



BLFLI Monthly Meeting

Date: July 12, 2019

Time: 8:00 am – 10:30 am

Location: Beloit Public Library

Guests: Bill Flanagan, Tara Tinder, Peggy Muehlenkamp, Kyle Larsen, Mary Stuedemann, Monica Krysztopa, Kathy Pohl, Janet Knutson, Pam Charles, Lisa Sandoval, Regina Dunkin, Drew Pennington, Sha-Nita Rhea, Erin Conway, Megge Casique, Bill Lock, Josh Lock, Sue Stein, Will Anderson, Hagen Harker, Alicia Wash

Tara Tinder – Welcoming /Comments/Announcements

Tara began with a thank you for participation in the recognition luncheon held in June. We are asking partners to submit names of persons who have benefitted directly from service that partners have provided. June 25th, 2020 is the proposed date for the next recognition luncheon.

No Small Matter will be shown on February 22 and 23 at 2:30 in the afternoon as part of Beloit International Film Festival. The Stateline Foundation would like to purchase tickets so individuals can attend free of charge. The teacher who is featured in the film may be able to join us for a question and answer session.

Bill Flanagan – Progress Since Last Meeting

Bill had 4 items:

1. Appreciation to the recipients of the recognition awards.
2. Appreciation to the rudder group for leadership – a paradigm will be introduced that will help to create sustainability for the Literacy for Life initiative
3. For the meeting in August, we are requesting activities for a 2020 calendar
4. The rudder group will be working with corporate partners who may be willing to support projects that you have within your organization

Peg Muehlenkamp – School District of Beloit

Peg Muehlenkamp from the School District of Beloit was introduced to the group. Peg introduced herself as an advocate for early literacy. She stated that the school district is committed to working with the initiative and the district is interested in a continued partnership with birth to 4 programming. The district will fill the position that Rachelle has held for the last 2 years. Peg said that the district wants to promote the progress started by Literacy for Life.

Members of the literacy partners spoke to the direct support that Rachelle provided to their organizations. They discussed that as a result of working with Rachelle a more positive, closer relationship with the school district has developed. They spoke highly of her coaching and leadership abilities to impact early literacy in their organizations. They also spoke to the fact that Rachelle helped entities initiate programming within their organizations. They requested that the Rachelle's position continue to have a strong modeling component. They see the success of Rachelle's mentoring efforts with the families they serve. Peg assured service providers that mentoring and relationship building is a top priority for the school district and the director's position. The group asked whom to contact with questions now. Peg said to contact her directly. Peg's contact information is available at 608-361-4033. The consensus is that we need to find someone who is not afraid to navigate within and among different cultures in a proactive way. Rachelle was very good at adapting to the environment within which she was working. We are looking for a person with a skill set that creates bridge building.

Tara reminded the group that books for children are available from the Stateline Foundation. Providers stated that Rachelle was able to select books that directly targeted children's needs and interests.

Mary Stuedemann-Rudder Group

Mary presented the structure for the Literacy for Life moving forward. The premise of the structure is to sustain the movement through the relationships that are built while doing the work. The outcome of the work is truly an economic development program. The partners appreciated that the structure is based on relationship building and support.

Monica Krysztop-Community Health Systems

Monica presented the work of the marketing committee to support marketing and communication within partner organizations. Monica shared a list of ideas, which were created by Monia Krysztopa, and Lisa Sandoval. The rudder group will support the work of the ideas presented. The partners provided ideas for how to enhance the ideas including literacy aps, high school students reading to students, reaching out to Spanish speaking children, and offers for volunteers for work on the podcasts.

Partner Announcement and reports on progress to Date

The group asked for a listing of partners. Please bring a list of the partners that you are working with at the August meeting.

Tara reported to the group that Gloria Heiss is interested in creating a book mobile for Beloit. Gloria will move forward with her research regarding the viability of a book mobile.

WIC – the building will be completed with early literacy focused “word art”. This has been an on-going project and its completion is a celebration for staff and families.

Culver's – July 17th will be Cone with a Cop at Telfer Park right before the Snappers' game. The time is 5-6 pm and there will be a book give-away. The fire department night will be from 6-7 on July 25th at Culver's. August 6th Cone with a Cop is 5-7 at Riverside as part of Night Out. August 10th 11-2 will be backpack give away for a cost of \$5 to the parent per child for a backpack. October will be fire safety.

Youth 2 Youth - Youth beautification team is working in Hackett neighborhood and along with LULAC will hold a national night out event. The group meets every Thursday. The group is partnering with the police department and city to give tips on safety. They are looking for ideas about how to incorporate literacy within their organization.

Wisconsin Extension Rock County - Discussed the largest program that they have is 4H. This is the first meeting for this partner.

Beloit Health System and Beloit City Council – Reach out and Read is continuing. Books are now distributed to children at the front desk

50th Celebration for Beloit Health System – August 17th 12-4– a good place for a table for the Literacy for Life

Gave books at YMCA for early youth program

At every council meeting there will be discussion to talk, read, and play with children.

The city council members will tour the city and report back regarding little libraries.

Regina Dunkin Day, Friday August 9th where book giveaways will be a focus

Head Start – looking for ways to recruit new children for their program. UW –Whitewater students will receive internship hours to provide literacy programming at the site.

RSVP – America Reads program that sends volunteers into the classrooms to read to students. They will recruit more teachers and classrooms as the grant funding has a greater focus on America Reads. The students also read to the volunteers.

City of Beloit – Bookshelf is in its new position. The city is committed to volunteerism within their entity. Asking for how to use underused plots that could focus on literacy. Tara asked how much it costs to “wrap” a city bus. Park and Rec is hosting Dirty Dash on Saturday Aug 24th where books will be distributed. Friday Aug 16 from 12 – 2 Clinton Park – Reading Carnival

New Zion Church – October 10th from 9-1 the event focuses on before birth to age 5. The baby shower giveaway items included books and Rachelle did a breakout session for modeled reading. The Wisconsin Literacy Council could provide the books if pictures are take of children receiving he books.

Tara asked for pictures of children with books for the webpage.

Beloit 200 is here as a learning mission. They want develop a way to be supportive of our mission. They would very much like to partner with our group.

Pam Charles stated the board’s gratitude for the work for the Literacy for Life Initiative. She restated the support by the board. The district is going to write a new strategic plan and it is important for the Literacy for Life to have a representative on that team. Pam requested to have an outreach for the back to school nights. She also stated the need to have high school students learn about brain development in babies as part of their high school experience.

St Paul Lutheran Church – two events are coming up July 16th – Taco Tuesday 5:30-7 and partnering with a sister church/ San Jose. The church youth are doing a children’s night focused on “animals”. Rachelle will conduct literacy training for parents. For the Night Out, there will be a “school supply store”. There will be a meal, story time and the praise band will play. Grazing with Goats will be July 14th from noon to 3. The June family fun night at St Paul’s had 60 people. It was a great success.

Welty Center has a grant and with the city now has signage about the history of Big Hill Park.

Next meeting: Friday, August 9th beginning at 8:00 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. at the Beloit Public library