



Friday, June 12, 2020
Virtual Meeting: 9-10 a.m.

Present: Bill Flanagan, Tara Tinder, Rachelle Elliott, Erin Conway, Debbie Fischer, Mary Ellen Fuentes, Andrea Heckner, Gloria Heiss, Monica Krysztopa, Cindy Laube, Josh Lock, Sarah Millard, Carol Mishler, Ana Montoya, Drew Pennington, Brenda Plakans, Kathy Pohl, and Sue Stein.

1) Welcome and Announcements from Tara Tinder, Executive Director, SCF

Tara welcomed everyone back to the table after a long absence! She reminded partners of the wonderful literacy article by Alan J. Borsuk for which Bill was able to get special sharing permissions. Read it on the news tab of our [website](#) if you missed it in our last mailing. Tara also wanted partners to know that during this COVID-19 hiatus Marc Perry was named Executive Director of Community Action, Inc.

2) Updates and Thoughts from Bill Flanagan, BLFLI Chair

Bill was pleased to see familiar faces and feeling fortunate to have platforms such as Zoom to resume our meetings and get a pulse on the COVID-19 impact while social distancing. He wished to share that he and Tara have had the goodwill of working with Sue Green, the Interim Superintendent for the School District of Beloit and it has been an extremely positive accord! Throughout this crisis, the district has continued food pick-up at several school sites and distributed over 900 books from our vault at the Foundation! Moving into the summer months, this will continue. With the addition of a reading project by Gloria Heiss (UW-Madison student and literacy intern), we hope to distribute another 2,000 books at local parks with a focus on Spanish speaking neighborhoods and those targeted as lower socio-economic "hot spots."

3) Read Alouds - Rachelle Elliott, Director of Early Literacy, SDB and Monica Krysztopa, Chief of Communications and Marketing, SDB

In lieu of face to face readings until we enter phases 2 and beyond of the pandemic, Rachelle and Monica lead a discussion around the possibility of recording books read by volunteers and making those available on-line as an organic initiative. Permissions need to be verified by publishers and where can we house those for public, legal access. A YouTube channel was suggested as opposed to direct recordings on particular webpages (district or Stateline Community Foundation) or Facebook. Monica also shared that to facilitate continuous summer learning, [free Wi-Fi](#) will be available on all school grounds.

Partner Reports

- **Carol Mishler (Early Headstart)** Working on census with family engagement and sub-committee for trauma taskforce. Encouraging a routine of reading before bedtime! Sarah Millard is also creating Census color pages!
- **Josh Lock (Culvers)** With the dining area closed (only drive-thru, curbside and carry out service at this time), all summer programs with the city (Cones with a Cop/Fries with a Firefighter) and other special community events have unfortunately been put on hold.
- **Sarah Millard (City of Beloit)** All recreation programming has been cancelled, however story time in the parks might still be possible per Lori's decision with Gloria's reading proposal. The splash pad opening is delayed, Krueger pool is on hold, and the Community Action large event had to be cancelled so donations went instead towards the backpack program. Hopefully, the Little Library projects will return!
- **Andrea Heckner (SDB – Todd Elementary)** All students and teachers were able to come and claim personal and/or curricular items. Summer school starts virtually on Monday, June 12.
- **Brenda Plakans (Welty Environmental Center)** Their doors have been shut since mid-March and consequently all summer camps have been cancelled. However, they've been fortunate to provide regular assistance with offsite work in gardens and outside activities. Re-purposed grant money for field trips has permitted 3 trips a week to area parks with 2 summer staff of Beloit College students majoring in Environmental Studies. She noted the School District of Beloit has a very helpful link for COVID-19 updates and a [Community Partners page](#) with links to organization websites.
- **Erin Conway (UW-Extension)** She shared measures that University of Wisconsin 4-H Division of Extension is taking amidst the pandemic on their [website](#), with most programs being canceled or postponed.
- **Kathy Pohl (St. Paul Soup Lunch)** They are continuing "lunch to go" on Wednesdays, wearing masks and gloves, and serving approximately 80 people! Some of these have been Hackett school families who will pick up an adult meal after the students have received theirs from the district. Books are literally flying out of their Little Free Library!
- **Drew Pennington (City of Beloit)** Due to COVID, their building is still not open to the public. The city hall bookshelf project is on hold, employees are slowly returning to their offices in preparation of Phase 2 guidelines.
- **Mary Ellen Fuentes (SDB – Todd Elementary)** Amidst the virtual learning, they've been adding different options, such as mindfulness and self-care for all families 4k-3rd grade. She also recommended the Colley Road Mobile Home Park as a community location for Gloria's summer reading program, targeted as a "yellow flag hot spot."
- **Ana Montoya (Community Health Center)** As an "essential care" facility, their books are also flying off the shelf. Next week they are collaborating with Second Harvest to extend food to the families they serve for health and dental care.
- **Sue Stein (Nutrition & Health Associates, Inc.)** They've been remote since March 9, reaching clients by phone/text which has been a challenge for getting out books. They did have a pick-up of essential items, including a book with a \$30 Janesville farmer's market voucher. Starting July 1, limited clients can come in to the office. Nearly 250 pregnant women have enrolled since February, so business is booming!

4) Calendar:

- Thurs, June 25 @ 7 PM join **FREE**, on-line screening of documentary [No Small Matter!](#)
- Next meeting date: Friday, July 31 (TBD if virtual)