

Bristol Early Childhood Alliance

Zoom Meeting Notes

September 1, 2021 (11:00 – 12:00 p.m.)

In attendance: Meagan Adams, Maureen Eaton, Cecilia Gary, Sandra Godin, Lauren Kittle, Donna Koser, Dawn Leger, Karen Lombardi, Donna Osuch, Jenn St. John, Mary Alice Petrucelli-Timek, Catherine Plourde and Mindy Wallen

Members were invited to introduce themselves.

Community Outreach – The Outreach committee was held on August 12th. Discussion was held around the roles of the Parent Ambassadors. It was also noted parents have concerns regarding communication from the district/schools. One strategy we are looking into is to create a “walk n talk” event to help parents navigate. We are looking for parent/community members who would be interested in helping to create posts for “Making Bristol Better” Facebook and/or to write articles for an online platform around committee goals, events and concerns.

Outreach – BECA held the following adoption events for “Adopt a Reading Buddy”: two adoption events and one book distribution at the Bristol Park and Recreation Music in the Park events, adoption event at the Bristol Farmer’s Market, August 7th Breastfeeding in the Park event and at Cambridge Park on August 20th. The remaining Adopt a Reading Buddies should be placed with children by the end of September.

On August 19th, 156 children received an ice cream and an appetite for reading book (some children took 2, 3 or more books) with approximately 400 books given out. Facebook posts have been consistent, Mary Alice shared post information from Ready 4 K that has been helpful for content.

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 and your date preferences for Community Quality Improvement:

CQI #1: Tuesday, September 21 9:30-11:30 am OR Wednesday, September 22 1:00-3:00 pm

CQI #2: Tuesday, October 26 9:30-11:30 am OR Wednesday, October 27 1:00-3:00 pm

Committee Reports:

Infant & Toddler – The committee held the Breastfeeding in the Park event on August 7th. The Bristol Lions Club had a Lion present for photos and sponsored the Ice Cream Truck, ShopRite of Bristol had nutrition information, bananas and bottled water available, WIC had beautiful giveaways, etc. Lauren polled the group to make sure a change from Monday meetings to Tuesday would work. The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, September 14th at 1:30 p.m. on Zoom.

Health Committee – The Health Committee did not meet during the summer months. The next meeting will be held on September 7th at 1:00 p.m. on Zoom.

Transition to K. – The committee just held “Ride on a Fire Truck”. London from Ivy Drive was selected by a raffle of names who were registered on time for Kindergarten. Mary Alice was able to ride the truck with London and reported that she had a lot of poise and grace for a 4-year-old. Ready4K exceeded the 500 mark and is currently at 538 families who are receiving text messages. Despite all the committee efforts, 50 children registered in August. A survey was sent to all those late registrants to help inform the committee. Questions as to why they waited included: Was it due to COVID 19? Were you unaware how and where to register? etc. Mary Alice will share the report once it has been generated. The OEC is providing Bristol with extra funds that will be used for support staff. Support staff will assist the SR Grant Manager with Case Management meetings, Transition to K, etc. The next committee meeting will be held on September 20th at 3:45 on Zoom.

Community Sharing:

United Way - American Rescue Plan Act Produce Box Program events are planned for Sept 16 and Sept. 20, 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. Donna also thanked members who helped with the United "Adopt A Child" program. United Way was able to adopt 650 people who received a backpack, school supplies and a first day of school outfit. The United Way Golf Outing will be held in 2 weeks and Donna thanked all members who provided items for a raffle prize on behalf of BECA & SR.



**AMERICAN
RESCUE
PLAN ACT
PRODUCE BOX
PROGRAM**

**THURSDAYS: SEPTEMBER 16 AND 30, 2021
FROM 4:00-6:00 PM OR UNTIL BOXES RUN OUT
BRISTOL PW GARAGE AT 95 VINCENT P KELLY ROAD –**
Access facility from Lake Avenue via Cross Street to Vincent P Kelly Road.

ONE BOX PER FAMILY
Please check Facebook event or call 860-582-9559 for updates.

CONTACTLESS DRIVE UP DELIVERY

The City of Bristol and the United Way of West Central Connecticut have partnered with Foodshare to bring free food to those who live in Bristol and surrounding communities. FREE food boxes filled with fresh produce will be distributed on Thursday September 16 and 30 from 4:00-6:00 pm or until boxes run out at the Department of Public Works Garage at 95 Vincent P Kelly Road. Follow signs from Middle Street to Cross Street, right onto Lake Avenue and right onto Vincent P Kelly Road.

United Way
West Central Connecticut

COMMUNITY PARTNERS:
FOODSHARE

Bristol
CONNECTICUT
All Roads

**FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO BE A VOLUNTEER, CONTACT
THE UNITED WAY OF WEST CENTRAL CONNECTICUT AT 860-582-9559 OR
THE CITY OF BRISTOL ALL HEART HOTLINE AT 860-584-6253.**

Mary-Alice – held a recent conversations with teachers and staff regarding advocating, education and fundraising at Rockwell Park. Mary-Alice continues to ask those who care about early care and education to continue to advocate and get parents who are willing to fight for what is best for children and families and programs. Last week there was discussion with the OEC regarding SR reimbursement. They are not able change reimbursement for programs and encouraged everyone to continue to advocate at the legislative level.

Parent & Child Program: Development Playgroups sessions begin soon. Empowering Fathers Group continues to be offered. Enrollment can be found on www.bristolrec.com. The Caring Closet is available by appointment only. (860) 314-4690. Aubrey from Community Services has a table at the Farmer's Market. In addition to EBT cards PEBT cards for school age children can be used to purchase fresh fruits and vegetables.

BBHD – Continue to see COVID cases and encourages children ages 12 and up to be vaccinated. The Delta variant remains to be a concern in CT.

NEXT BECA MEETING: October 6, 2021