

LIBRARY BOARD OF RHODE ISLAND
The regular meeting of the Library Board of Rhode Island was held on
December 16, 2019
at the Department of Administration,
2nd Floor, Conference Room B,
One Capitol Hill, Providence, RI 02908

Members Attending: John Bucci, Aaron Coutu, Melody Drnach (Chair), Annette Feldman, Phyllis Lynch (ex officio), Monica Nazareth-Dzialo, Leslie Page, Robert Sloan

Members Absent: Cristina Amedeo, Heidi Blais, Kenneth Findlay, Louise Herrington, Rosita Hopper, Marcus Mitchell, Doug Norris, Amanda Richman

Present from the Office of Library and Information Services (OLIS): Karen Andrews, Donna DiMichele, Karen Mellor

Guests: Walter Dzialo

Materials Distributed:

- Office of Library and Information Services (OLIS) Work Plan 2020 (October 2019 – September 2020)

I. WELCOME

The Chair called the meeting to order at 4:19 p.m.

II. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES from the November 18, 2019 meeting

Moved by: Mr. Bucci

Seconded by: Ms. Page

III. REPORT OF THE CHAIR

National Library Legislative Day (NLLD) is a library advocacy event sponsored annually by the American Library Association (ALA) in Washington DC. 2020 NLLD activities are scheduled for May 4-5 at the Georgetown University Conference Center. Registration is open and Board members are encouraged to attend. Attendees are responsible for their registration and travel expenses. More information about NLLD is forthcoming.

IV. CHIEF OF LIBRARY SERVICES REPORT

A. Library Advocacy

ALA's National Library Legislative Day in May is an opportunity to advocate for libraries at the federal level in many areas including legislation and federal funding. In addition, Ms. Mellor was invited by ALA to participate in ALA's library advocacy "fly-in" event in February 2020; participation in this event is limited to 75. The event provides the opportunity to target key lawmakers to promote library issues at an earlier point in the federal budget cycle. The primary focus of advocacy activities this year is increasing library funding by the federal government.

B. Ongoing

i. 2021 Proposed Grant-in-Aid

Public library grant-in-aid (GIA) funding is based on a percentage of the total municipal funding appropriated for and expended on library services. The proposed GIA funding for fiscal year 2021 is 21.73% of local appropriations and expenditures for library services and library endowment, down from 22.14% in FY2020. GIA funding is calculated annually from data collected through the public library annual survey; the proposed aid has been submitted to the Governor for consideration and inclusion in the state budget. OLIS will post the Governor's recommended GIA on the OLIS website when the Governor's budget is released in January.

ii. Maury Loontjens Memorial Library (Narragansett)

The Maury Loontjens Memorial Library did not meet the Maintenance of Effort (MOE) requirement for GIA and is not eligible to receive GIA in FY20. The Town of Narragansett reduced library funding from \$841,000 in 2019 to \$400,000 in 2020 and submitted a request to OLIS to waive the MOE requirement for FY20. OLIS denied the waiver request because the Town did not demonstrate that the library had not been singled out for a reduction of municipal support. The Town has not requested an appeal of the waiver denial, which had to be filed within 10 days of the denial; appeals are heard by the Library Board of RI.

Ms. Feldman suggested that OLIS use the non-awarded GIA money to fund a mobile app for Ocean State Libraries (OSL), which would allow patrons statewide to interact with and conduct library business on their mobile devices, rather than offer a round of competitive grants.

C. New Online Services

Ms. Mellor introduced new online services at a Public Library Directors Meeting on December 6. Twenty-four individuals attended the meeting at the East Providence Public Library. The new services include

i. New Library Jobline

OLIS has partnered with the Library Research Service division of the Colorado State Library to provide Rhode Island libraries and library jobseekers with a more flexible and customizable job market experience. The current OLIS Jobline, which posts about 400 jobs a year and is used throughout New England, is over 15 years old and can no longer be supported due to changes in technology. Following investigation of various options, OLIS determined that the Colorado LibraryJobline provided the features sought and worked with Colorado to create a Northeast section of Colorado's jobline, which will be managed by OLIS. Job seekers will have more options for job searches, including customizable email alerts, expanded search options, and access to jobs beyond the Northeast all in a single interface. Employers will have greater control in posting and editing jobs, with the ability to provide more information about their institution by

linking to their website and social media accounts. Employers may also set up templates for posting positions and will have access to a wider audience for their job postings. Data from RI and northeast job postings will be added to data from western states to create a broader picture of library jobs nationwide. OLIS will complete the transition to the new LibraryJobline in January.

ii. Library Presenters Directory

OLIS created a Library Presenters Directory to assist libraries with the identification of presenters on a variety of topics for all audiences to support programming year-round. Presenters were invited to provide details about their programs, including fees and block-booking discounts, and can list past library presentations for reference. OLIS will review and approve directory submissions but does not endorse or screen presenters. The directory will be released at the Summer Reading Program Planning Performer Discussion on January 28 at West Warwick Public Library.

D. Revised Library of Rhode Island Standards (Ms. DiMichele reporting)

The revised Library of Rhode Island (LORI) Standards and Regulations have completed the process required by Administrative Procedures Act RIGL 42-35. The regulations will be in effect for all LORI libraries on January 3, 2020.

E. Library of Rhode Island (LORI) Certification

OLIS is changing the schedule and tool used to certify libraries for participation in LORI; member benefits include the Interlibrary Loan Clearinghouse, physical delivery, and use of other resource sharing tools such as OCLC FirstSearch. The annual certification period will be moved to July through September, rather than January through March, and will use the same online tool as the public library annual survey. The change will align the LORI certification process with the annual public library survey process and eliminate the need for public libraries to complete similar surveys at different times of the year. School libraries will now certify at the start of the school year to provide OLIS with current school information.

F. Continuing Education (CE), Current & Upcoming

Forty-three librarians attended the Librarians Guide to Homelessness at Cranston Public Library on December 11. Ryan Dowd, a nationally known speaker, commented that it was “a great audience with a lot of energy.”

Upcoming OLIS CE programs include: Decoding and Disrupting Dominant Narratives, scheduled for December 17 at North Providence Union Free Library, which will explore popular children's books and other media as opportunities to notice, critically read, and disrupt dominant narratives around race, gender, ethnicity, LGBTQ identity, immigrant identity, and other marginalized identities. It will be presented by “Wee the People” a Boston-based social justice project for children ages 4-12.

Exploring Needs Assessment Tools and Techniques, scheduled for January 8, will give libraries the tools to use to assess their communities’ needs and assure that planning and

projects are meaningful for communities. Children's Sensory Story Time Support Group on January 14 will provide an opportunity for Youth Service librarians to share best practices for sensory story times and inclusive library programs and services.

The Virtual Reality: Empathy Experiences and Bryant Data Visualization Lab Tour will be held on January 14 at Bryant University. Census 2020 Solutions Workshops are January 15 at Jamestown Philomenian Library and January 22 at East Providence Public Library.

G. State Program Report

Ms. DiMichele is working on the federal state program, due at the end of December. The report includes covers 2019 programming; a summary will be presented at the January meeting.

H. LBRI Member Term Limits

By statute, LBRI members serve 3-year terms and are limited to two terms. Some current members have served two terms and their appointments have expired while others are eligible for reappointment. Members serve in their position until a new member is appointed to fill that position. Ms. Mellor is reviewing current status of all board members. The Governor appoints Board members with the consent of the Senate.

I. 2020 OLIS Work Plan

Ms. Mellor presented an overview of OLIS' 2020 workplan, which is based on OLIS' five-year strategic plan. The work plan includes all federal and state programs and spans the federal fiscal year (October 1, 2019-September 30, 2020). OLIS' 2020 budget (state fiscal year) is \$2,614,826 enacted, with \$1,155,921.00 in Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) funding from the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS), and \$1,457,501 from state general revenue. Personnel is based on 13 full-time equivalent (FTE) positions, with 12 FTE positions funded. Project goal areas are access, learning, and engagement which are supported by ongoing activities.

V. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Federal & State Legislative Updates (Mr. Coutu reporting)

Change to current federal legislation is limited to bill sponsorship. The RI General Assembly opens its session in January.

B. Rhode Island Library Association's (RILA) Legislative Agenda (Mr. Coutu reporting)

RILA's current library advocacy priorities are:

- i. increasing state grant-in-aid funding for public libraries to 25%;
- ii. creating legislation to support school libraries through partnerships with the RI Department of Education (RIDE) and the School Librarians of RI (SLRI), a section of RILA;
- iii. guaranteeing Net Neutrality through of state legislation;

- iv. acquiring \$311,000 in funding for AskRI databases previously available to Rhode Islanders;
- v. working with the RI Attorney General and legislators on lawsuits and legislation to create equity for libraries in the purchase of e-books by libraries; and
- vi. monitoring all library legislation on the federal and state levels.

VI. BOARD MEMBER REPORTS

A. Mr. Bucci

- i. The annual 2020 RI Library Association (RILA) Conference will take place on May 28-29 at Bryant University. RILA has a link on its website for program proposals.
- ii. The Rhode Island Library Information Network for Kids (RILINK) planning committee is developing a new strategic plan. Mr. Bucci is seated on the RILINK advisory committee.
- iii. Mr. Bucci staffed the Coalition of Library Advocates (COLA) booth at the RI Authors Exposition at Rhodes on the Pawtuxet on December 7. The event was well-attended and a great opportunity to meeting local authors.

VII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

No unfinished business.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

No new business.

IX. PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment.

X. FUTURE MEETINGS

The next LBRI meeting is scheduled for January 13, 2020, from 4:15 – 5:45 p.m., at the Department of Administration, Conference Room B, 2nd Floor, One Capitol Hill, Providence, RI.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

Moved by: Mr. Coutu

Seconded by: Mr. Bucci

The meeting was adjourned at 5:35 p.m.