

**Adult Services Advisory Council
May 7, 2008 Meeting Notes**

Attendees:

Jo-Ann Benedetti (UHLS), Maureen Brown (BETH), Judy Felsten (RCSC), Suzanne Fischer (VOOR), Margaret Lanoue (GUIL), Meg Maurer (APLM), Alyssa Oakley (TROY)

Big Read Wrap-up:

The council had mixed reactions to the Big Read. J. Felsten believes we need to “unhook from the NEA” and select a book with broader appeal. M. Lanoue, S. Fisher and M. Brown said that their book discussion groups had extra people participating. S. Fisher and M. Lanoue said that people who participated loved it. S. Fisher said that the trip to Lenox, and Selected Shorts were both fabulous.

J. Benedetti described how detailed the final report must be and urged everyone to get information to her as soon as possible.

It was suggested that we perhaps look at The Big Read as an “every-other-year” grant.

Fit for Life

Libraries for the Future has issued an RFP for libraries to become a “Fit for Life” library. LFF will award up to \$20,000 for libraries to hold programming on “brain health”, which includes programming on diet, exercise, intellectual challenge, mental stimulation and socialization.

We need 10 libraries to participate, including APL. There was interest from the group. If J. Benedetti gets the requisite 10 libraries to agree to participate, she will hold a meeting next week to discuss ideas for the activities. J. Benedetti stated that she did not want to impose her ideas on the group, and that there would be more enthusiasm for the project if the libraries had input from the start.

Overdrive Update

J. Benedetti de-mystified the email everyone got about removing max access titles from Overdrive once the subscriptions expired. Remember, the max access titles are only good for a year, then they must be removed from Horizon if they are not renewed.

Also, Overdrive will be offering a new format (MP3) which will allow content to be downloaded to an iPod and other Apple devices. The DRM content will still be available, so Overdrive will be supporting both in the foreseeable future. S. Fisher asked if NetLibrary will also be offering the MP3 format. The group thought that was happening, but there was no official word on it.

Overdrive is hosting a “Digipalooza” – a conference celebrating downloadable media. J. Benedetti went 2 years ago and told the group it was very worthwhile. M. Brown thought that BETH may send someone; M. Lanoue said GUIL will as well.

Playaways

M. Lanoue said that GUIL is just starting to deal with Playaways. They are displaying a TU article about Playaways and have a cutout of Humphrey Bogart “wearing” one. They are very popular; it was thought the poster would attract seniors, but kids and teens also love the display. They let the Playaways circ for 1 week with no renewal.

BETH has 50-60 Playaways now and find that the classics do very well. They circulate for one month with no renewal. They are very successful, especially with high schoolers and seniors. They have had no technical problems to date.

Training Events

1. Le@d is an online option for training. UHLS can purchase a “book” of self-paced training and individual library staff can take courses online as needed. Titles include “Weeding” and “Dealing with Difficult Patrons” and “Compelling Programming” etc. Individuals can start anytime and have 1 month to finish the course.

The group thought this was a good option to try, perhaps buying the minimum number of courses and seeing how it goes. A. Oakley is familiar with something similar. S. Fisher wondered if we could get a preview of what the courses were like. (yes) The group agreed that this should be brought up to the directors as a possibility.

2. EBSCO representatives will be here on May 13th at 9:00 AM to offer a review of our databases. S. Fisher believes this is a good review for everyone and encourages participation.
3. Ethel LaPier has agreed to do a training on “weeding” in June. Details are forthcoming.
4. Karen Hyman is also coming in June. She will do a 2 hour presentation at GUIL on June 11 from 2:00 PM – 4:00 PM on customer service. This is not the same presentation she did earlier in the year, it is one she recently updated for PLA. J. Benedetti encourages all to come – she is truly entertaining and has a lot of ideas that are easy to implement.
5. J. Thornton is holding a workshop on WordPress on May 15 from 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM. If anyone wants to see what can be done with WordPress, look at TROY’s Webpage and PTRB’s webpage.
6. Mary and Jo-Ann will be hosting a grantwriting workshop in the fall – either September or October. Details will be forthcoming.
7. UHLS is trying to get Warren Graham (the “guru” of day-to-day library security) to come and hold a workshop in November. Details forthcoming.

Concerns – none

Update

APL has only 2 branches open, APLY and APLD. Others are closed for renovation. Things are in a state of flux; there is no “official” word when Pine Hills and Howe are re-opening in a temporary space.

Next Meeting

If J.Benedetti gets enough interest in the Fit for Life grant, she will call a meeting next week to discuss the grant and the direction UHLS should go.