



**Friday, June 23, 2023**  
**Beloit Public Library**  
**9 -10:30 a.m.**

**Present:** Jessica Austin (SCF), Laura Anastasi (RSVP), Nick Dimassis (BPL), Mary Ellen Fuentes (SDB -Todd), Jessica Graminske (BPL), Cassandra Letcher (OLA Child Care Center), Kayla Oestreich (Community Action), Deborah McCann (CASA Volunteer), Anya Ramsey-Martinez (SDB – Todd), and Michelle Weirich (Blackhawk Technical College)

### **1) Welcome & Announcements: Tara Tinder, Executive Director, SCF**

Tara shared a few anecdotes from the June 21<sup>st</sup> Basics Rollout Breakfast: [Building the Future of Rock County](#). She welcomed additional comments from partners who were in attendance. The collective impression was extremely positive. The video link from the recording will soon be available for viewing.

### **2) Literacy Event(s)Takeaways: Bill Flanagan, Chair, SCF Literacy for Life**

Bill derived 3 main points from presentations by Quint Studer & Dr. Navsaria:

- Our work is without a doubt bottom-up and NOT top-down;
- Greatest future impact is role modeling within families;
- LOVE is key!

Pensacola is tagged as “America’s Early Learning City” – how can we move the dial with The Basics to tag Beloit as America’s BEST Learning City on a national scale? In Literacy for Life’s new chapter, which is moving quite rapidly with the addition of The Basics, we all need to keep “game faces” on because it is collaborations within our partner orgs where the game is being played!

### **3) Basics Insights Updates: Jessica Austin, Director of Early Brain Development**

Statistics:

- 107 families have signed up for the texting service (as of 6/22)
- 13 formal contract partners (corporations & NPO’s)
- 13 new meetings since this week’s event!

It is clear to us that the best messenger for benefit of texting program is shared by YOU! Feel free to take advantage of the page on our website for more information: [THE BASICS ROCK COUNTY!](#)

Anonymous Survey: Results were minimal, anyone still wishing to provide feedback on how we can best support your organization and improve future partner meetings, please click [HERE!](#)

Continued efforts to reach goals: Saturate Rock County, Provide Rock County with reminders for infants & toddlers 0-3, BUILD PARTNERSHIPS!

(Repeat from last meeting minutes)

**\*How does an agency initiate collaboration?** Direct communication with the Director of Early Brain Development (via [Jessica@statelinecf.com](mailto:Jessica@statelinecf.com) or completed form on The Basics page) will be the first step in obtaining necessary materials for client sign-ups, including parent trainings and establishing your agency dashboard to track information. There is NO cost involved to you or your clients!

**Partner Reports:** Please contact individuals directly for specifics. A few highlights include:

- **Beloit School District** (Todd Elementary: Fuentes/Ramsey-Martinez): Supportive new principal, summer events include film night, Colley cookout, and city-wide wellness at BMHSI
- **Beloit Public Library** (Dimassis/Graminski): Staff surveyed on Basics event; summer reading program & camps; Wednesdays at The Library (WATL) series; merge w/ Prairie Lake System.
- **Retired Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP)** (Anastasi): June volunteer recognition dinner; prepping for fall, including the need for more foster grandparents.
- **CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates)** (McCann): 3-week training session offered to become a volunteer. Commitment is meet 1x weekly with child and write report 1x monthly.
- **Community Action/Janesville Learning Center** (Oestreich): Field trips to Shedd (Chicago) and Public (MKE) museums; library visits; Merrill clean up days and Merrill Garden visit, PBS Wisconsin activities; Quest grants completed for more childcare slots in Beloit!
- **Blackhawk Technical College** (Weirich): Pleased to have Jessica speak to classes in April; curriculum and site development (\$25K grant towards technical diploma); Michelle & Kayla O. submitted a proposal to present at the WECA (WI Early Childhood Association) conference; BTC does movie night for families in fall & spring – thinking of a BASICS workshop for families.
- **Our Lady of the Assumption (OLA)** (Letcher): In summer mode, using city bus for trips around the community, collaboration with WELTY on bugs; planning own “Touch a Truck” event similar to Culvers; playground revamp and downstairs space (acoustic panels) ongoing; 103 children on the waitlist! Bill added the combined pastoral efforts in Beloit supporting entire community, especially Spanish speaking families.

**Calendar:** The next Partner meeting will be August 25 at 9 AM. Kindly RSVP: [jamie@statelinecf.com](mailto:jamie@statelinecf.com). Meetings at BPL are **in-person only**, Blackhawk Ext. Rm 111.

➡ **BUILD A BRAIN, BUILD A LIFE, BUILD A COMMUNITY!** ⬅

**Congratulations to Sharon Cox, Beloit Health System, who was our inaugural recipient of the Circle of Leadership Award at the Basics Rollout Breakfast, June 21<sup>st</sup>.**

