

Bristol Early Childhood Alliance

ZOOM

February 1, 2023 (11:00 – 12:00 p.m.)

In attendance: Maegan Adams, Maureen Eaton, Cecilia Garary, Sarah Guerette, Sandra Godin, Kate Kerchaert, Donna Koser, Alicia Krar, Manny Martinez, Donna Osuch, Kristen Peck, Kara Singleton, Valerie Toner, and Rachael Witkewicz

Introduction: Maureen welcomed all in attendance and asked members to introduce themselves.

Collaborating Grants:

United Way is still waiting to hear about funding for our BECA Coordinator and a stipend for our Parent Ambassador.

Kate sent information regarding the UCONN Master Gardener seed program. BECA & SR placed an order for 200 seeds each. Programs that are interested can place their request before 2/14:

https://mastergardener.uconn.edu/2023/01/11/uconn-master-gardener-program-ocean-state-job-lot-free-seed-packet-distribution-2/?mc_cid=4f46a9c711&mc_eid=02cfa3bcf7

Main Street Community Foundation (MSCF) General Grant Cycle opened with applications due at the end of March. Please contact the Foundation (Kate Kerchaert or Alicia Krar) prior to applying. More information can be found on MSCF website: <https://www.mainstreetfoundation.org/>

Co-Chair Review: Maureen asked members to consider stepping in to share the Co-Chair responsibilities with her. If you or someone you know would like to be the next BECA co-chair, alongside of Maureen, please reach out to Donna K at dkoser@uwestcentralct.org

Discussion on Cultural Night:

Members present broke into small groups (via breakout rooms) and discussed the following:

- What does this event look like?
- Where is the ideal location?
- Who will our partners be?
- Who would coordinate this event?
- Who is missing from the conversation?

The following was reported:

Group 1.

1. What does the event look like?

a. Involve all cultures? Start with PARENTING SUNDAYS at the library to see where parents/adults in community from/discover backgrounds are.

b. Use a FAMILY ANGLE—diversify knowledge and make connections.

c. Identify language issues prior to program.

d. Invite adult students via Bristol Adult Learning to participate—students are already committed to community, community sharing, and language education.

e. Present booths of cultures (may be a problem in that one person/family may not feel that they represent full culture).

2. Ideal location: Library

3. Partners

- a. All BECA members
- b. Community families
- c. Church/religious organizations
- 4. Who is missing?
 - a. Men
 - b. Organization committed to educating community to diverse issues, etc.

Group 2.

We wondered about what outcome the group is looking for, and what we expect out of this program. Reach out to different associations, such as church groups, polish, Greek. There are a lot of individual groups in town.

And the Diversity Council.

Possibly having outdoor event at Boys and Girl Club, Page Park or Rockwell Park. Having food trucks from different ethnic groups. Set up table for crafts. Maybe dance from different countries, sumo wrestling. Perhaps have members of local churches choose own committees.

Group 3.

- Dinner/Nighttime Event – like a science fair with different tables set up- could be done during the day or on a weekend as well.
- We could have entertainment, stories, music, dancing, art.
- Have families sign up for what they'd like to share or do to promote their heritage. Ex. Arabic, Chinese-name writing.
- Could be held at a school in the gym or care, outdoors at a park, the library.
- Partner with the library, PTA, religious groups, Queen Anne Nzinga Center (Plainville), Tunxis, Diversity Clubs in the schools, the City Arts and Culture Commission, the City Diversity Council, Parks and Rec.
- Hosts could be BECA, Parent Ambassadors, but we should check with all of Bristol to see if any organizations are already doing events such as this that we can tap into.

Group 4.

In addition to what was aforementioned, this group added: Bristol has a City Arts and Culture Commission that we could partner with on events and ideas. <https://bristolallheart.com/heart-squad/city-arts-culture-comission/>

BECA Committees:

Health – Next Meeting: Feb. 14, 2023 at 3:00 p.m.

Infant & Toddler – Next Meeting: February 21, 2023 at 1:30 p.m. – still designing a schedule for speakers.

Transition to K - Next Meeting: February 13th, at 3:45 p.m. – A pilot program will be starting at Southside.

Outreach – Upcoming events:

BUILD YOUR VILLAGE
SNACK 'N CHAT EVENT
FOR PARENTS!

CHILDREN'S DEPARTMENT
BRISTOL PUBLIC LIBRARY

SUNDAYS @ 2:30 PM
FEBRUARY 12 & 26
MARCH 12 & 26

MEET PARENTS LIKE YOU,
SHARE FAMILY STORIES, MAKE LIFE-LONG
FRIENDS & ENJOY A SNACK!

Bristol Early Childhood Alliance (BECA)
Bristol School Readiness Council
www.evsbridge.org

Children's Department @ the Bristol Public Library
5 High Street Bristol, CT 06010
860-584-7787 ext. 6 www.bristollib.com/children
READ FUN STORIES CRAFTS STEM



Community Sharing:

Bristol Public Library: Has lots of events scheduled, please visit the website or Facebook page. Story times begin next week. <http://www.bristollib.com/>

UWWCC – Bloomin 4 Good bouquets at Stop & Shop (Pine St. location) will donate \$1.00 for each bouquet purchased. United Way is looking at growing its “Community Impact Council” and looking for folks to join one of the three focus areas (Health, Education and Financial Stability) for the allocations process.

WIC – Hiring a Breastfeeding Peer Counselor.

<https://www.paycomonline.net/v4/ats/web.php/jobs/ViewJobDetails?job=62429&clientkey=4597F1280A2AA5933921106F1AFB8700>

Next meeting: March 1, 2023 (on ZOOM)