – BECA fliers will be placed in 200 Polar Express bags (distributed at the Bristol Library) and over 100 hat/mitten bags (distributed through Park and **Rec N Read** and **Appetite for Reading** shelves).

Collaborating Grants:

Donna O. and Mary-Alice shared a few updates:

LegalZoom and NBA teamed up to offer support to businesses. Mary-Alice looked into this opportunity and passed it on to the SR sites in the community for funding and legal supports.

The Early Childhood Funder Collaborative Grant provided funding for Regional meetings. The first learning meeting is currently being planned for an evening mid Dec or early January to address mask wearing and language development with tips/suggestions, etc.

Donna & Mary-Alice stressed the importance of sharing opportunities that might enhance our programs and community.

ARPA update – Donna mentioned that the application has been released for BETA testing. Donna encouraged members who might be interested to check the City of Bristol website in the next few weeks. It is anticipated to be an easy application.

Committee Reports: Committee Meeting notes are attached. **Note:** Health Committee watched a presentation created by Dr. Bartles.

Re-invent, re-imagine, Re-invigorate BECA:

Introduction: Bristol children are struggling and BECA needs to “step up”.

Discussion Questions



Small Group Questions:

1. Why am I here?
2. How am I going to “Make Bristol Better” through my actions, talents and time to ensure that *Every single child in Bristol is healthy and ready to learn by age five, and achieves developmental and school success by age nine*
3. My recommendation for a topic I would love to learn more about
4. My recommendation for a potential speaker for an upcoming BECA meeting.

Break out Group #1 (Alexandra, Cathy and Donna O.), Break out Group #2 (Cecelia, Karen, Tracy and Mary Alice) &

Break out Group #3 (Kate, Lauren, Maegan and Sandra)

Why am I here?

- To share public health information; learning & sharing
- Interest in women and health
- Support and enhance nutrition in the community
- Provide infant health perspective

- Learning about resources in the community
- Learn about resources to inform Spanish speaking families in the community
- Child care work is valuable and I want to improve the education and well-being of children
- I am not a CC provider and I want to keep informed of issues affecting child care and help find solutions and funding for them – provide an outside perspective
- Mission of FRC is Family/School/Community partnerships. BECA is an important community partnership, helps me id resources and develop programming
- We need to remember why we do what we do – I am passionate about little ones and want to advocate for them

How can I make Bristol better?

- Continue to provide infant health information
- By trying to get more children/families in the program; participation in BECA gives me an edge with providing resources to families and helps me develop new and better programming
- By being accessible to members of BECA to discuss their funding needs and refer them to other sources of funding as well. To raise awareness of relevant childcare issues and help convene various stakeholders to address a common issue or funding project
- I hope to pick up outreach to children 5 and under and re-establish playgroups for them
- Through diverse partnerships
- Provide infant health perspective
- Learn about resources available to the Spanish speaking families in the community
- Through diverse partnerships

Topics to learn about/Speakers

- Kids vaccine – learn more for the community
- Effects of COVID and how each age group has been impacted.
- Solutions based discussion on Mental health needs of kids
- Autism in the schools – resources, including successful use of robots with autistic and developmentally delayed children (Movia Robotics)
- Website/Social media experts help us with outreach to get more people involved in BECA and spread the word. We are not experts in this area.
- What do school administrators want to see in the kids entering school? What are their recommendations?
- Kids vaccines
- Effects of COVID 19 and the age groups it has affected.

Other

- We need a legislative body to advocate for us (Early CC)
- We need (additional) BOE representation on BECA

Discussion:

- What kept bubbling up to top was depression and anxiety.
- Build Back Better is dollars for universal pre-k to age 6. We need to have input on how these federal dollars are being spent to ensure we are making the most impact for CT children.

A google poll will be created and sent out to members.

Community Sharing:

BBHD – Children who are eligible for their second vaccine can attend the clinic being held at ESPN on Dec. 4 from 10:00-2:00.

Youth & Community Services: Recent sponsors have come forward and if anyone knows of a family in need for the holiday, contact Lauren.

Main St. Community Foundation: Funding has been awarded through the Men & Boys and Women & Girls grant. A Plainville organization, who intends to offer “Boot Camp for Dads” will be open to dads outside of Plainville. The Parent & Child program and Imagination recently received \$3,000.00 each in funding.

FRC – Currently 5 children are not yet sponsored for Christmas. If you can help, please reach out to Sandra Godin.

Mary Alice – Please reach out to the Governor and state legislatures regarding the reimbursement to school readiness sites. Per request, Mary Alice will send a copy of her letter that people can reference for their own letter/email.

United Way – There are over 3,000 children in need of assistance through the United Way Joy of Sharing program. Contact Donna Osuch if you are interested in providing a new unwrapped toy.



Next BECA Meeting:
January 5, 2021



Mark your calendar!
Upcoming Committee Meeting Dates – Everyone is welcome!

Subcommittee of SRC / BECA	Meeting Location	Meeting Date
Health Committee	ZOOM	December 7 th at 1:00
Transition to Kindergarten	ZOOM	December 20 th at 3:45 p.m.
Infant & Toddler Committee & Phase II Literacy	ZOOM	December 14 th at 1:30 p.m.

Infant & Toddler Meeting

November 16, 2021

12:30-1:30 on Zoom

Attendance: Donna Koser, Lauren Kittle and Mary-Alice Petrucelli-Timek

Discussion was held around the focus of the Infant and Toddler Committee in the next few months:

- Maternal Mental Health
- Birth Equity

Lauren will bring information/speakers/videos to the committee for discussion and possible programs/strategies to help families in Bristol.

Discussion was held around every day tips for parents with a possible series of short clips to address behaviors to ensure positive outcomes. Similar to “Big Little Feelings”, committee members can make short videos for Making Bristol Better providing a link to read more if they are interested or dealing with similar issues with their young child, etc. Links for additional help from partners can also be included.

Discussion was held around the increase of behavioral issues in preschool. The committee will look into developing parent programs. Possibly offering gift cards for participation to increase parental involvement. Programs led by a committee Facilitation team with time for open discussion.

Polar Express update...on track with many of the videos being used from our last virtual event.

Next meeting – Dec. 14th at 1:30 p.m.

Transition to Kindergarten Committee

November 15,2021 3:45-4:45 zoom

Present: Sara C, Donna K, Christina M., Gail Z, Kristen P, Rachael W, Jen St J, Mary-Alice PT

Before meeting began- a conversation started about the behavioral issues now being exhibited, not only, by Toddlers and Pre-K- but extending into grades K-3. Students not being about to control their outbursts, students needing help with toileting, students not being able to understand the word “no” and accepting it as an answer. The toll on staff is being observed too- and in Ece we are having many leaving the field.

Meeting was called to order by co-chair Mary-Alice at 3:50

Updates on the time lines-of transition to kindergarten

We are moving the Early Notifications to be submitted by end of January and Pre-K-K transition sheets by April- **MAPT with assistance from Rachael will schedule a Director's Forum at the start of December to get everyone on board.**

MAPT and Rachael have discussed how an excel sheets with all students will be completed by end of February - and Principals will be given family information (contact information) so they can start reaching out to these families by end of February.

Education Parents of current PK4 students

We have access to Library and taping studio – let's take advantage of this free resource.

Who should be the messengers? We feel it should be the **kindergarten teachers.**

How should it be presented? Talk of visuals- but that may be too hard to film in schools- having to get permission /time etc.

- Let's start simple

What information do we need parents to know?

- Self Help Skills
- Wait times
- Fearful of new surroundings (anxiety)
- “No means No”
- You will not always be first
- How to access help from an adult – Kindergarten ratio is very different than Pre-K
- Self-regulation
- Social/emotional items

How do we get this to parents in a simple and meaningful way?

- We have the Ready4K system- where we can send a message with link –

- We can utilize our Makingbristolbetter website
- Facebook page- of all our collaborative partners along with our own

example

“Parents – if you are concerned about your child entering Kindergarten (state a specific issue) – click on this link”

The link would be a prerecorded snippet of how to handle specific /or a few issues- We would then see how many parents clicked on that specific link. Give parents actual visuals of things i.e.: self-help skills have a child put on their own coat and zip it up- have child show how open school milk and snack etc.

Request to all T/K Committee members:

- Send to MAPT /Rachael your ideas of what specific things will need to be addressed to help parents better understand what part they have to play in preparing their children to be successful and ready to learn in kindergarten.
- We need Bristol Kindergarten teachers volunteer to be recorded and address the specific skill sets we /they will be promoting

This should be up and running by January 31,2022

- **Case Consultation committee held the first meeting November 8th**

Presentation by BCDC teacher and issues not only with one specific student- but the classroom (young 3's) and the issue of potty training- when parents are not following through at home.

The next meeting date is December 20th

Respectfully Submitted,

Mary-Alice Petrucelli-Timek