



March 4, 2020

11:00-12:00

Bristol Board of Education Room – Room #36

**Members Present:** Maureen Eaton, Cecelia Garay, Kate Kerchaert, Laruen Kittle, Donna Koser, Karen Lombardi, Alyssa McGhee, Donna Osuch, Mary Alice Petrucelli-Timek, Catherine Plourde, Rebecca Rossi, Valerie Toner and Martha Bravo.

**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:** Donna thanked Cecelia, Mary-Alice and Maureen for liking our guest reader on Making Bristol Better's Facebook page. She also invited all members to like and follow Making Bristol Better. Liking, sharing and commenting increases exposure to the great accomplishments of the Alliance and all of the members/partners.

**Collaborating Grants:** 1. The Collaborative Foundation has delayed the the announcement of grant awards until the Atty. General signs off of the awards. 2. Bristol has not yet heard about the letter of intent that was submitted for the Caplan Grant. 3. The Main Street Community Foundation grant cycle is currently open and applicants are asked to speak with Kate if they plan to apply. Due date is March 27<sup>th</sup>. 4. CBDG has not yet been announced. 5. Stocker Foundation Grant has changed its guidelines to include STEAM (brochure was provided). 6. United Way has submitted a grant on behalf of BECA for bussing children in Cambridge Park. If you are applying for grants, please let BECA members know how they can assist and/or partner/collaborate. Collaboration is required for many grants. The Parent & Child Center has requested nominations for the "Harvard Pilgrim HealthCare Foundation" grant. \$5,000.00 sweepstake would be used for food and feeding families. Lauren will email Donna K. information if members could also put in a nomination on their behalf.

#### **Subcommittees:**

**Infant & Toddler** – The committee had its first combined meeting with the Phase II committee. Discussion on what each committee hopes to accomplish and what will continue was shared. Dr. Bartle's suggested members read "Glow Kids". The committee may decide to use it for a "community read" to bring awareness to the overwhelming amount of children who spend more time on electronics and less time reading. The committee's newest member shared the grand opening of a "Milk Bank" in Glastonbury. Birth to 3 was represented by Kate whose focus is autism. Kate will begin to also participate in Case Consultation meetings. A guest speaker, who facilitates a "Baby Box" initiative, will present at the March 24<sup>th</sup> meeting.

**Health** – The committee met yesterday. Sanitarians continue hand washing programs with preschoolers and to date have reached 508 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". The upcoming "Dine & Discuss" will have a "TED Talk" presentation with a discussion around Dr. Nadine Burke Harris' book "The Deepest Well". The first 50 who register will receive a copy of this book. The committee has selected "Even Super Heroes Have Bad Days" for the "Little Read". The book will be used for the week of the young child. The Bristol Burlington Health Department will be purchasing the books. The committee will partner with the Park, Recreation, youth and community to begin a Park RX program in early spring or early summer. The health committee will write a letter of support to increasing outside activity and family participation in the community. This letter will be handed out with other important information to families.

**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. An evening presentation will be held on August 18<sup>th</sup> for those families who missed the May date. Also on August 18<sup>th</sup>, Countdown to Kindergarten, with

a focus on children who have not had a Pre-K experience, will be held from 9:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. at the Bristol Public Library. Early notification is in process and Mary-Alice has heard from all but two of the programs. As of today, Bristol knows of 390 children to enrolled in Kindergarten. Kindergarten registration opened on March 2<sup>nd</sup> - Spread the word. Medical/Physical/immunizations also need to be up to date to attend Kindergarten. Dine & Discuss will be held at Hubbell School on April 29<sup>th</sup>. The focus will be around Adverse Childhood Experience (ACE) and how this impacts learning. All BECA/SR members are welcome to attend. There will also be discussion around the lack of “play” and how this also impacts children.

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

**Child First:** Managing a tiny wait list and still taking referrals for children age 0-5 who present with behavioral and/or emotional issues.

**United Way:** VITA tax preparation is ongoing for families/individuals who make \$56,000.00 or below. Contact 860-356-2000 to make an apt. Donna O. invited all members to the Community Builders Reception being held on April 8, 2020. On April 30<sup>th</sup> a Dementia Friendly Champion presentation will be held at the TRIAD Annual Conference. The community is invited to become a “Dementia Friend”. The goal is to become a sensitive community and businesses, shops, etc. are encouraged to participate. Day of Caring will be held on May 15, 2020. Non-profit agencies are asked to get their projects to Donna O. soon. Members are invited to volunteer at a variety of location, reach out to Donna O. at [dosuch@uwwestcentralct.org](mailto:dosuch@uwwestcentralct.org) for more information.

**Park and Rec:** Spring Gala will be held on Saturday, April 4<sup>th</sup> from 10:00 to 2:00. It is a family event at the Bristol Public Library. \$10.00 will pay for a picture with the bunny. On April 7<sup>th</sup>, registration for summer camp opens. Non- resident registration opens on April 8<sup>th</sup>. The annual Fishing Derby will be held at Rockwell park this year on April 25, 2020 from 7 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.

**Main Street Community Foundation:** WOW (Wonder of Women) event will be held on Tuesday, April 21<sup>st</sup> at the Aqua Turf. Very nice event and members are encouraged to attend. The \$60.00 ticket price helps fund the Women and Girls fund. 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.

**Library:** The March Calendar has been posted. Valerie invited agencies/organizations who impact children and families to set up a table at the library during April vacation.

**Health Dept.:** Catherine reminded present members that the best way to avoid colds and flu is to wash your hands, cough in your sleeve and avoid touching your face and mouth. Catherine also shared Shop Rite information that was provided by the new Dietician who attended the Health Committee meeting.

**WIC** – Karen noted that she was trained as a “Dementia Friend” and recommends others to attend this training.

**Wheeler:** ECP is less intense program than Child first. Current waitlist is about 1 to 2 months. Currently working in one of Bristol’s preschool classrooms. Please contact Alyssa McGhee at [AMcgee@wheelerclinic.org](mailto:AMcgee@wheelerclinic.org) if you have an individual or a classroom that needs support.

**Parent & Child Center:** Spring events (Gardening, etc.) will begin soon! Circle of Security is available for community members and if members are interested in participating in the May classes, please reach out to Lauren at [lkittle@bristolhospital.org](mailto:lkittle@bristolhospital.org).

**Next meeting April 1, 2020 - 11:00 Rm 36 @ BOE 129 Church Street**