

Bristol Early Childhood Alliance

Zoom Meeting Notes

June 2, 2021 (11:00 – 12:00 p.m.)

In attendance: Meagan Adams, Maureen Eaton, Cecilia Gary, Sandra Godin, Lauren Kittle, Kate Kerchaert, Donna Koser, Karen Lombardi, Donna Osuch, Aysa Perez-Dean, Mary Alice Petrucelli-Timek, Catherine Plourde and Valerie Toner

Members were invited to introduce themselves.

Community Outreach – Donna K. shared a video highlighting what was accomplished by the Alliance despite the pandemic. On July 24th, BECA will have a table at the Farmer's Market where "Adopt a Reading Buddy" will roll out into the community with thanks to the Bristol Rotary.

Collaborating Grants:

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

The Early Childhood Funder Collaborative Grant has been awarded to Bristol. A new component to this grant was an addition of Parent Ambassadors who will be Liaisons to the Office of Early Childhood and BECA. SR Member Jennifer St. John and PTLI Alumni Chandle Benson have accepted this role. An additional \$10,000.00 was also awarded to Bristol and anyone interested in helping to plan regional collaboration please reach out to Donna at dkoser@uwestcentralct.org.

Sparkler is ongoing and Bristol Preschool, Imagination, Bristol Head Start and Whiz Kids will be joining the program.

Committee Reports:

Infant & Toddler – The committee continues to move forward with the Breastfeeding in the Park event planned for August 7th with a rain date of August 8th. The committee will meet next week.

Health Committee – met yesterday. Wellness Wednesday posts continue monthly on Facebook. The committee is looking for content to post. Tomorrow, Shoprite and the Health Committee will be at BECC handing out Tasty Tuesday's information to families. A video has been posted on Making Bristol Better with a focus on Watermelon and healthy eating. Packets, including activity sheets will be provided. Community Gardens are beginning to pop up. Parent & Child Program is currently working on a garden in front of the building as is Public Works for Cambridge Park. Eats in the Streets is still in the "talking" phase.

Transition to K. – Kindergarten Parent Orientation was held last week throughout Bristol. Each school was provided a universal PowerPoint presentation and specific information was added for their respective school. MAPT was included in the Southside Orientation meeting and reported that it went very well with break out rooms with K teachers. Parents asked many questions, including "do our children need a uniform?", etc. There are 435 current enrollments for Ready4K. Informed trauma messages have been ongoing and parents surveyed reported that the app is helpful with 100% reporting that the app has helped their child learn and grow. The firetruck on the first day of school ride drawing is planned for June.

Community Sharing:

BBHD – Shoprite is offering a virtual program for expecting mothers on the 10th and 17th. BBHD is offering \$15.00 Farmers Market vouchers to families who are enrolled with WIC and SNAP.

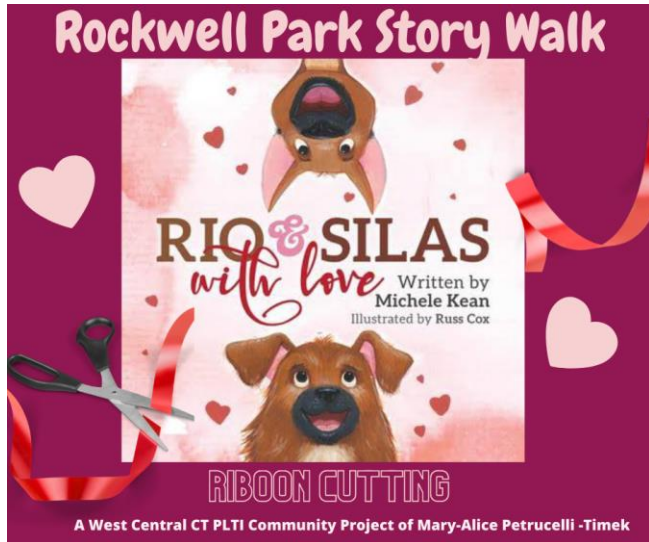
MSCF – Watch the website www.mainstreetfoundation.org for information on the Women & Girls Fund and the Men and Boys Fund. Grant announcements for both are expected to be released Mid July/Early Aug. The WOW event is planned for Sept. 8th. Please call the Foundation at (860) 583-6363 to purchase your tickets.

Child First – Still working on the Waitlist. Please continue to refer families.

Bristol Preschool – Summer Camp Program will be offered this year.

United Way - American Rescue Plan Act Produce Box Program events are planned for June 3 and June 17, 2021 from 4:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. or until boxes run out at Bristol PW Garage (95 Vincent P. Kelley Road, Bristol, CT). Please share the event widely from the United Way of West Central CT Facebook page.

Mary-Alice – This Sunday, June 6th at 10:00 a.m. at Rockwell Park is the Ribbon Cutting for her Parent Leadership Training Institute Community Project.



Parent & Child Program: Development Playgroups “Learning through Books” is wrapping up. Next sessions begin in July. This summer Parenting 101 and Empowering Fathers Group will also be offered. Enrollment can be found on www.bristolrec.com. The Caring Closet is available by appointment only. (860) 314-4690

WIC – The fruit & vegetable vouchers has been increased from \$9.00 to \$35.00. WIC also will have \$15.00 Farmers Market vouchers available.

Bristol Library – June 21st begins the Summer Reading Program both in person and virtually. Brochures to Bristol preschools and elementary schools will be provided this week.

FRC – School year is winding down. Currently working on connecting children to summer scholarships for summer programs and signing families up for back to school backpacks and supplies. Linda Rich is retiring this year and the plan moving forward will be forthcoming.

NEXT BECA MEETING: August 4, 2021