



Friday, October 22nd, 2021
Hybrid Meeting (BPL / Zoom) 9-10:15 a.m.

Present: Bill Flanagan, Tara Tinder, Laura Anastasi, Derrick Carter, Katharine Clark, Kayla Oestreich, Brenda Plakans, Sue Stein, Maria Elena White.

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

A few important dates to note:

- Scholarships open on the website December 13th and close February 15th, 2022.
- SCF will do a scholarship presentation at CareerTek on December 15th at 6 p.m.
- Community Impact Grants open on November 18th and close on January 17th, 2022. With costs for products on the rise, we are fortunate to offer extra funds next year.

2) Rudder Group Updates: Bill Flanagan, BLFLI Chair

Our literacy event at ABC Supply Stadium was a wonderful celebration and we look forward to offering an awards luncheon in Spring'22. Recent momentum for change in the community through early childhood literacy has been via conversations in our Rudder Group and in presentations scheduled throughout the community. Cultivating essential relationships among pillars and especially partners and their extended branches doing the work “in the trenches”, people who have the trust and respect of our target parental and care-giver audience, is at the heart of our grassroots effort. Thanks to conversations and efforts from key Rudder Group members, these are a few of our current scheduled communications:

- Meet via Zoom with home visitors for Head Start/Even Start (Chelsea Miller)
- Visit parents and share “books & brain bags” at Beloit Early Start (Cindy Laube)
- Translate brochure into Spanish (Maria Elena White - La Voz de Beloit)
- Present to Beloit 200 in December

3) Literacy Materials & Resources: Rachelle Elliott, Early Literacy Director, SDB

Attending virtually, she reminded us of great, ready-made tools at our disposal on the Read Aloud website, including activity sheets for making a [Readatron 3-D Paper Robot](#) as well as other printable documents.. She also recommended a video highlighting 5 key “serve and return” brain building concepts for use with parents on the [Center on the Developing Child \(Harvard University\)](#) website.



4) Partner Reports:

- **Katharine Clark (Beloit Public Library)** In tandem with the City of Beloit, they held a successful Pumpkin Walk and Storytime at Eagles Ridge Park on October 12th. There is also a new posting at the library for a part-time early literacy position!
 - **Derrick Carter (Careertek)** They are focusing on 6th-12th grade [career exploration and readiness](#). From guest speakers, creative videos and job shadows/apprenticeships to resume and cover letter writing workshops, they aim to inform students about various careers in our community. Emphasis is placed on the relevance and incorporation of reading and math skills not only as a foundation for your job but also in life!
 - **Laura Anastasi (RSVP)** In addition to sponsoring a foster grandparent program (only 1 of 2 in the state of Wisconsin), they are also working in collaboration with Robin Stuht and Project 16:49 to support unaccompanied youth in our area.
 - **Maria Elana White (La Voz de Beloit)** Also a professor at U-W Whitewater, Maria oversees La Voz and is very excited to support our initiative. She has once interviewed Bill and Tara at a summer bookmobile event and often shares out our posts on their social media (Facebook and Instagram), which is now their main source of reporting to their nearly 6,000 Spanish-speaking followers after the decision to discontinue a printed paper. Her generosity and expertise are allowing us the opportunity to offer a Spanish version of our BLFLI brochure in 2022!
 - **Kayla Oestreich (Community Action)** Their Little Free Library is running out every week (good news) and she is looking for appropriate field trip experiences for 3-year olds in her daycare program. A possible partnership with Welty and P4J funding! New mentoring services and some agency changes are in the works. In collaboration with Hedberg Library and Beloit Public Library, CA plans to offer childcare while parents receive reading skills tutoring in March & April, 2022.
 - **Sue Stein (Nutrition & Health Associates / WIC)** Their programming has been impacted due to COVID, but they have still been able to distribute books as families pick up food. They are also starting distribution of the brain bags to both offices. 2/3 of their staff at WIC is bilingual, which is extremely helpful! They are working with HealthNet in Janesville and seeking a partner to help with walk-in vaccinations. With food and supplies costs rising, they were pleased to be a recipient NPO for Thrivent's diaper drive!
 - **Brenda Plakans (Welty Environmental Center)** They are finally meeting with school classes in person, but especially with Head Start students in outside spaces. Social Emotional Learning (SEL) skills are also being infused into the lessons.
- 5) **Calendar:** **There is NO November meeting!** Our next opportunity will be **Friday, December 17th** in the BPL, Room 111 (newer Blackhawk Tech spaces).

