



February 5, 2020

11:00-12:00

Bristol Board of Education Room – Room #36

**Members Present:** Maureen Eaton, Linda Ivey, Kate Kerchaert, Laruen Kittle, Donna Koser, Karen Lombardi, Donna Osuch, Mary Alice Petrucelli-Timek, Rebecca Rossi, Valerie Toner, Melissa Volpe and Heather Pease.

**Start Ups/Welcome:** Lauren & Maureen welcomed everyone to the meeting. All present were asked to introduce themselves along with what organization they represented.

**Community Outreach:** The outreach committee recently met and updated the membership lists to reflect recent changes in staff and emails. Donna introduced an acronym list asked all members to help with calling out any new acronyms that might be used in the BECA meetings. This strategy will be used to help ensure that parents and others who attend feel welcomed. Donna shared materials from a recent “Friday Café” meeting and the CT Children’s Collective calendar.

**Collaborating Grants:** The Caplan Grant letter, due 1/31/20 was submitted on time. The Strengthening Local Early Childhood Collaboration grant will be submitted on behalf of BECA on 2/7/2020. If awarded, funding will be used to update local data and priorities, support home visiting through the Parent & Child Center and a “child find” component to understand why families are not sending their children to preschool. Donna O. and Mary-Alice also stressed the importance of sharing what sites are applying for so the community could strengthen collaboration amongst programs. It is easier to collaborate than compete. Data Haven is available to access Bristol data.

**Subcommittees:**

**Infant & Toddler** – The committee did not meet in January. The committee will be meeting on February 25<sup>th</sup> with the Phase II meeting members.

**Health** – The committee met yesterday. Sanitarians continue hand washing programs with preschoolers and to date have reached over 400 children. On 3/14, the committee will be present at the “Teddy Bear Jamboree” being held at Imagination. Committee members will present “Rethink your Drink”. Adverse Childhood Experience, often referred to as ACE, was discussed. The upcoming “Dine & Discuss” will have a “TED Talk” presentation with a discussion around Dr. Nadine Burke Harris’ book “The Deepest Well”. The committee also discussed the limited access to mental health services within Bristol; once trauma (high ACE score) has been identified in children/families. The Early Childhood Conference, being planned for August, will also have a showing of the film “Resilience” and a reflection component for credits. Dr. Lee will be asked to support a future “Catch Grant” to support the “trauma focus” in the community. The “Little Read” book will be selected by the health committee. The focus of this year’s book may be along the lines of “Erin’s Law” (emotions, feelings, abuse, etc.). The committee also continues discussion around the partnership with the Park, Recreation, youth and community to begin a Park RX program in the summer months. Child First noted that they offer programs to help with the ACE results/focus.

**Transition to Kindergarten (T/K)** – “One Night, One Purpose” will be May 27<sup>th</sup> from 6 to 7. BECA & SR members will be asked to support the evening in a variety of ways. Each school will have a video presentation that includes messages from Mary-Alice, Superintendent, Mayor, etc. Families will register with their school. August 18<sup>th</sup> is Countdown to Kindergarten. Early notification is in process. Mary-Alice will collect names. Children enrolled at the BOE will automatically be rolled into registration and packets will be distributed through their respective school. Kindergarten registration will open on March 2<sup>nd</sup>. The Ice-cream and book distribution date was set for August 20<sup>th</sup>. the Case Manager Meeting was held on January 16<sup>th</sup>. Funding is being sought for Kick Start to Kindergarten with a focus on children who have not had a Pre-K experience.

## **Community Sharing/Upcoming Events/Meetings:**

**Parent & Child Center:** Upcoming programs were shared amongst members present and includes upcoming Circle of Security, Foster care series, safe sleep for infants (including gifts of bassinets, sleep sack, etc.).

**UCONN:** Is looking to partner with agencies to offer Nutritional Education” to low income families. UCONN nutrition classes/cooking skills programs provide incentives for families that might include a meat thermometer, measuring cups, shopping bags, etc. Please email [heather.pease@UConn.edu](mailto:heather.pease@UConn.edu) for more information.

**UW:** The VITA program is open. Materials were handed out to members who were present.

**WIC** – A conference was attended last week. Data showed that there is a disparity in healthcare for black women who were more at risk for death – pregnancy and post-partum. Communication is Key and health care workers and others were asked not to be bias when providing care.

**Main Street Community Foundation:** Available Grants are available on the website. The General Grant Cycle is open and due March 27<sup>th</sup>. Applicants must reach out to Mindy or Kate for a screening prior to submittal. Applicants who received funding for two years in a row must take a year off. Additionally, scholarships are available and due March 13<sup>th</sup>. Scholarships are available for not only high school seniors. Full list and requirements can also be found on the website. Call the foundation with any question.

**Hartford Healthcare:** Healthy Family Fun Fest will be held at the Aqua Turf on February 23, 2020. It is a fun time for all. <https://hartfordhealthcare.org/health-wellness/healthy-family-funfest>

**Next meeting March 4, 2020 - 11:00 Rm 36 @ BOE 129 Church Street**

# (BECA) BRISTOL EARLY CHILDHOOD ALLIANCE

## ***RUNNING LIST OF ACRONYMS (updated 2/5/2020)***

### ***Commonly used in BECA meetings:***

**ACE** – Adverse Childhood Experience

**BOE** (Board of Education)

**CDA** (Child Development Associate)

**DCF** (Department of Children and Families)

**DECA** - Devereux Early Childhood Assessment for Preschoolers.

**DRA** (Development Reading Assessment)

**DRG** (District Reference Group)

**DSS** (Department of Social Services)

**ECERS** (Early Childhood Environmental Rating Scale)

**ECITI** (Early Care and Education Training Institute)

**FRC** (Family Resource Center)

**GMF** or **WCGMF** (William Casper **Graustein Memorial Fund**) DISCOVERY is an initiative of the WCGMF

**HCC** – Hartford Health Care

**LEA** (Local Education Agency)

**NAEYC** (National Association for the Education of Young Children)

**ORIS** (Quality Rating and Improvement System)

**PAT** (Parents as Teachers)

**Parents SEE** Parents Supporting Educational Excellence

**PLTI** (Parent Leadership Training Institute)

**PEP** (UCONN People Empowering People training)

**PRISM** (Program Review Instrument for Systems Monitoring)

**RBA** (Results Based Accountability)

**SERC** (State Education Resource Center)

**SR** (School Readiness)

**UW / UWWCC** (United Way/United Way of West Central Connecticut)

**WIC** (Women, Infants, and Children)

### ***State Agencies referred to:***

**ECA** (Early Childhood Alliance)

**CAHS** (Connecticut Association for Human Services)

**CREC** – Capitol Regional Excellence Service Center

**OEC** – Office of Early Childhood

