

Lakeland Library Cooperative Special Advisory Council Meeting February 6, 2008

The meeting consisted of discussion of the State Librarian's proposed State Aid Model and Member Sharing. Nothing occurred that required motions or a quorum.

Discussion points for State Aid Model from Library of Michigan (LoM)

- We were reminded that there is an alternative plan from co-op directors, but discussion was primarily on the LoM model.
- Nancy Robertson clearly stated that levels of financing are not the prevue of the state aid model co-op reorganization committee. Martha Pitchford and Heidi Nagel, a reorganization committee member, summarized the plan. Attention was drawn to the graphic representation of the plan from Robertson's blog.
- State Aid would go to MeLCat and MeL Databases as part of the core services; local libraries could use their allotment for data lines and MeL delivery, but not to support an integrated library system (ILS), LLC administrative costs or LLC delivery. The amount of state aid for MeLCat and MeL Databases was not defined. There are two conflicting opinions regarding whether state aid could be used to support any ILS (Millennium) or just MeLCat.
- LSTA 5 year plan includes MeLCat & MeL Databases.
- Contention exists about whether state aid would fund co-ops or just libraries. Currently there are large and small libraries that support state aid to libraries and not to co-ops. Core services may include tech. support, connectivity and broadband. Discussions of the co-op reorganization committee include the idea that co-op services could be available for all libraries through 3 year contracts for services. The purpose of the 3 year contract is to provide some stability for co-ops. Not all libraries would be required to buy identical services from the co-ops.

- Currently state aid paid directly to LLC is only used for delivery.
- 1) Co-ops lose their municipal designation if not funded by state aid. Some concerns are that municipal funds cannot transfer directly to a 501 (c) (3). There may be a means to make this transfer of funds. 2) Retirement funding and paid health insurance for co-op employees would still be paid.
- The point was made that MeL Databases favor academics even though LSTA funds are to benefit all libraries.
- 5 year plan and the \$7.5 mill are designated for MeLCat and MeL Databases. The LSTA grant can be amended once a year.
- It was suggested that letters supporting your library's point of view are important. There probably will not be one letter with a unanimous LLC voice. A good time to collect taking points will be after our meeting with Robertson.
- Robertson needs one state aid model to present to the legislature.
- Comments from larger libraries:
KDL represented by Shirley Bruursema is not supportive of the current model;

Marcia Warner, GRPL, supports voting strength in proportion to GRPL's dollars for co-op services, allowing them to buy meaningful products. Detroit is also looking for control of their dollars for meaningful services from their co-op.

Genson (HOL) clarified that Robertson makes recommendations to the LoM board, and that advisory committees make recommendations to Robertson. Tom asked how the model strengthens and improves local libraries. Good local funding is very important; what are we bringing to the table? Co-op services are important but his opinion is that your local core services are more important. Don't have higher value on sharing rather than owning. MeLCat which does not allow charging for service fosters statewide borrowing. Is that good library service? It is more important to fund the collection than to have good delivery because this is most cost effective and facilitates greater accountability. Bruursema response: We have to share. There is not enough shelf space even if you could afford everything your community needs. Some libraries could not pass a millage if voters learned that sharing would cease.

- Battle Creek's Rick Halsey, serves his public with fewer than 100 ILLs/year. LLC patron expectations are what we've created.

- MeLCat will grow circulation just as LLC did with our ILS and delivery.

- Steve Dix shared the evolution of state aid. Its original purpose was to help small libraries develop. The lion's share state aid, \$10 million goes to class VI libraries. In 1979 large libraries didn't need development, but they did want the money (state aid) so they agreed to help little libraries develop.

- Bose and others reviewed important services the co-op provides that benefit patrons of small and rural libraries including cataloging, IT, advice, and others.

- A request was made for talking points to motivate library trustees and to use in letters

- Several questions to ask Robertson on 2.25.08:**

- How might libraries use their 1/3 of state aid?

- How might the new state law include accountability – will standards change? QSAC?

- What do all the stars on the graphic diagram mean?

- What will the co-op reach be? Contiguous requirements or across geographic boundaries? What standards will LoM use when approving a libraries' co-op membership? What will be the legal status of co-ops?

- Purpose of this meeting: outcome needed?

Learn about the model and ask questions. Now we can ask Robertson pointed questions about issues we've discovered.

Suggestions for letters will be collected after LLC members meet with Robertson on Monday 25 February. Location TBA

This meeting's purpose to collect a list of questions and to facilitate a good discussion, and to help us communicate with our boards about the issues

- Advocacy for libraries—who does it?

- Networking for staff—how will it be done?

- State aid—how much goes to where?
- Professional study of delivery of library services—is it needed?
- Databases—what about schools and academic support?
- Training—who will do it and what will it cost?
- Consulting—who will answer all the questions?
- What is the form (new law) for co-op services that have existed that may not be allowed in the future – LoM create a form/model clarify the form to cover current services.
- What language is Robertson asking legislators to pass?
- Is the Plan too complicated for legislators?
- Plan has temporary subsidy for coops for a few years. What does this mean?
- Vision for the future—where is it?
- Smaller libraries—who considers them?
- Geographic considerations—how are these considered?

Pitchford will ask Robertson to bring current legislative language with her to our LLC visit.

Institutional MLA members – this will play out in Lansing – legislators and MLA – talk to Gretchen Couraud – express yourself in both venues

Superiorland website – lots of information from White Pines, Robertson, the Governor, Dr. Anderson, and MLA – Will Governor Granholm recommend changes for HAL? The governor's budget is coming out on Thursday, February 7. What will she proposed for state aid to public libraries for FY2009?

Steve Dix: comment positive – At Battle Creek they buy items requested for ILL instead of send an ILL request for them to another library. Library could consider this policy if you have money and space. Battle Creek is a stand alone and he controls ILL.

Access and Technical Services Roundtable is offering a resource sharing workshop on May 23 at Lansing Community College - West campus. On of the topics will be rethinking resource sharing, Anne Beaubien from the University of Michigan will speak about this national program. For more information on this workshop or others, go to the MLA website.

Member announcements:

1 Sandy Knes: GDH closed to move their move to the temporary location. The ground breaking for the library expansion is May 1, 2008. Dan Siebersma's new position is as the State Librarian of South Dakota. He's been at this post since mid-December.

Feb 22 is the last date to sign up for MeLCat.

Marcia Warner, GRPL, inviting LLC members to Evergreen demonstration on March 6 at the Advisory Council meeting.

Chris Kuperus mentioned that the person breaking into libraries was caught. Lois Lovell stated that Lavonne Marshall's (OC) sketch really helped the Sparta police recognize suspect during a traffic violation stop. There may not be just one person involved. It is best to be diligent.

Meeting adjourned at 11:15a.m.

A meeting with Nancy Robertson will be scheduled with the date, time, and location sent out via email.