



Friday, October 28, 2022

Beloit Public Library

9 -10:30 a.m.

**Present:** Tara Tinder, Laura Anastasi, Cassie Letcher, Trevor Seivert, Debbie McCann, Geri Heim, Jan Knutson, Lara Hermann, Lisa Sandoval, Chelsea Miller, Mary Porter, Derrick Carter, Brenda Plakans, and Natalie Marino.

### 1) Welcome, Announcements, Program Updates: Tara Tinder, Executive Director, SCF

Our recent literacy event with The Basics founder and president from Harvard's Graduate School of Education, [Ron Ferguson, PhD](#) exceeded all expectations. Originally an economist, he is a numbers guy and noticed how kindergarten readiness translates to life success. His explanation of the 5 Basics Principles and how its implementation via sociological saturation determines the degree of impact. Enter Quint Studer, who's health care focus in Pensacola brought him to collaborate with Dr. Ferguson and the Basics Insights messaging program. This proven texting vehicle (2 texts weekly on Mondays & Wednesdays) helps parents and caregivers incorporate early childhood learning into everyday routines. Quint's vision is to bring the same impact on all of Rock County and is thereby offering to fund a job coordinator to oversee implementation of The Basics and its messaging program. The focus will be to work directly with agencies and organizations who already have established relationships with their clients, in particular health care facilities, schools, and nonprofits working directly with parents of newborns and those with young children not yet in kindergarten. This effort works in tandem with Quint's upcoming presentation at the Miller Upton Forum at Beloit College in early November on his book: "[Building Vibrant Communities.](#)" The Stateline Community Foundation is collaborating with a small group of community individuals who will assist with the job description, interviewing, and selection of a fitting candidate. *We hope to post the position on Indeed and our website before Thanksgiving!*

### 3) Partner Reports:

- **Laura Anastasi (RSVP)** - Volunteers work with students K-3<sup>rd</sup> grade via the America Reads program. They continue to offer their foster grandparent and mentoring programs.
- **Cassie Letcher & Trevor Seivert (OLA)** - The childcare program has a waitlist of 65 families! They offer backpacks with books for home support and have literacy centers in their building. OLA schooling starts at 3K and they successfully bring in retired teachers and volunteers to read with the students. They have been encouraging a disconnect from technology with instruction and have noticed an increase in test scores.
- **Debbie McCann (retired elementary educator)** – She serves on the CASA board and trains volunteers to work with parents, as well as modeling reading for moms with 4K kids at Even Start.
- **Geri Heim (retired CPS counselor)** – Geri has recently expressed interest as a volunteer for BLFLI, which includes book sorting, adding stickers, and possible assistance with local events.
- **Jan Knutson (St. Paul Lutheran)** A bonfire and books event was recently held in the Hackett neighborhood, with 40+ attendees. They continue to distribute books from BLFLI as well as book donations from retired educators. Thus far, roughly 600 and 200 books, respectively to kids and adults, have been given out in 2022. Books and candy will also be distributed at Halloween!
- **Lara Hermann (Nutrition & Health Associates/WIC)** Lara has been the executive director since late July, and this is her first BLFLI Partner meeting! She is thrilled to learn about The Basics Insights messaging program and noted that WIC already maintains texting communication with their clients. They remain busy overseeing well-checks on infants - 5 years since the Covid Health Waiver still allows parents to receive support without coming in. For those that do, they encourage

• There might be a new space elsewhere or a medical vehicle made possible by an ARPA grant. She also referenced the re-vamped Royce Elementary facility which will provide housing and childcare for families during transition, waiting on ARPA funds.

- **Lisa Sandoval & Chelsea Miller (Head Start/Early Head Start)** The program continues to do home-based and center-based support. Childcare is provided from 8 am–2 pm in Beloit for working parents or parents in school, however the teen parent room is currently closed. Family literacy is a core principle, so they will try to infuse the 5 Basics principles into curriculum. Community events remain offered in order to help break barriers. They are still experiencing a staff shortage; several positions are currently available. Interested candidates can contact [Melissa Reed](#) for questions or apply directly online via Indeed. If certification is required, free childcare foundation courses can be taken online via [Education Station](#).

- **Mary Porter (BAREA)** They currently have 400 new and used books looking for a classroom!
- **Derrick Carter (CareerTek)** Programs and services are available for 6th-12th graders as well as for young adults 18 – 21 years old. He referenced after school programs from 4:00-5:00 pm on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays for students interested in trades, manufacturing, and IT. They are seeking a new Pathway Director position for the Greater Beloit Area. Some collaboration with the Sky Carp will produce a new Little Library for the community!

• **(Welty Environmental Center) Welty** will announce the reopening of the center. The center provides environmental education and recycling services for the community. They are currently looking for staff and volunteers to help with their programs.

• **(Youth2Youth 4 Change) Y2Y** is now a part of the Beloit Community Center. They provide a safe space for youth to learn life skills and build self-esteem. They are currently looking for staff and volunteers to help with their programs.

**5) Calendar:** The next Partner meeting will be Friday, December 16th at 9:00 a.m. Kindly RSVP to [jamie@statelinecf.com](mailto:jamie@statelinecf.com). Meetings at BPL will resume **in-person only**, Blackhawk Ext. Rm 111.

(embedded video)

