

Bristol Early Childhood Alliance

Zoom Meeting Notes

October 6, 2021 (11:00 – 12:00 p.m.)

In attendance: Meagan Adams, Maureen Eaton, Sandra Godin, Kate Kerchaert, Donna Koser, Karen Lombardi, Donna Osuch, Mary Alice Petrucelli-Timek

Members were invited to introduce themselves.

Community Outreach – Sunday posts will be highlighting the importance of “family dinners”. Family dinners have proven to increase connection of family members and contributed to minimize obesity, etc. If you have a family meal photo that you are willing to share, along with what you love about your time, please email dkoser@uwestcentralct.org.

Collaborating Grants:

The Early Childhood Funder Collaborative Grant has a component to this grant around “community trainings”. Please let Donna K. know ASAP if you are interested in attending the Community Quality Improvement:

CQI #2: Tuesday, October 26 9:30-11:30

Members present completed the following for the October 26th CQI meeting:

Walk-through Template for Note-Taking

1. Parent Looking for Services

Area	Notes on Content and Process	Recommendations to Consider
What concerns do you have about your child? What services are you looking for your child?	Not applicable to BECA. We do share information on Sparkler and Ready4K, Kindergarten registration, etc. on both our website and Facebook	Ask all members/providers to conduct this walk-through for their program.
Was it easy to find the organization and services for your child via internet search?	Not applicable, but our website and Facebook page can be easily searched as the Alliance/Making Bristol Better.	Look to see if BOE has a place for Making Bristol Better on their website.
Was the website parent-friendly and helpful?	Website is one Giant Scroll down. You have to go all the way down to the bottom to find information. There is no highlighting of information. Could we put the ZOOM link for our meetings right on the website? Add Google Forms for parents to share their interests.	Buttons on the top allowing visitors to sort. Maybe look into a Google site.

<p>First call or email: What was this call/email like? Welcoming? Useful information, follow up?</p>	<p>Yes welcoming.</p>	<p>We need a google form for parents who are interested.</p>
<p>How long did it take to get a response from your first call/email?</p>	<p>N/A</p>	
<p>Intake or assessment process (or other next step). How did this process go? Did you receive information that you needed at this time? Was it clear to you what the next step would be and how long it would take before you would receive more information?</p>	<p>N/A</p>	
<p>When were you first asked to engage as a parent and how did this feel to you?</p>	<p>N/A</p>	
<p>Other steps taken or processes</p>	<p>N/A</p>	
<p>Final session or transition to another next step – how did this transition go?</p>	<p>N/A</p>	
<p>Other observations</p>		

Other Recommendations		
<p>What surprised you most during this walk through? It was not easy to find local resources. Add a section for “Where do I go for help?”.</p> <p>What changes do you most want to make? Connect families to services in the community.</p>		

2. Parent Looking to Become Involved in Decision Making Process Walk-through

Area	Notes on Content and Process	Recommendations to Consider
As a parent, why do you want to become involved in the decision making process of a local community collaborative focused on children and families? What do you hope to accomplish?	This is an individual response. Each parent will have a different answer.	Add a google form to gather information from parents.
Was it easy to find the organization via internet search?	Yes it was very easy.	Share the website more often. Maybe create an awareness campaign. Other organizations/partners can be highlighted and promoted more frequently. Vice Versa. Get members/partners commitment.
Was the website parent-friendly and helpful?	Website is one Giant Scroll down. You have to go all the way down to the bottom to find information. There is no highlighting of information. Could we put the ZOOM link for our meetings right on the website? Add Google Forms for parent response.	Buttons on the top allowing visitors to sort. Maybe look into a Google site.
First call, email or meeting: What was this call/email like? Welcoming? Useful information, follow up?	It was welcoming and the Coordinator asked many questions to learn about the caller.	

How long did it take to get a response from your first call/email?		
What was the next step? How did this go?	Gather contact information from parent and follow up with email.	
How did you become involved in a decision making process? How did this go?	Members became involved to have more involvement in the community and understand resources available to families.	
Other step or process		
Other observations		
Other recommendations		
<p>What surprised you most during this walk through? One section “great pictures were really fun, but did not find an easy way to follow up (call/email). Perhaps a “I want to learn more” button and add a google form to address. Provide a deeper sense of what is in it for the parent? Why should they become involved?</p> <p>What changes do you most want to make? User friendly for parents. More ways to ask questions about events, committees, etc.</p>		

Committee Reports: In lieu of a meeting, Health Committee members were asked to participate in a webinar; *Weitzman Institute Childhood Trauma Webinar: COVID-19 and Beyond*. Infant & Toddler and Transition to Kindergarten meeting notes attached.

Community Sharing:

United Way - The next American Rescue Plan Act Produce Box Program event is planned for Thursday, October 21, 2021 from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 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.

FRC – The Family Resource Center was awarded a grant to offer UCONN People Empowering People (PEP) to the Bristol community and would love help with recruitment. The FRC will also be the recipient of the Broadview Grant. The event “Cocktails at Eight” will held on October 21st.

NEXT BECA MEETING: November 3, 2021

Transition to Kindergarten Meeting

September 20, 2021

Present: Donna O, Donna K, Rachael W, Kristen P, Meghan N, Maegan A, Sara C, Jen St .J, Mary-Alice P-T

Note- everyone can participate in a zoom meeting- just download the free app to your computer/laptop- and you can participate – We will remain virtual for the rest of the year.

Report on the Fire Truck Ride-First Day of school

- Ivy Drive- school winner- London Williams student winner
- Great press- Bristol Press, Hartford Courant Plus channel 3 News – news segment.
- Positive event- and message was to register your child on time to be able to participate.

Late Registrations- approximately 65 in the month of August

Using Ready 4 K- MAPT set up identifies in system to send these specific families a survey to ask- Why did you register later in the summer?

Survey went out twice-(August 26th (8 responses) and Sept 8th (27 responses) because of low response the first time. Total of the responses for two surveys equals 35- and that was 53% of the population

Answers:

- Recently moved to Bristol- 50% and 33%
- COVID related Issues –0% and 11%
- Lack of documents -25% and 37%
- Unaware of how or where to register 25% and 19%

The 3 reasons cited in the survey results – can be addressed- with additional communication and work.

When a person moves to Bristol- what agencies greet them- realtors/landlords- do these entities have associations? - How can we utilize these groups to share information about schools? Make them a partner in this- work with Chamber of Commerce

Idea to start having T/K city-wide meeting for parents starting in the Fall to address these issues- what documents will they need and how to obtain them/how to utilize the BOE website for on-line registration.

Other suggestions- reach out to Pediatricians have them use the “my charts” portal for children that should be entering K- with the link of BOE registration.- MAPT to talk to Cathy Plourde about this- to reach out to Pediatricians in community.

Starting in January- Center-based Programs in morning or evenings- have on-site time/space for parents to sit for the 10-20 minutes to do the registration with help. Idea- morning cup of coffee??(Can we get volunteers to do this???)

Utilize the Library- have registration day/week with computers available – and help from staff (volunteers) a coordinated effort.

Central Registration- you have to maneuver around the BOE sites to find it- have to go to Dept- and then click Central Registration- then Kindergarten Registration (will have current year and next year- different links)- Parents new to Bristol have no idea what Central Registration is- also most don't have any idea which school their child will be attending.

Solutions- MAPT to contact Amanda Hines- what we ask for:

A system right on front of BOE website- with button- that parents can just put in their address and they will be shown which school they will be attending (BOE use to have this many years ago.)

Also an easy link for incoming Kindergarten parents to click on and brings them to Kindergarten Registration for the upcoming year- We are asking parents to register in January 2022- for Fall 2022- Once system is in place- we can put this in our parent video how to register

Not retaining children that are Kindergarten eligible

In School Readiness a child can be retained- but waiver has to be signed off by Superintendent/Program teacher/Program and Parent. Student could have only been in that particular Pre-K for 1 year.

What is now going to happen- IF child remains in Pre-K and is K eligible- the BOE will not provide sped services- because they should be in K (home school) to receive them. This has not been happening – and they were continuing to receive services- making it very difficult to serve the children at BEC Ctr. It is overloading the BEC Ct system.

So it is parent's choice what they would like to do with their child- but you will have to spell out the consequences if this is the avenue they choose.

Also Commissioner Beth Bye indicated last week that SDE and OEC will not be touching the topic of changing the start date for K in CT- because of the Federal governments push to do universal Pre-K for 3 and 4 year olds – and they are waiting to see how this plays out.

Timelines for upcoming year

MAPT wants to review with Consultant on timelines and how this system can be seamlessly intertwined that all partners understand the reasons and rhyme – and we can utilize more social media and virtual presentations to explain specifics about registration and how the complete system works.

Case Consultation Committee Update

We will start in October- 2nd Wednesday of the month

10/13/2021

11/10/2021

12/8/2021

1/12/2022

2/9/2022

3/9/2022

4/13/2022

5/11/2022

6/8/2022 ** last day of school for BOE

As part of the agreement with BOE and Rachael's time (FY22 Supplemental funds) the time for Rachael will be paid for to assist with this Committee and also for her time in the SR and community Programs. She will also be observing students in the Centers- and making contact with teachers- so if they are unable to report challenging behaviors she will assist. It is our goal that Rachael will be on-site support (limited hours). – We hope to increase the use and strength of this committee.

Survey of in-coming K parents

Presently we 3 schools that have not submitted the completed surveys

These schools have been contacted and additional surveys were sent with the instructions for them to send the survey home with K children and have the survey returned- once collected to forward to MAPT@ SSS.

What have we learned at first blush?

- 199 - Surveys completed 44 no-PreK experience - 5 parents interested in GED/ESL
- 50 parents interested in volunteering/advocating

The other data collected will be reviewed and the full data will be reported to SRC when completed.

We use this data to look at community needs.

Ready4K

Presently we have **548 families** – We need to get new Pre-K3 and Pre-K 4 children in our community programs. –MAPT to remind Programs with template to do this task ASAP

What are we learning from information being collected?

Since we use trauma informed system- the resource information that is sent weekly- we can see what parents are clicking on (notes their interest)

Links to the following resources that have been clicked on at a higher rate

- Child's experience in school- commonly asked questions
- Child Development an information about Sparkler
- Create change in your local community
- Child help and how to learn how to make a difference
- Play and explore Safe places in the community
- Fun Programs n the community
- HRA Resources
- Family Needs- food and resources in community
- Immigration legal help
- Noticing early signs of alcoholism

We should use this information- to place similar information about these issues on Making Bristol Better- website and Facebook page.

Next Meeting dates

Meeting dates

Transition to Kindergarten FY 2021-2022

Place	Date	Time
Virtual Zoom	9/20/2021	3:45-4:45
	10/18/2021	3:45-4:45
	11/15/2021	3:45-4:45
	12/20/2021	3:45-4:45
	1/10/2022 * Note 3 rd Monday is MLK day	3:45-4:45

	2/14/2022 Note 3 rd Monday is Presidents day	3:45-4:45
	3/21/2022	3:45-4:45
	4/18/2022	3:45-4:45
	5/16/2022	3:45-4:45
	6/20/2022 (note school ends 6/8/22)	3:45-4:45

Respectfully Submitted, Mary-Alice Petrucelli-Timek



Infant & Toddler Meeting

Tuesday, September 28, 2021

1:30-2:30 on Zoom



Attendance: Kate Giampetruzzi, Lauren Kittle, Donna Koser, Tracy Krasinski & Mary-Alice Petrucelli-Timek,

After **Introductions**, brief discussion was held around future meeting dates. Donna K. to send out all dates with the minutes.

Sparkler: BECC received notification that Sparkler has been mandated for Bristol to monitor “All Children”. Kristen could not be in attendance and has been invited to the October 13th Sparkler meeting. In addition, Lauren will make a follow up call/text to Kristen to see how she may be of help.

Breastfeeding Event: Event was well attended and participants were able to have meaningful conversations with attendees. Partners included ShopRite who provided snack and water and had free goodies for families, WIC, Parent & Child Program, BECA, Bristol Lions Club.

WIC: No Updates.

Community Sharing:

Kate; Creative Interventions Birth to 3, shared that they have accepted a contract for comprehensive services. In addition, the program will be branching into Massachusetts. Creative Interventions has been busy. With staff shortage, services to Bristol have been on hold since June. Kate announced that they just opened up for referrals from Bristol this week. Visits are in the family environment or remote depending on the family.

Tracy, Child First had changes in staffing this past summer. At this time there is no “Bristol Specific Team”; however, there are other teams available. Especially important since there is a high need in Bristol. Accepting referrals. Services will be slightly slower as they build caseloads for new staff. The bulk of services are in person; however, Telehealth is available.

Lauren, Parent & Child Program is in full swing of a diaper and wipe drive for the Caring Closet. An Amazon Wish List will be forthcoming. Intake requirements are an I.D. and form of income.

Next Meeting: November 16th at 1:30 p.m. on Zoom (Meeting date changed due to conflict with Health Committee)

Please also place the following meeting dates in your calendar:

December 14, 2022

January 11, 2022

February 8, 2022

March 8, 2022

April 12, 2022

May 10, 2022

June 14, 2022