

## BLFLI Monthly Meeting

Date: August 9, 2019

Time: 8:00 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.

Location: Beloit Public Library - Community Room

**GUESTS:** Bill Flanagan, Tara Tinder, Rachelle Elliott, Peggy Muehlenkamp, Kyle Larsen, Lisa Sandoval, Drew Pennington, Dr. Stanley Munro, Rich Franklin, Bill Lock, Josh Lock, Sarah Millard, Sue Stein, Monica Krysztopa, Erin Conway, Katherine Clark

**Tara Tinder** noted SDB Superintendent Dr. Stanley Munro was in attendance. Tara announced the abundance of books now available at the SCF. Please call before you come to pick them up. We now have T-shirts available. Please let Tara know what your size is if you would like one. Oct. 26<sup>th</sup> event at the last Farmers Market looking for volunteers to hand out books to the trick or treaters. Rock County Baby Shower to be held on October 17<sup>th</sup> at Blackhawk Tech. No Small Matter documentary will be featured at the Beloit International Film Festival on Saturday, Feb. 22<sup>nd</sup> and Sunday, Feb. 23<sup>rd</sup> at 2:00 pm at La Casa Grande. The Foundation will supply some free tickets for some of our partners constituents to attend. Tara encouraged our partners to go to our web-site and the Literacy for Life page and begin to fill out the “event” sheet that we can then place into the “Event’s calendar”.

**Bill Flanagan** thanked the SDB for their collaboration and support of the Literacy for Life Initiative and welcomed Rachelle Elliott back to her position as Literacy Director for the SDB. Bill also asked the partners to think about opportunities around our community where corporate sponsors could help facilitate signage etc. Tara and Bill are more than willing to make the ask to the corporate entities.

Drew Pennington reported back to us about the possibility of wrapping a city bus with the Literacy for Life logo. We will take this information back to the Rudder group to discuss budgeting and moving forward with this marketing idea. Drew asked if any of us were aware of peer mentoring to young parents? Several of the agencies spoke about the practices that they now do. The door for new ideas was left open to see if there a possibility of expanding this idea. The SDB has a grant called the Inspire Grant they may address this population with a peer to peer experience.

**Rachelle Elliott** provided the partners with several handouts and a short film. She emphasized the importance of developing our little one’s fine motor skills. Example: Playing with playdough, working with blocks are all skills that lead to the start of writing skills. Because of our society’s use of tablets etc. our little ones do not have the fine motor skills/pincher techniques as children in the past. Play is the work of childhood. She spoke about social and emotional development and ultimately getting them ready for school. Many of the participants today shared how important the information that Rachelle is sharing with them is for their clients. Many parents do not understand various milestone markers regarding social and emotional development of their children. When they are educated about this it allows for them to have a much better understanding about expectations and how to best handle situations.

**Monica Krysztopa** spoke about the Community Health Clinics backpack event to be held on August 12<sup>th</sup>. She also asked several of the partners if they would be willing to come in and present to the Dr’s regarding the work that they are doing with the same clients that the clinic sees. Anna will follow up.

**Partner Announcements** - Sue Stein was excited to share that for the first time WIC will share statewide a book entitled, “Sylvia’s Spinach” with over 400,000 thousand children. This came about because of a relationship that Sue has with a retired librarian from the Headburg Library. WIC is noticing a drop-in participation across the country and is attempting to understand why. Certainly, outreach is key. Using the Talking is Teaching information is reaching the 0-3 population. Sue indicated that they are now serving 2,400 children under the age of 3. Her program was also responsible for providing 502 new names of children who will be entering the districts pre-k.



Josh Lock gave an overview of what Culvers has been doing in their reach-out to the community. He spoke about the cone with a cop and fries with a firefighter along with the fair day and the touch a truck event. This Saturday is the backpack event where for \$5, a family can purchase a back pack filled with all the supplies a child will need for school. He also spoke about Culvers Scoopie Nights. He suggests that the non-profits get in touch with Culvers as the available dates go very quickly. These nights are designed to have a portion of the sales be given back to the agencies. At this time Josh Lock, Bill Lock and Rich Franklin presented Rachelle Elliott with the Culvers Hero Award plaque...much to Rachelle's surprise. There was applause and a few tears of appreciation for all that she has done for our partners and our school district.

Erin from UW Extension talked about the "Food Wise program" that is a county program in our schools. They have received a health initiative grant/nutrition and health that is also an educational tool for our students. There is also a presentation that is being offered free of charge at Blackhawk Tech by Michelle Weirick regarding a social/emotional and health/kindness curriculum.

Sarah Millard announced that the City of Beloit has a Fire Chief position open at this time. She also shared that the Parks and Rec will be hosting the annual Dirty Dash for children. All children who participate will receive a new book courtesy of the SCF and BLFLI.

Lisa shared that Early Head Start is going to be working with Career-Tek in getting a Little Free Library built for their site. She also brought new materials for the other partners to share with their clients. EHS continues to be a wonderful resource for our parents, families and children in preparing the for life and school.

Katherine Clark, the new head of communication at the BPL, introduced herself as this was her first meeting with us.

Kyle Larsen, teacher, SDB Board member and member of the BLFLI Rudder group shared that he is reaching out to local authors along with other partners to have an event that will allow children to get the books, meet the authors, QR codes on the back of the books all while not infringing on the copyrights. Sue Stein has a connection with a volunteer to get in contact with local authors. We will be updated on this as it moves forward.

Peg Muehlenkamp shared that the SDB is now moving into their new, "Welcome Center" She will be coming into the Foundation offices to select some books that will be available for children when they visit the center.

Dr. Stanley Munro, Superintendent of SDB shared that he and the district are committed and supportive of the work of the BLFLI.

Bill Flanagan wrapped up the meeting talking about making a calendar for the entire year that will be accessed on the BLFLI page on the Foundations web-site. He encourages our partners to think about what they will be doing in the coming year because the key to this working is access to this information.

Our **next meeting** will be held at the BPL on **Friday, September 6 at 8 a.m.** in the Riverside Room.

NEW BUSINESS:

Having no further business, the meeting adjourned.

Sincerely,  
Tara Tinder