



Friday, April 23, 2021
Hybrid Meeting (BPL / Zoom) 9-10:15 a.m.

Present: Bill Flanagan, Tara Tinder, Rachelle Elliott, Gloria Heiss, Kathrine Clark, Debbie Fischer, Mary Ellen Fuentes, Jan Knutson, Josh Lock, Sarah Lock, Cassandra Letcher, Kayla Oestreich, Mary Porter, Lonnie Randall, Lisa Sandoval, Trevor Seivert, and Melody Wirgau.

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

Components of the brain bags are almost all in hand, and conversations around assembly options are in the works. The bookmobile project is also making headway, with over 1,000 books ordered for distribution! SCF has become a member of La Voz de Beloit and provided books for their "Día Del Niño" on April 30th. Another round of Community Impact Grants will be available June 1-30th.

2) Introduction of New Partners

Welcome to Lonnie Randall, the new Executive Director for Beloit Head Start, Trevor Sievert, OLA Principal, and Cassie Letcher, OLA's Child Care Director.

3) Marketing & Pillar Updates: Bill Flanagan, BLFLI Chair

Pillar relationships continue to be very important in navigating the road to success for this initiative, and we seek to continually add to this list of supporting institutions and organizations. Naturally, the Health System is at the forefront of our brain bag project. Quint Studer's input and tandem literacy efforts with the new baseball stadium is timely and pivotal for continued forward progress. The success of the St. Paul Soup Lunch with their added literacy effort focus for adults and families is the perfect example of how our community can pull together and make a difference.

A reminder that the Community Section of the BDN will publish, *free of charge*, online submissions of a story or narrative of your organization with a photo. Partners are encouraged to build on this current BLFLI energy and capitalize on the power of this movement.

4) In Person Learning: Rachelle Elliott, Director of Early Literacy, SDB

[Talking is Teaching](#) has a plethora of resources for at home / in-person learning. Setting up an account is free! There is a [Community Campaign Guide](#), webinars, and a NEW indoor activity toolkit ([English version](#) / [Spanish version](#)) on the community home page. Read Aloud has suggestions for "Asking Questions" ([English version](#) / [Spanish version](#)), the May calendar AND a reminder to parents that what you *plant* now, you will *harvest* later: Click on images for links:



5) Assessment: Group Discussion

- a) What are priorities for your organization?
- b) What is in the pipeline (events/projects)?
- c) How has COVID-19 impacted progress towards goals?
- d) What do you need from us? How can we help?

The general feeling around the table is that COVID had a HUGE impact on practices and services provided, and only now are events starting to be scheduled as a hybrid or in-person type of setting. Priorities remain to provide continued support to clients (books/resources from meetings) all while trying to make gains from losses and reconnect with clients who fell off the radar who have suffered. Suggestions would be ongoing SCF grants for immediate needs, continued/increased book availability for distribution and possibly a short presentation (Powerpoint/video) that could be shared with clients, constituents and community members to rally additional awareness or support!

6) Partner Reports:

- **Katharine Clark (Beloit Public Library)**—Library late fees are being removed for juveniles and they are pleased to donate bookmarks to the Brain Bag campaign.
- **Gloria Heiss (UW-Madison Student/Literacy Advocate)**—Training has officially begun for the bookmobile intern, who she hopes to introduce at a future partner meeting. Requests for bookmobile stops are being accepted, contact her at gheiss@wisc.edu for calendar availability.
- **Debbie Fischer (Youth2Youth 4 Change)**- Continued work on Little Free Library stock and door repair around the community. Thankful for a SCF Community Impact Grant to put together hygiene bags which are being distributed via the LFL's. They are also overseeing a [canned fruit fundraiser collection for Caritas](#), with end goal of 500 cans by Friday, May 13th. Spread the word!
- **Mary Ellen Fuentes / Melody Wirgau (SDB Beloit: Todd)**—Happy to see students back in the classroom and looking forward to the bookmobile this summer, which already plans to meet at various school locations (with food trucks). Summer school will last 6 weeks, starting June 22.
- **Jan Knutson (St. Paul Soup Lunch)**— Church activities are slowly transitioning to “face-to-face” while the soup lunch remains in a “to go” format. We continue to stock our Little Free Library (where books are flying out) and our soup lunch book cart for kids and adults.
- **Josh Lock (Culvers)**—300 “free scoop of custard” tokens, similar for the school PBIS / Super Reader programs, are being donated for handout with summer bookmobile activities.
- **Sarah Lock (Director of Strategic Communications-City of Beloit)**—The City Hall bookshelf on the main floor is open to the public. The Trail Tales (Beloit Lagoon) has been extremely well received. [Beloit Public Works week](#) is May 16-22 and on Saturday, May 15th from 9am-12pm at the Beloit Farmer's Market, there will be heavy equipment and crew available to explain how these are used to serve the city, and a scavenger hunt will follow!
- **Mary Porter (BAREA/Literacy Advocate)** – Mary has said that many of their members, all retired educators, are slowly becoming aware of this initiative. A presentation would be well received in order to provide increased opportunity for future support.
- **Lonnie Randall / Lisa Sandoval (Head Start)** – They have been participating in the Farmers to Family Food Box Programs on Wednesdays and offered a free COVID vaccine clinic on May 2nd. Stay tuned for additional assistance via their [Facebook](#) page.

7) New Business/Calendar: Next meeting date is Friday, May 28th, 2021 at 9 a.m. in the Community Room. In person attendance is highly encouraged for improved communication!

(Please indicate if you prefer a Zoom option when you RSVP to Jamie@statelinecf.com)

Minutes respectfully submitted by Jamie Gurholt on 05/10/2021