



Friday, August 26, 2022
Beloit Public Library
9 -10:30 a.m.

Present: Bill Flanagan, Derrick Carter, Jessica Graminski, Andrea Heckner, Jan Knutson, Natalie Marino, Kayla Oestreich, Drew Pennington, Brenda Plakans, Kathy Pohl, Mary Porter, Lisa Sandoval

1) Summer Updates: Bill Flanagan, BLFLI Chair

Great news! As announced at our BLFLI 2nd Annual Luncheon, Quint Studer is now working with Stateline Community Foundation to bring "[The Basics](#)" texting program to *all families of Rock County* with children from birth to pre-K. This is beyond amazing!! Our initiative has been on a parallel path with Quint's work in Pensacola, albeit several years behind. Thus far, he has so graciously granted us permission to use his brain bag concept along with the tag line "Build a Brain, Build a Life, Build a Community," as well as the video which is being shown to new mothers at Beloit Health System. To further awareness and first steps of introducing and implementing "The Basics," there will be a special, private event in October as we bring its founder and president from Harvard's Graduate School of Education, [Ron Ferguson, PhD](#). We are thrilled to have another opportunity to tie in NPO's, city staff, as well as the business and education community to create a gold standard for success!

For those joining us as BLFLI guests at the Sky Carp game, be sure to check out the literacy designs throughout the ballpark and enjoy the fireworks. Bookmarks will also be distributed, but if you don't receive yours, check in with Jamie at the SCF office or go to guest services at another Sky Carp game where extras have been made available.

3) Partner Reports:

- **Kayla Oestreich (Community Action Child Care)** They are working with Welty, Early Head Start, and P4J for field trips and programming as well as maintaining Pathways and drop-in childcare services for [Fatherhood Initiative](#). The Hedberg Library Bookmobile visits every 2 weeks and they've enjoyed participating in the Riders & Chains reading program! They are interested in the brain bags if Janesville is considered within distribution range. Suggested a community baby shower as another opportunity to reach expecting mothers with brain bags and The Basics info!
- **Brenda Plakans (Welty)** Summer camps have come to an end. Welty is considering possibilities of a nature pre-school option as part of solution to daycare desert in Stateline area.
- **Jessica Graminski (Beloit Public Library)** As interim early literacy staff, she mentioned 3 areas of focus: summer reading program (free Sky Carp ticket to registered readers under 17 years old who have completed 300 minutes of reading), 5 different story times are ongoing, including a new ABC PlayGroup which collaborates with childcare facilities in our area, and a focus on social skills.
- **Drew Pennington (City of Beloit / GBEDC)** City bookshelf remains popular. Based on Quality of Life survey results for at-risk youth and lack of fundamental skills/school readiness; wants to know how the city can promote literacy support (via water bill ads, bus wraps, etc.). This is a work force problem, and we need to collectively get behind this. A simple 10-question parent/care-giver survey is available to help us quantify the geographic and time of day needs. If we can push this out via school districts and nonprofits to families to best determine needs, it would be most helpful!
- **Andrea Heckner (SDB – Merrill Elementary)** Andrea has a new position at Merrill where they (and McNeel Intermediate) are using a new 3-prong Ron Clark Academy Model approach of rigor, culture, and engagement to improve school performance. Governor Evers will be visiting soon!
- **Kathy Pohl / Jan Knutson (St. Paul Lutheran)** Approximately 100 people attended their August event, distributing 40 books from BLFLI. They recommended a new outreach to the faith-based community, perhaps among pastor circles, to spread word of initiative and benefit of The Basics.

- **Lisa Sandoval (Head Start/Early Head Start)** She explained their center-based vs home-based programs and services. As an instructional coach, they help set physical and mental goals for their families. Currently there is a major staff shortage, and she encourages NPO's to help spread the word about their various [job opportunities](#). Interested candidates can contact [Melissa Reed](#) for questions or apply directly online via above links, or via Indeed. If certification is required, free childcare foundation courses can be taken online via [Education Station](#).
 - **Derrick Carter (CareerTek)** Programs and services are available for 6th-12th graders. They Summer academies recently concluded, highlighting various career interests. Next summer they will be expanding options for 4 additional hands-on career exploration opportunities! Volunteer & professional instructors are always in need to make the correlation between coursework and fieldwork, especially for their after-school programs which run October – April. Program enrollment has nearly doubled since last year! Their CNA program has been extremely successful, and a duplicate model is in the works for the construction industry. Offering early childhood opportunities to help address the lack of childcare problems is on their radar!
 - **Mary Porter (BAREA)** They have helped to distribute 300 books to community children! Another excellent source of free, literacy materials for homeless families, where she volunteers, is via Family Promise, now located at the former St. John's Lutheran Church on Bluff Street. She expressed frustration of kids lacking motivation to read, seeing model of their parents on phones.
 - **Natalie Morino (Youth2Youth 4 Change)** She is attending for the first time in place of director Debbie Fischer. Y2Y is now back in intermediate schools and the high school during lunch hours. They are hoping to repair some of the broken Little Free Libraries in the community. As a parent, she commented on the need for childcare as this is also a personal frustration!
- 5) **Calendar:** The next Partner meeting will be Friday, October 28th at 9:00 a.m. Kindly RSVP to jamie@statelinecf.com. Meetings at BPL will resume **in-person only**, Blackhawk Ext. Rm 111.

Snapshot: BLFLI FAMILY NIGHT AT ABC SUPPLY STADIUM 8.26.22

