

Bristol Early Childhood Alliance

Zoom Meeting Notes

March 2, 2022 (11:00 – 12:00 p.m.)

In attendance: Meagan Adams, Maureen Eaton, Cecelia Garay, Tracy Kasinski, Kate Kercheart, Lauren Kittle (partial), Donna Koser, Nicole Lambert, Karen Lombardi, Donna Osuch, Catherine Plourde, Mary Alice Petrucelli-Timek, Kara Singleton, Jenn St. John and Leo Suazo

Members were invited to introduce themselves.

Collaborating Grants:

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

Funding from the Early Childhood Funder Collaborative Grant provides funding for regional meeting of early care and education providers. Our first event was well attended for a presentation by CT Ears. The committee is looking into speakers and next date.

The Main Street Community Foundation has opened up its General Grant Cycle and all applications are due on March 25th. Anyone wishing to apply must contact Kate prior to completing the application. The following members shared a few applications that will be submitted:

Mary-Alice will submit a grant on behalf of School Readiness to assist teachers in the classroom. Devices for teachers that will allow teachers wearing masks (or not) be heard by all. This will help address the language development of children since the pandemic where they can clearly hear emphasis of words, tone, etc.

United Way is submitting a grant for Capacity Building for our nonprofit community in the four town served by the UW.

Bristol Child Dev. Center is submitting a grant for their program.

The SR RFP will be submitted soon. All programs that meet the SR requirements will be submitting their proposals by March 10th. This grant brings close to 3 million dollars to Bristol.

Re-invent, re-imagine-re-vitalize

Members went out into break out rooms to discuss the following:



Small Group Questions:

1. What do I want to know about the impacts on developmental delays/milestones due to the pandemic?
3. My recommendation for a potential speaker for our April BECA meeting.
4. My recommendation for future topics.

Group 1

Maureen, Mary-Alice, Cathy, Liz, Kara and Donna O

Want to learn about the impact on all ages of children. What do we look forward to - what is happening across the board for youth?

Teacher expectations and standards - are standards being lowered? Another part of CT is lowering academic standards at high school level.

How is data being tracked, and is there a central place for it? We need data to understand what is truly happening.

Should we take the curriculum backwards and take our students back two years? Especially for those who are just learning to read.

Panel - pediatricians (concerns from children/parents), School Psychologist or Social Worker (elementary school) and Central Office Staff Member for data collection and plans.

Group 2:

Karen, Jenn, Cecilia and Nicole

Speech delays that COVID has had on children. Global delay is the new term for those born during the height of the pandemic. Quarantine for the first year of their life and with masks all sounds were muffled.

Future topic - psychologist what kind of mental effects has the pandemic had on children. How are the ever changing routines affecting children? Scared and terrified to take off their masks. What is going on in the heads of our children? Behavioral wise - how are students able to interact with other children. Are they acting appropriately or having outburst/melt downs? Emotional Trauma from COVID.

Group 3:

What do we want to know? How reversible are the effects we are seeing? Range of effects. How the home situations impact delays over all (other children at home, only child).

Remedies - by age or other situations.

Speakers - partner with Birth to 3 and see all the influx with children and if we are seeing the same issues.

Mayor to discuss legislative changes due to the pandemic and how mental health is impacting the community.

Long term effects of children who had COVID and if that plays into their brain and body functions.

Robots that were set up with Autistic children - seemed to be an overall great experience for those children.

Discussion: It was decided that our April meeting will consist of a panel. We will submit questions prior to the meeting. Assigned tasks: Mary-Alice and Catherine to reach out to a pediatrician. Leo to help create questions for the panel.

Community Sharing:

MSCF – The Foundation has opened up the General Grant Cycle. For those who anticipate to apply, please reach out to the foundation before completing the application. <https://www.mainstreetfoundation.org/apply-for-grant>

United Way – Vita Appointments are continuing at the United Way of West Central CT; 440 No. Main Street, Suite D in Bristol. To make an appointment, call 860-356-2000.

Bristol Child Development Center - The Center received a generous grant and is asking for connections to chefs/nutritionists.

Next Meeting: April 6, 2022 at 11:00 a.m.