



February 6, 2019

11:00-12:00

Bristol Board of Education Room – Room #36

**Members Present:** Jess Caetano, Maureen Eaton, Sarah Holmes, Linda Ivey, Kate Kerchaert, Lauren Kittle, Donna Koser, Karen Lombardi, Flora Murphy, Donna Osuch, Mary-Alice Petrucelli-Timek, Catherine Plourde, Tina Rodriguez, Alexandra Strahowski, Valerie Toner, Mindy Wallen & TeAris Trotman

**Start Ups/Welcome:** All present introduced themselves and Maureen welcomed everyone to the meeting. **Community Outreach:** Donna K. shared that she is learning more and more about Bristol each day. She is still interested in learning more about programs and invited everyone to reach out for a one to one meeting. Donna also asked members to send her information to be posted on the website and/or Facebook page. JPEG format would be preferred, if possible.

**Caplan Grant:** Mary-Alice updated members on the January meeting and decision to not apply this year. Mary-Alice has asked the Mayor to convene a group (to include, the Police and Fire chiefs and others who will handle trauma in the community). Donna O. added that the January meeting produced great conversation and information on what other groups are currently doing around trauma. The Caplan grant may be sought after once Bristol has a better understanding of what is needed.

#### **Subcommittees:**

**Infant & Toddler** – Members present shared discussion from the January meeting. The committee has invited an “expert” in breastfeeding etiquette to brainstorm with the group. The committee is toying with the idea of creating a video around Breastfeeding. They may also create a video around “What a Dad needs” to bring awareness around the lack of bathroom changing tables in the men's room, etc.

**Health** – It is not too late to receive your flu shot. Parent health packets have been dropped off for Kindergarten registration. The committee spoke about vaccines and is concerned that newer legislation does not allow for a conversation with parents that have stated a religious exemption around the importance of vaccination until 7<sup>th</sup> grade. Prior legislation had a policy in place to renew exemptions yearly. With an incubation period and exposure to illnesses, unvaccinated children could potentially miss approximately 21 days of school. The committee is planning “Rethink your Drink” and a Nutrition program for the Teddy Bear Jamboree. A letter for Lake Compounce is in the works to encourage them to look over their menu choices and increase healthy options. *I Love You Sunshine* book will be purchased and given out with a letter addressed to Bristol pediatrician's asking them to consider purchasing the book to welcome new families into their practice. The committee has chosen One book for the upcoming “Little Read”. “I Want to be a Police Officer” by Laura Driscoll- Illustrated by Catalina Echeverri. This will coincide with the HALO Program- that was offered as a pilot this past year. There is also a plan to hold a spring walk with seniors and preschool students. The committee also plans to participate in the May 7<sup>th</sup> art show.

**Transition to Kindergarten (T/K)** - Wednesday, May 29, 2019, for the first time in Bristol, a community wide orientation will be held from 6:00 to 7:00 p.m. at all of the elementary schools. A subcommittee is working exclusively on the presentation where each school will have the same orientation elements. The committee may need volunteers to help in directing parents and handing out packets. T/K folder will be available. Packets will now have sticker - “Do Not Throw Away” “Important! To remind parents to keep folder to help with transition. An electronic version of items in the T/K folder will be accessible

to parents. April 4<sup>th</sup> is a planned "Dine & Discuss" with a presentation on new -Pre-Kindergarten Transition Summary Sheet. to be used universally in community- Pre-K teachers to complete and forward to MAPT- and she will forward information to a BOE K teacher @ each school.

**Prenatal to Birth Work:** Funding and sponsorship will provide a bag with supplies to each pregnant parent. Belly books will also be given to parents encouraging parents to read "100 books to the bump" with a graduation to 1000 books before Kindergarten. Event will take place April 9<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> at the library with Nursery Rhymes music and drumming away the blues with a focus on trauma. The baby showers will be held on April 11<sup>th</sup> at 10 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. May 11<sup>th</sup> is the annual Safety Fair where there will be a raffle for car seats and helmets.

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

**Parent & Child Center** is unveiling a new series February through May. Upcoming classes were handed out to members. The center is also offering Trauma Yoga to help participant's release tension from where the body is holding the trauma effects. Two classes: March 9<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>.

**Child First** shared that there is a new coordinator who will be attending upcoming meetings. There is currently no change in programs. Referral priorities are accepted for children under 1 or through DCF referrals.

**Hartford Healthcare** has a "Healthy Family FunFest at the Aqua Turf" being held on February 24<sup>th</sup> from 10:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

**Imagine Nation –Museum of Early Learning** has an upcoming President Day event.

**WIC** is still functioning and doing fine with the federal shutdown. Karen noted that breastfeeding is being promoted in the WIC office and they provide a special room with dimmed lighting for moms and offer a certified lactation counselor when needed.

The **Bristol Public Library** event calendar was passed out and is also available online. Outreach visits and story times began this week. To date, programs served over 1000 children.

**Bristol Park and Rec** registration has been ongoing. Summer programs open April 1<sup>st</sup>. Flyers will be available in early March. Park and Rec is currently hoping to secure summer lunches and concerts. There are also plans to partner with the Arts Commission to bring Arts in the Park on June 26<sup>th</sup>.

The **Main Street Community Foundation** general grant cycle is open and applications are due March 29<sup>th</sup>. Members are asked to visit [MainStreetFoundation.org](http://MainStreetFoundation.org) for the application. All applicants are required to contact the Foundation prior to applying to ensure that they are eligible to apply. Members can also email Kate. Scholarships for High School and College students are due March 15<sup>th</sup>.

**Family Resource Center (FRC)** has started a book care package twice a month with a children's book as well as a friendly magazine or adult read going home to families. FRC is partnering with K teachers to assist in social emotional screenings using Ages & Stages. Per suggestion from K teachers, is a plan to use the screening during K orientation. Early identification allows for implementation of services prior to the start of certain behaviors. The scoring part is the easiest of Ages & Stages, the outreach is time consuming with follow up letters, phone calls and/or parent meeting.

In addition to the usual tax assistance offered through the **United Way**, there is also a newly implemented on-line service. Chamber of Commerce duck race tickets will be available at the March meeting. Tickets are \$5.00 each.

**Next meeting March 6, 2019 - 11:00 Rm 36 @ BOE 129 Church Street**