

Bristol Early Childhood Alliance

ZOOM

January 4, 2023 (11:00 – 12:00 p.m.)

In attendance: Maureen Eaton, Cecilia Garary, Sarah Guerette, Sandra Godin, Mary Beth Hickings, Andrew Howe, Kate Kerchaert, Lauren Kittle, Donna Koser, Donna Osuch, Kristen Peck, Kara Singleton, Jenn St. John, Valerie Toner, and Rachael Witkewicz

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

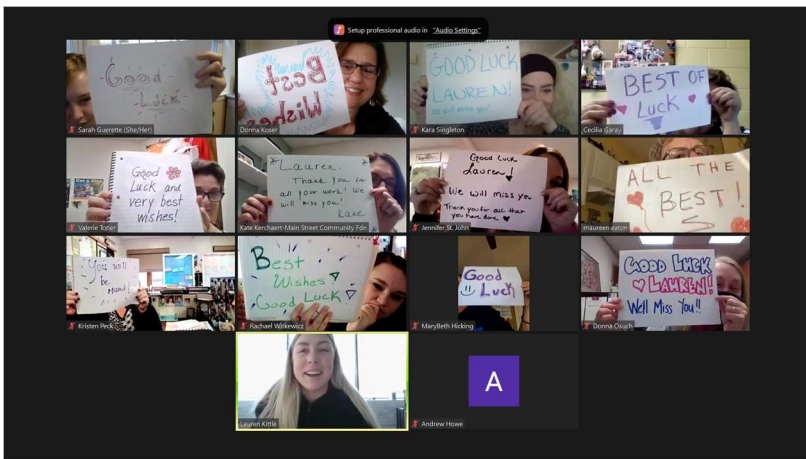
Collaborating Grants:

School Readiness Council provided a “Letter of Intent” to the Kellogg Foundation which was denied.

Main Street Community Foundation (MSCF) will be seeking grant applications and scholarship applications early in January. The General Grant Cycle opens up in February with applications due at the end of March. In general, the grants range from \$2,000 to approximately \$6,000, but please contact the Foundation to discuss. If you are interested in applying for funding, please reach out to Kate prior to beginning your application.

More information can be found on MSCF website: <https://www.mainstreetfoundation.org/>

Co-Chair Review: Lauren Kittle announced her resignation. Members present sent her well wishes for her last day serving as the BECA Co-Chair:



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

Ideas for parent engagement:

Discussion was held on the list created in our December BECA meeting (first photo in grey) and members were asked to provide their top two parent engagement items. The second photo (in pink) lists the following as the top picks:

1. Sponsor play groups at the library and a new suggestion to also hold them at the new Academy (opening in the fall)
2. Cultural Night

List from Dec. 7, 2022

Show up at civic activities to promote - **would require member volunteers**

Look into Parent Square App to get information out to parents
sponsor play group at the library once per month
Pop in event – like “speed dating” where families can meet agencies
Cultural night

Informational programs around IEP’s and 504 Plans
Monthly newsletter with column about family activities - **WOULD NEED A VOLUNTEER**
Community day, Family Fun Day - date is already set 6/17/23

Being done by other organizations/things that BECA cannot do:

Bring your parent to school day
Involve parents in classroom, see what is going on firsthand. Reading to children, volunteer in other capacities.
UCONN PEP (FRC)
Play and learn groups (FRC)
Father’s group (FRC & Parent & Child?)
Sparkler (WIC, Parent & Child & FRC)
Raising Readers (FRC)
Family nights (FRC - select schools)
Parent Square - Bristol Schools
Conferences - Bristol Schools

TOP 2 PICKS FROM MEMBERS

Show up at civic activities to promote - **would require member volunteers** ★★

★ Look into Parent Square App to get information out to parents sponsor play group at the library once per month ★★ ★★
Pop in event – like “speed dating” where families can meet agencies ★★
Cultural night ★★ ★★ ★★
Informational programs around IEP’s and 504 Plans ★★ ★★
Monthly newsletter with column about family activities - **WOULD NEED A VOLUNTEER** ★★
Community day, Family Fun Day - date is already set 6/17/23 ★★ ★★

Being done by other organizations/things that BECA cannot do:

Bring your parent to school day
Involve parents in classroom, see what is going on firsthand.
Reading to children, volunteer in other capacities.
UCONN PEP (FRC)
Play and learn groups (FRC) ★
Father’s group (FRC & Parent & Child?) ★
Sparkler (WIC, Parent & Child & FRC) ★
Raising Readers (FRC)
Family nights (FRC - select schools)
Parent Square - Bristol Schools ★
Conferences - Bristol Schools
Play groups at new academy, father's group at new academy (to include the entire community)

BECA Committees:

Health – Next Meeting: January 10, 2023 at 3:00 p.m. – all are invited to attend the meeting to hear a presentation on Behavioral Health in Bristol schools by one of the school psychologists.

Infant & Toddler – Next Meeting: January 17, 2023 at 1:30 p.m. – still designing a schedule for speakers.

Transition to K - Next Meeting: January 9, 2023 at 3:45 p.m. – A pilot program will be starting at Southside.

Outreach – Polar express had over 200 people in attendance.

Community Sharing:

Bristol Public Library: Has lots of events scheduled, please visit the website or Facebook page. Next week a Big Purple Gorilla will visit. Beginning this Sunday, the library will be open from 1:00 to 5:00 on Sundays.

<http://www.bristollib.com/>

FRC: Playgroups are up and running. All three FRC’s will be beginning “Girls Group”. Greene Hills will be holding a bilingual Father’s Group. The Pet Partners Program is looking recruiting for well behaved dogs and scheduling visits. <https://sites.google.com/bristol12.org/bristolfrfc/?pli=1>

Andrew Howe: Shared that the Bristol Park & Recs will be holding a “Swim with the mermaids/man on Dec. 28th from 6 -8 p.m.. Space is limited and folks are asked to register at

<https://bristolct.myrec.com/info/default.aspx>

Next meeting: February 1, 2023 (on ZOOM)