

Bristol Early Childhood Alliance

Zoom Meeting Notes

May 5, 2021 (11:00 – 12:00 p.m.)

In attendance: Meagan Adams, Cecelia Garay, Lauren Kittle, Donna Koser, Karen Lombardi, Shannon Michelson (UW Intern), Donna Osuch, Valerie Pelletier, Catherine Plourde, Mary Alice Petrucelli-Timek and Coral Richardson & Mindy Wallen.

Members were invited to introduce themselves.

Community Outreach – Donna K. shared an update from the April committee meeting. The committee is working on a plan to begin submitting articles to the Bristol edition with information on the great things the committees are working on. The committee also plans to expand the committee into the community to widen the reach of possible projects, potential funding and people who can and will implement them into the community.

Collaborating Grants:

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

The Early Childhood Funder Collaborative Grant has informed Bristol that a contract will be forthcoming. However, at this time we are unsure if we have received partial or full funding.

The Parent & Child program was not awarded the OEC Home Visiting grant as anticipated.

No update on Sparkler.

Committee Reports:

Infant & Toddler – The committee met this past Monday. Discussion was held around a position with the BOE that might be eliminated and the value of having this position available in the community. The Park and Rec Dept. held a “snack in the park” pop up event for Child Abuse Prevention Month and hopes to have several more events/topics throughout the summer.

Health Committee – met yesterday. Cathy asked everyone to send content to dkoser@uwestcentralct.org for Wellness Wednesday posts on Facebook. Tasty Tuesday’s enrollment was down again last month and hopes to increase participation by partnering with the families at the BECC. The committee continued discussion on “community gardens in Bristol” to promote healthy eating and looking into ways to implement garden pots “Eats on the Streets” in the community where anyone can enjoy a snack.

Transition to K. – Ready4K numbers continue to drop due to parents who have opted out. Mary-Alice is actively working on increasing enrollment by accessing incoming Kindergarten parent cell phone information. Donna asked everyone to share the importance of registering early for Kindergarten. Parents might not realize that their child may not be able to go to their home school if they did not alert the BOE in time and teachers were laid off. The April “Dine & Discuss” went well with 33 participants. The committee will be looking at the data in the upcoming Transition to K meeting. Kindergarten signs have been ordered and are displayed around the community.

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>

Imagination: The museum is holding a “Sensory Day” event on June 20th from 12:30 to 2:30 p.m. It will be held outdoors and is limited to 50 people. Call Doreen to register. <https://www.imagination.org/>

United Way - Farmers to Families events are scheduled for May 8th and May 22nd. United Way will partner with Food share to buy 1000 produce boxes to continue the program in July & August. More information will be shared as it is known.

Bristol Preschool: Has spaces open for Summer camp. <http://www.bristolpreschool.com/>

Parent & Child Program: The Learning through books is continuing to go well. Registration on MYREC will be opening up for the July session.

WIC – providing benefits for children under 5, moms who are pregnant, breastfeeding or post-partum. There has been an increase in the fruit & vegetable vouchers from \$9/\$11 to \$35.00 per person. WIC also plans to continue vouchers for the Farmers Market.

MAPT: Mary Alice updated everyone on her PLTI Project “Story walk @ Rockwell Park” featuring a local artist Michele Kean and her book; Rio & Silas with love. A ribbon cutting event will take place on June 6th at 10:00 a.m. Mary Alice also shared a flier with a QR Code that will open up in your email. The email will automatically populate with the appropriate legislatures and a message. Mary Alice asked everyone to support this effort.

COMMUNITY MEMBERS: WE NEED YOUR HELP!

Many local early childhood programs rely on state funding to provide a quality early childhood program for children, support families with child care and pay staff a competitive wage. Please help legislators understand the need for funding for these programs!

SCAN TO LET LEGISLATORS KNOW HOW IMPORTANT THESE PROGRAMS ARE TO OUR COMMUNITY!

COMMUNITY

Next Meeting: June 2, 2021 at 11:00 a.m.