



Friday, April 29, 2022
Virtual Meeting: 9-10:15 a.m.

Present: Bill Flanagan, Tara Tinder, Rachelle Elliott, Laura Anastasi, Derrick Carter, Samantha Freitag, Mary Ellen Fuentes, Jan Knutson, Cassandra Letcher, Chelsea Miller, Drew Pennington, Kathy Pohl, Lisa Sandoval, Sue Stein, Maria Elena White, and Melody Wirgau.

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

Tara reminded partners of the upcoming BLFLI Luncheon on Friday, May 20th at the Beloit Club. Quint is an extremely dynamic speaker and will undoubtedly have a memorable message to share!

Our nonprofit partners will be pleased to know that a second round of Community Impact Grants will be open for submissions June 1 – June 30, 2022.

<https://statelinecf.org/fund/community-impact-grant/>

An invitation card for the Beloit's Literacy For Life Recognition Luncheon. The top section is black with white text: "YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED TO BELOIT'S LITERACY FOR LIFE RECOGNITION LUNCHEON!". Below this, it says "KEYNOTE SPEAKER: QUINT STUDER" and "BUSINESSMAN, VISIONARY, ENTREPRENEUR, MENTOR". To the right is a photo of Quint Studer. The middle section features the Beloit's Literacy For Life Initiative logo and the Stateline Community Foundation logo with the tagline "Generating Positive Impact". The bottom section is a blue bar with white text: "Friday, May 20, 2022 11:30 AM - 1:00 PM", "RSVP: jamie@statelinecf.com or call 608.362.4228 by 5.13.22", "Beloit Club 2327 S Riverside Drive Beloit WI 53511 Program starts at 12:15 p.m.", and a yellow box with the text "Build a Brain, Build a Life, Build a Community!".

2) Program Updates & Recognition Luncheon: Bill Flanagan, BLFLI Chair

Bill seconded the incredible opportunity to collaborate with Quint Studer, and that our initiative is fortunate benefit from his lead of many well-established early literacy practices in Pensacola. We look forward to the addition of colors, numbers, games, and playscapes throughout the stadium that will reflect literacy engagement with families. The Beloit Health System video is currently being shared with new mothers, along with the brain bags. Tara added that we still have an abundance in reserve for additional NPO's serving families with newborns. More books have also been ordered to support summer events, including Juneteenth and family engagement opportunities. Examples of Family Services working with the city to include transitional housing with early literacy support, and Beloit College ramping up efforts to connect and collaborate with community NPO's is encouraging!

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

Rachelle referenced the "Too Small to Fail" resources for parents and caregivers, seen via information on the [Clinton Foundation](#) website and featured resources (Let's Share Kindness toolkit, science video, feelings video, and everyday tips w/downloadable PDF) via [Talking is Teaching](#). The Too Small to Fail approach:

"Through national and community-based partnerships, Too Small to Fail meets parents where they are to help prepare children for success in school and beyond. Whether at the pediatrician's office or the playground, Too Small to Fail aims to make small moments big by creating opportunities for meaningful interactions anytime, anywhere."

In terms of School District engagement, there have been wonderful opportunities with Welty for students and families, including camps students in grades K-5. The district is also prepping for summer enrichment programs (6 weeks); enrollment information is [HERE](#). Teaching & staff positions are also available.

4) Partner Reports:

- **Laura Anastasi (RSVP)** The Foster Grandparent Program is in initial contact and planning stage. All of their programs are supported by volunteers as there is no grant funding for staffing, however drivers taking Vets to Janesville and Madison are reimbursed for their mileage.
- **Derrick Carter (CareerTek)** 18+ summer academies meeting 1-2 days each; spots are available however these typically fill quickly. A waiting list will be kept. This year CareerTek awarded 14 academic scholarships, as well as CNA scholarships for a program starting in June. There is potential future collaboration with Clinton.
- **Samantha Freitag (Adaptive Alliance)** They assist with functional and social skills with adults and are always looking for ways to help the community! They enjoy assembly projects and can pick up / drop off all materials. (ex: BLFLI Brain Bags!)
- **Mary Ellen Fuentes/Melody Wirgau (SDB – Todd Elementary)** They are preparing for summer activities with students. Melody will be retiring as principal but remains a resource for families via local nonprofit organization Family Promise.
- **Jan Knutson/Kathy Pohl (St. Paul Lutheran)** On May 1st they are pivoting to in-person soup lunches! Attendance remains high, 120-150 guests per week. Novels, children's books and especially the little board books are popular. Between Sept'21-April'22 831 books for kids have been given out, along with 177 books for adults.
- **Cassandra Letcher (OLA Childcare)** Since 2019, they now support children 6 weeks – 12 years old. Like many childcare facilities, they have been short staffed and unable to attend outside meetings on a regular basis. In addition to regular care, they provide reading bags, tracking cards, and prizes to encourage family engagement and early literacy!
- **Chelsea Miller/Lisa Sandoval (Head Start/Early Head Start)** They work with pregnant mothers and support children from birth – age 3, including a space onsite for breast feeding moms. Currently they have 2 open positions: working with teen parents and as a home visitor. They will check to see if there is interest in requesting brain bags to distribute.
- **Drew Pennington (City of Beloit)** Childcare crisis remains a state-wide problem; Beloit is in the top 3 childcare deserts of Wisconsin. The recent survey indicates 50% of providers are leaving the field in the next 5 years. [Parent /Caregiver Equity Advisory Cabinet \(PCEAC\)](#).
- **Sue Stein (Nutrition Health & Associates)** All federal COVID restrictions will be lifted by Oct. 1, meanwhile people are encouraged to come in individually during summer for supplies, including a sleep sac with diapers & wipes for expecting mothers as well as BLFLI Brain Bags. Books remain popular (breakfast w/books program) and overall, they've distributed 735 books in 2021 and 105 through end of March this year. They continue to be the largest lead testing agency in the county. The state and county health departments are overseeing the screening and testing process. WIC is holding a pizza party in conjunction with the Hedberg and Beloit Public Libraires on June 13 & June 14. Kids activities will occur while parents are training with Blackhawk Technical College volunteers for school readiness, etc. Approx. 35-40 participants are anticipated for each session. NHA/WIC also plans to have an informational table at the Farmer's Market.
- **Maria Elena White (La Voz)** Spanish translating services are available for the community. New intern/staff Molly is helping 3-4 hours a day. They are also working on a course to help connect people to local services.

5) **Calendar:** The next Partner meeting will be Friday, June 17th at 9:00 a.m. Please RSVP to jamie@statelinecf.com and indicate if you will be attending in person or require a Zoom link.
(Meetings are at the Beloit Public Library - Blackhawk Extension Room 111)