

## **BLFLI Monthly Meeting**

Date: June 7, 2019

Time: 8:00am – 9:30am

Location: Beloit Public Library

**GUESTS:** Bill Flanagan, Courtney Schindler, Rachelle Elliott, Andrea Heckner, Monica Krysztopa, Kathy Pohl, Sue Stein, Regina Dunkin, Laura Anastasi, Megan Miller, Lisa Sandoval, Drew Pennington, Jan Knutson, Mary Stuedemann, Nick Dimassis, Carissa Boeck, Melody Wirgau, Mary Ellen Fuentes, and Amy Mitchell

### **Bill Flanagan – Welcoming Remarks and Progress Since Last Meeting**

Bill welcomed the group and gave an explanation and update about the news from the Beloit paper. Bill ensured that the BLFLI will still have a strong relationship with the School District of Beloit. Bill introduced Rachelle and thanked her for her excellent work in support of the literacy initiative for the past couple years. Bill reminded the group to RSVP for the BLFLI Recognition Luncheon on June 20<sup>th</sup> from 11:30-1:00pm. All RSVPs can be sent by email to Courtney at [courtney@statelinecf.com](mailto:courtney@statelinecf.com). Bill reiterated that for this initiative to continue to grow and expand, it needs to be bottom up and not top down. Bill gave a general update about today's agenda.

### **Rachelle Elliott – School District of Beloit, Early Literacy Director**

Rachelle introduced a set of materials from the Very Ready Reading Program for partners that may want to start their own reading times or play times that incorporate literacy. The reading materials are age separated so that you can purchase the one that most closely matches your audience. The materials come with songs, tips, and other literacy related participation activities to get the group going. Funding for these materials could possibly come through the Stateline Community Foundation during their next grant cycle. Rachelle explained that it's a well-organized set of materials that could engage partner audiences. Rachelle then discussed and passed out literacy materials (Read Aloud 15 and Talking is Teaching). Rachelle requested for the group to like the BLFLI Facebook page to see literacy updates and additional resources. Rachelle explained how the text for baby app will be posted on the website for a resource for pregnant mothers.

### **Monica Krysztopa – Community Health Systems and Courtney Schindler - SCF**

Monica and Courtney explained how the BLFLI calendar on the SCF website can be linked to partner websites and printed out for partners to use in waiting rooms, exam rooms, info boards, etc. Courtney explained how all events need to be literacy related and learning driven. Courtney will be sending out the form shown during the meeting and needs all partners to send in the event information form in advance once completed. She explained how each event needs its own form in order to keep information per event separate. She requested that all partners send in their forms for July, August, and September as soon as possible to [courtney@statelinecf.com](mailto:courtney@statelinecf.com) and will be officially due by July 1<sup>st</sup>. Email Courtney with any other information or questions. Courtney will be checking to see if the SCF website is translatable and printable as a PDF. Monica requested that individuals who have a passion for marketing/communications through the BLFLI, please reach out to her to help keep driving the initiative forward. Courtney also mentioned that for any organizations that might need the SCF logo or the BLFLI logo, reach out to her and she will send you the logo (could be used for banners, website, marketing materials, etc.). Monica discussed that the Marketing and Communications plan will be focusing on Day Care Centers and Corporate relationships and communicating through social media.

### **Partner announcements, plans, and reports on progress to date**

- Nutrition and Health Associates – Sue explained how their breakfast and books has been extremely successful. Sue mentioned how they received a \$3,000 grant to put towards literacy. Sue explained how their word wall is engaging parents and children to communicate with one another.
- RSVP – Laura explained that their America Reads program is getting stronger. Their goal is for students that are reading below grade level, is to be reading at grade level at the end of the year. Looking for volunteers 55 and older to expand their program.

- City Hall – Drew explained that the bookshelf has wrapped up their first year and have given out about 800 books. Renovations of City Hall will be completed this summer with an additional of a conference room but the bookshelf will remain standing.
- Todd School – Goal is to be able to get books on the buses for students to be able to use. Looking to add a reading component to parent and child events.
- Early Headstart – Lisa works with families from pregnancy to children three years old until they transition to Headstart as a home visitor. They provide activities that are simple at home so that they are more prepared when their children get into the school district. Early Headstart conducts three literacy events throughout the program year and have monthly play groups where transportation is provided. Lisa is continuing to push literacy in her visits and programs.
- St. Paul Lutheran Church – Summer literacy activities have been planned (Wednesday story time at the soup lunch, family fun nights where there will be different family literacy driven activities) from June to July. Volunteers are needed for story times every Wednesday from 12:15pm-1:45pm. Rachelle will be attending to do some readings and provide more literacy materials. They have also planned three fun family nights involving literacy and specific themes (5:30-7:00pm).
- Beloit Health System – Focus is to get the whole community on board with this initiative by having a literacy booth at the Music at Harry's place event. Working on giving out books as soon as the children walk in the doors of the hospital.
- Town of Beloit Parks – Working on implementing story walks in the parks. Looking to get funding for special projects.
- Blackhawk Tech/School District of Beloit – Megan explained how she is working with Jeff Hoyt from the housing authority to pair together with the high school students to make bookshelves to give out to children of section eight housing. Looking to add some adult level books so that children and adults can improve their reading. Please reach out to Megan at [mmiller@sdb.k12.wi.us](mailto:mmiller@sdb.k12.wi.us) if you know someone who is low income on community boards. She is working on a grant to incentivize low income individuals to participate.
- Beloit Area Community Health Center – Monica explained that she received a discretionary grant from SCF to get Highlights magazines to handout to their audience.
- Beloit Public Library – A tree is being installed in the children's center so that staff can meet the children to engage in literacy efforts. The tree is being used as a "wow" factor to engage parents as well before they get distracted. The library is started their summer reading club. They will also be starting pop-up story times when kids come into the library. In order to do this successfully they will need to work on training mentors to do these story times. The library will also be having a book sale.

### Upcoming Calendar of Events

- June 20<sup>th</sup> – Recognition Awards Luncheon 11:30am-1:00pm at La Casa Grande
- June 21<sup>st</sup> – Music at Harry's Place from 7:00pm-9:00pm

**SCF Grant Rounds: Discretionary grants are closed for 2019. Please contact Tara for any questions/requests.**

**Next Meeting: Friday, July 12<sup>th</sup> beginning at 8:00 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. at the Beloit Public Library**

# Developmental milestones & early learning in the digital age

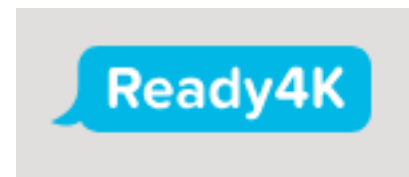


VROOM are daily activities on the app that relate to things families do every day.

<https://www.vroom.org/science>

Ready4K. - 3 text messages a week specifically for the age of your child.

<https://ready4k.parentpowered.com/>



Learn the Signs. Act early.

Free digital downloads of developmental milestones for each stage of a child's life.

<https://www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/actearly/index.html>

Text4Baby. <https://www.text4baby.org/>

Daily text messages sent to you about your child's development from prenatal to toddler years.



Just in Time Parenting. Free digital downloads in a monthly newsletter on all aspects of child development.

<http://www.jitp.extension.org/>

Healthy Children.org.

Free digital downloads about a child's development.

<https://www.healthychildren.org/English/ages-stages/Pages/default.aspx>



Baby Sparks has developmental milestones and early learning activities and videos for parents in English and Spanish. <https://babysparks.com/>

What to Expect has information for families' from pregnancy through the toddler years. <https://www.whattoexpect.com>



Wonder Weeks is a personalized weekly calendar of your babies' brain development. <https://www.thewonderweeks.com/>