***Bristol Early Childhood Alliance***

ZOOM

Oct 5, 2022 (11:00 – 12:00 p.m.)

**In attendance:** Renee Daily, Maureen Eaton, Cecelia Garay, Sandra Godin, Chief Brian Gould, Sarah Guerette, Kate Kerchaert, Lauren Kittle, Donna Koser, Lt. Robert Osborne, Donna Osuch, Kristen Peck, Jenn St. John, Kara Singleton, Kristina Tanguay, Rachael Witkewicz and Kristi Wright (Operation Opioid)

**Introduction:** Maureen and Lauren welcomed all in attendance and asked members to introduce themselves.

**Collaborating Grants**: Donna will share information on a grant opportunity through the CT Dept. of Agriculture “CT grown for kids grant”, at the next health committee meeting.

**Presentation:**

Kristi Wright with Operation Opioid Inc. – provided an overview of the non-profit and the organizations goal to add 2 new canines to the Police Department. Kristi all shared the impact Operation Opioid has had in the community and the heartfelt thanks the organization has received from community members. If you are inspired to donate, please use the following donation link: [Donations accepted.](https://www.facebook.com/donate/453427253290786/) Checks made out to “Bristol PD Operation Opioid” can be mailed to the Bristol Police Department. Follow on Facebook for more information: [Operation Opioid Facebook Page](https://www.facebook.com/operationopioid/about/?ref=page_internal)

Chief Gould and Lt. Osbourne shared information on the multi-prong approach that the Bristol PD is taking. BPD history has been “enforcement”, however; enforcement targets the “dealers”. COBRA (City of Bristol Recovery Alliance) but has since moved to education and assistance. For example, a person who might have a “personal amount” of narcotics” can be directed to a treatment program. The BPD Lobby is also a “safe zone” where an individual can show up with narcotics, enroll in a treatment program and get the resources they need. It takes some individuals several attempts to overcome this addiction. Bristol was the first CT community to outfit the department with Narcan kits.

BBHD – Tina reported that Bristol’s overdose deaths have increased significantly - 2020 had 125 non-fatal overdoses with 8 deaths and to date (with the year not yet completed) there have been 85 non-fatal overdoses and 32 deaths in 2022. Narcan kits are provided through the health district – these include opioid kits to individuals in treatment and family members and others.

**Q&A**

What is Opioid –Opioids dull pain – examples: prescription drugs (Oxycodone, Percocet, etc.) and street drugs (Heroin, Fentanyl, etc.)

The Health Committee is alarmed by the data around Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome (NAS); children born to mothers who are addicted. Is there data of mothers? Currently, mothers are not disclosing. There are also concerns that they are not getting proper care while pregnant. Possible fear of losing their children.

Data collection, both local and state differ. For instance, the state might report an overdose in Bristol because of the person’s address; however, the person might have been in Hartford when the incident occurred. This makes it very difficult to report numbers, however, by looking at all data (local and state) we can be alarmed by the increase.

**Brainstorm Ideas:**

Making Bristol Better can share statistics, information for parents on what to look for in their home, etc.

WIC can text information to all enrolled families.

Share Resources with partners and agencies that connect with Bristol families.

Education – provide awareness and education across the community.

Explore a safe way for children to anonymously report concern for a friend. Follow up with “friend” and sit them down to chat about options, help.

Explore buttons in doctor’s offices “Ask me about drug use”. Also have resources available to support residents.

Share information on Mayor’s page.

**Committee Updates:** Sent via email to committee members.

**Community Sharing:** Donna asked all in attendance to email her items/updates to share.

**Next meeting: Nov. 2, 2022 (on ZOOM)**