



Friday, June 17, 2022
Hybrid Meeting: 9 -10:30 a.m.

Present: Bill Flanagan, Tara Tinder, Nick Dimassis, Mary Ellen Fuentes, Lara Hermann, Jan Knutson, Kayla Oestreich, Theresa Morateck, Brenda Plakans, and Lisa Sandoval

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

Tara reminded partners of the open Community Impact Grant window for applications through June 30th. <https://statelinecf.org/fund/community-impact-grant/>

Updates from the BLFLI Luncheon include so many positive remarks from attendees. A recent conversation with Quint Studer confirms that he has promised to not only cover the texting program for new mothers in all of Rock County, but also for all pregnant women prior to motherhood! As Mary Ellen Fuentes seconded from experience, parents respond much better to texts than calls or emails.

2) Program Updates: Bill Flanagan, BLFLI Chair

Congratulations to all of our luncheon awardees! Our connection with Quint is ensuring that literacy lives large in our community. Literacy elements are already in the works with Sky Carp at ABC Supply Stadium. There will be 1 more addition; a children's garden with a playscape to welcome families and enhance their engagement and so kids can interact in a very positive way. There will be another BLFLI Family Event at the stadium on Friday, August 26th vs the Peoria Chiefs. In working with the stadium authority, 250 tickets will be made available to us for our nonprofit partners and profits of all additional tickets sold to the game that day will be dedicated to BLFLI!

Bill Barth's recent article: "The Future Depends on What's In Our Kid's Heads" has been prominently posted on our newly updated website. [Check out both plus luncheon pics HERE!](#)

3) Partner Reports:

- **Brenda Plakans (Welty)** She is celebrating her 6th year with the Welty Environment Center. Unable to attend the luncheon, she truly missed the opportunity to interact with everyone, but appreciated the award and the ability for her staff to accept on her behalf.
- **Lara Hermann/Nick Dimassis (Beloit Public Library & Foundation)** They referenced their summer reading program and Ready to Learn program in collaboration with Community Action and PBS of Wisconsin. They are also in the discovery phase of a children's museum to be located on the top of the library. Its focus would be for children 2-5 years old. Funding and accessibility are TBD, which will largely depend on the philanthropy of the new city manager.
- **Sue Stein (Nutrition & Health Assoc / WIC)** Confirmation that food vouchers/checks available to mothers can be used for fresh produce at the Farmer's Market. All her recent energy has been to prepare staff for her official retirement, which is today! Thanks to BLFLI for being the "secret sauce" in uniting nonprofits to support all local kids & families with trust, respect, and honesty!

- **Mary Ellen Fuentes (SDB – Todd Elementary)** Preparations are being made for summer activities with students and a new building principal, who they trust will follow in Melody Wirgau's footsteps! Another 5-year grant was just approved to work with Welty Environmental Center. Staff are working concessions at ABC Supply Stadium to raise funds to support their pantry and offer tickets to families who would like to attend baseball games. 600 books are being donated by various sources to offer to students at the pantry and for books on bus trips.
 - **Jan Knutson (St. Paul Lutheran)** They supported lunch "to go" for 109 weeks but are back in person. Numbers are lower now but expected. Communication moves slowly by word of mouth. They continue to highlight books for both kids and adults, although distribution numbers have dropped, which is also typical of early summer fatigue.
 - **Lisa Sandoval (Head Start/Early Head Start)** Programs are based off 3 models: Home-based, Center-based and for Teen Parents. She commented on examples of visible success, such as effectiveness of Jamarr Elliott in meeting people where they are at (J'Doo's Barbering), and also seeing an attendee at the luncheon who was a former client and is now supporting others in need. Fatherhood plays a big piece too! Tara added that many success stories have additional mentors behind the scenes, such as the positive power a black, male pastor has upon young black men.
 - **Theresa Morateck (SDB - Kolak)** She regrets not being able to attend the luncheon but is excited about the future ABC Supply Stadium/BLFLI event, building a love for reading throughout the community. The district has recently adopted a new reading program, ARC ([American Reading Company](#)). They are seeing positive, early results in benchmarks, hoping to break the cycle of low 3rd grade reading scores, instilling a love for reading but also in learning the mechanics to become a successful reader. Their goal is to further develop a strategic plan with the community since the district cannot do the work alone. Tara emphasized the importance of reading specialists to support students at all levels of literacy.
 - **Kayla Oestreich (Community Action Child Care)** Ongoing issue of people misusing "drop-in care" for "drop-off care." CA is trying to diversify their books during pride month and is in the process of planning field trips for PK-4 with public schools.
- 5) Calendar:** The next Partner meeting will be Friday, August 26th 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)

STAY TUNED FOR INFORMATION REGARDING THE FRIDAY, AUGUST 26TH BLFLI FAMILY NIGHT AT ABC SUPPLY STADIUM!!

