

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

Members Attending: Heidi Blais, John Bucci, Aaron Coutu, Melody Drnach (Chair), Annette Feldman, Kenneth Findlay, Louise Herrington, Phyllis Lynch (ex officio), Monica Nazareth-Dzialo, Robert Sloan

Members Absent: Cristina Amedeo, Rosita Hopper, Marcus Mitchell, Doug Norris, Leslie Page, Amanda Richman

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

Guests: Walter Dzialo

Materials Distributed:

- LBRI: Report on School Libraries Draft, September 11, 2019
- LBRI: Report on School Libraries, Recommendations, September 11, 2019
- 2019-2020 Proposed LBRI Meeting Schedule
- LBRI Legislative Committee Report, September 16, 2019

I. WELCOME

The Chair called the meeting to order at 4:18 p.m.

II. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES from the June 17, 2019 meeting

Moved by: Mr. Bucci

Seconded by: Mr. Coutu

The meeting minutes were approved as presented.

III. REPORT OF THE CHAIR

Ms. Drnach welcomed the Board to the meeting.

IV. CHIEF OF LIBRARY SERVICES REPORT

A. Ongoing

i. State Budget

The approved state budget was signed by Governor Raimondo in June. OLIS is fully funded at the current service level with 13 full-time equivalent (FTE) positions; one FTE position was partially-funded. OLIS plans to fill the open position, Library Program Manager, in Spring 2020.

Through the efforts of the Rhode Island Library Association (RILA), the state budget includes an additional \$200,000 for public library grant-in-aid (GIA) for a total of \$8,800,000. With the increase, GIA for FY2020 is funded at 22.14% of municipal annual appropriation and expenditure in FY2018.

ii. Public Library Annual Survey

Public libraries have completed the Annual Survey which closed September 13. All 48 library systems have submitted their online reports and are under review by OLIS. Data gathered is reported to the federal government and used to develop state aid allocation. Through the survey, libraries apply for state aid and certify the expenditure of prior year GIA funds. Data from the survey provides an overview of the state of RI public libraries.

(a) Maury Loontjens Memorial Library (Narragansett)

The Maury Loontjens Memorial Library in Narragansett currently does not meet the maintenance of effort (MOE) requirement for GIA due to a substantially reduced allocation by the Town of Narragansett for library services, from \$841,000 in 2019 to \$400,000 in 2020. The Town may apply for a waiver if it does not meet the MOE requirement.

B. Summer 2019

i. OLIS Diversity Summit

OLIS convened an Equity, Diversity & Inclusion Summit at the University of Rhode Island on August 7. 80 librarians attended the event that featured keynote speakers, panelists, and hands-on exercises. A primary goal of the summit was to demonstrate ways people can understand and challenge their personal systemic biases to affect organization-level changes.

Keynote speaker, Loren Spears (Narragansett Tribe), Executive Director of the Tomaquag Museum in Exeter, Rhode Island, spoke about the experiences of disenfranchised indigenous people especially members of the Narragansett Tribe. Diversity Talks facilitated break-out sessions to increase cultural competencies. Cheryl Burrell, Associate Director RI Department of Administration, Office of Equity, Diversity, and Opportunity led a panel discussion with individuals from marginalized populations. The final segment was a small group exercise on developing library solutions to shape organizational change.

ii. Summer Reading Program (SRP) Wrap-up (Ms. DiMichele reporting)

The adult summer reading program continues to grow. 10 libraries reported that 1,000 adults participated in summer reading activities at 20 libraries.

Preliminary data from 38 libraries indicates that 9,000 children and 1,800 teens participated in summer reading activities, and 21,000 children and 5,000 teens

participated in age-specific programs. A complete report will be presented at the October meeting of the board.

C. Continuing Education (CE)

i. Continuing Education Planning (Ms. Baffoni reporting)

Ms. Mellor introduced Nicolette Baffoni, OLIS' Adult Services Coordinator and Continuing Education Coordinator.

Ms. Baffoni reported about the Continuing Education (CE) planning retreat attended by OLIS' professional staff July 25 at Barrington Public Library. Staff reviewed 2018-2019 programs and strategized for the development of future programs. A new CE database tool to gather data and generate participant reports, created by Jason Ackermann, Digital Services Coordinator, was previewed and program evaluation questions were rewritten to address outcomes.

In the 2019-2019 OLIS CE session, 679 people attended 45 programs, averaging 15 attendees per session. Attendee evaluations were mostly positive, and a review indicated that an area for OLIS to work on was helping attendees to feel confident about what they learned in programs.

In the early summer Rhode Island librarians were surveyed about past OLIS programs. 131 responses were received. Two-thirds of respondent indicated that they worked in a library for 10+ years and reported that OLIS News and Updates is their primary source of information about continuing education. OLIS will investigate if newer librarians are being reached effectively and plans more extensive CE marketing and email communications. Enhanced support through face-to-face learning, strengthening of resource guides, and provision of online learning will be explored, along with non-traditional programming, book clubs, and learning circles.

OLIS will focus on bringing more awareness and better access to continuing education programming through improved organization and communications and continuing to develop programs that best meet the needs of RI librarians.

ii. Continuing Education Fall Schedule (Ms. Baffoni reporting)

The complete Fall/Winter 2019-20 CE Calendar is available on the OLIS website. Programs are designed to be responsive to the library community, developed from librarian feedback and surveys, and chosen to help librarians develop the skills needed to better serve communities.

The Young Adult Library Services Association (YALSA) Institute "Teen Services with Impact," was held on September 10 at Cranston Public Library, and included librarians from Connecticut and Massachusetts. Welcoming New Americans and English Learners is scheduled for October 17, and the Librarian's Guide to Homelessness on December 11 will feature Ryan Dowd, author and executive director of a homeless shelter in Chicago. Decoding and Disrupting Dominant Narratives workshop, presented by Wee The People (WTP) at North Providence Union Free Library December 17, will explore popular

children’s literature as opportunities to disrupt dominant narratives about marginalized identities.

D. National Library Service (NLS) for the Blind and Physically Handicapped Biennial Visit

A National Library Service (NLS) representative visited OLIS on September 12 and 13 for the biennial federal guidelines compliance review of Talking Books Library. NLS will be changing its name to the National Library Service for the Blind and Print Disabled. NLS is developing a new voice-activated reader machine, and broadening user participation criteria.

E. Construction

Providence Public Library’s construction project is progressing smoothly with an anticipated completion date of Spring 2020. Board members who would like to tour the construction site may contact Ms. Mellor.

V. COMMITTEE REPORTS

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

New federal bills seek to expand broadband services in various projects or endorse existing proposed broadband legislation. House Resolution 2426 seeks to establish an alternative dispute resolution program for copyright infringement through small claims court.

B. Federal Budget (Ms. Mellor reporting)

The development of the 2020 federal budget is being monitored regarding funding for the Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) which includes funding for the Institute of Museum of Library Services (IMLS) and the Grants to States Program. A House bill was introduced to fund LSTA at a level that would fully fund the \$1,000,000 base grant to states, an increase of \$17 million for LSTA. This would result in an increase of \$320,000 in Grants to States funding for RI. The Senate has not yet submitted a companion bill.

VI. BOARD MEMBER REPORTS

A. Mr. Bucci

- i. Cornucopia of RI’s (CORI) Annual Conference is Thursday, November 7, at 5:30pm, at the RI State Library. Keynote speakers will be Kayon Murray-Johnson, Assistant Professor, University of Rhode Island, and Ricardo Lopez, Lecturer, Northeastern University.
- ii. A Coalition of Library Advocates (COLA) program in March 2020 will focus on organizational awareness for library friends’ groups and trustees.
- iii. COLA’s program “Launching Young Lives: Why Authors Love Libraries” will be at the Barrington Public Library on September 21. The free program will feature a panel discussion and book signing with four RI authors. The authors’ books will be for sale and the authors will be available to sign books.

B. Mr. Coutu/Ms. Feldman

Mr. Coutu was approached by Cumberland Public Library staff who are concerned that OLIS will no longer host the annual Summer Reading Performers Showcase. The showcase gave libraries the opportunity to access and schedule performers for summer reading programs. Ms. Feldman stated that the loss of the showcase will be detrimental to libraries, and the program cancellation decision did not consider consequences to libraries.

Ms. Mellor noted that although OLIS has coordinated the Summer Reading Performers Showcase for many years, the content of the summer programs does not correlate to learning outcomes, as defined in OLIS' strategic plan. As an alternative to OLIS' funding of two summer reading performers for each public library, OLIS will offer grants for programs that focus on summer learning.

C. Ms. Nazareth-Dzialo

LibriVox is a free domain audiobook service; books are read by volunteers. The website is librivox.org.

VII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. Approval of Revised Library of RI (LORI) Standards Updates (Ms. Mellor reporting)

The RI Office of Regulatory Review (ORR) review process includes an interagency review by agencies that could be impacted by revisions to regulations. During the ORR 30-day review, the RI Department of Education (RIDE) commented on the proposed changes. RIDE was unable to meet with OLIS during the 30-day review window but will meet with OLIS on September 17 to discuss the impact of the revision on school libraries. After the RIDE meeting, ORR will reopen the review. Any substantial changes will be brought to the LBRI for consent. OLIS hopes to have the new standards in place by January 2020 for the annual Library of RI (LORI) certification process.

B. Review and Consideration of the Report on School Libraries Committee (Ms. Mellor Reporting)

A LBRI committee established in December 2018 was charged to develop a report on school libraries. Three charges were given to the committee:

- Review the current status of school libraries, including library facilities, library staffing, and librarians' duties in Rhode Island's K-12 institutions;
- Identify challenges to the inclusion of successful school library media programs in Rhode Island schools; and
- Make recommendations in a written report to the Library Board of Rhode Island for actions that would strengthen school library media programs in Rhode Island schools.

Ms. Blais chaired the committee of 14 members who met 8 times from January to June; three subcommittees researched the committee's charges and presented a draft report at the June 17 meeting. Following discussion at the June 17 meeting and a reconvening of the committee, a revised draft was presented to the LBRI for approval that incorporated the

Board's recommendations that report recommendations be more closely aligned with board research findings.

Motion to approve: Mr. Bucci

Seconded by: Mr. Findlay

The LBRI Report on School Libraries Committee was approved as presented. Prior to the report's publication, Ms. Mellor will speak with the Department of Administration's Public Information Officer.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

No new business.

IX. PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment.

X. FUTURE MEETINGS

The next LBRI meeting is scheduled for October 21, 2019, from 4:15 – 5:45 p.m., at the Department of Administration, Conference Room B, 2nd Floor, One Capitol Hill, Providence, RI.

The proposed 2019-2020 meeting schedule will be approved at the October meeting.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

Moved by: Mr. Bucci

Seconded by: Mr. Findlay

The meeting was adjourned at 5:50 p.m.

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Members Absent: Cristina Amedeo, Annette Feldman, Kenneth Findlay, Louise Herrington, Phyllis Lynch (ex officio), Marcus Mitchell, Robert Sloan

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

Guests: Julie Holden, President, RI Library Association (RILA); Stephen Spohn, Executive Director, Ocean State Libraries (OSL); Walter Dzialo

Materials Distributed:

- Proposed Library Board of RI Meeting Schedule for 2019-2020, Rev. November 18, 2019
- [National Agenda for eBooks, The Summit Report](#)
- eBooks at Ocean State Libraries Presentation
- Legislative Report, November 2019

I. WELCOME

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

II. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES from the September 16, 2019 meeting

Moved by: Mr. Bucci

Seconded by: Mr. Norris

The meeting minutes were approved as presented.

III. REPORT OF THE CHAIR

Ms. Drnach attended two events organized by Senator Jack Reed's Office and featuring the Senator and Dr. Carla Hayden, Librarian of Congress; the events took place at Cranston Public Library on November 4. 'The Future of Libraries' panel discussion, coordinated by OLIS at the request of Senator Reed's office, showcased various innovative programs at RI libraries, and 'Celebration & Kickoff: 20th Anniversary of the Veterans History Project' updated veterans and librarians on this Library of Congress project while focusing on new opportunities for engagement with the project by veterans and libraries.

The Future of Libraries panel included Maria Cotto, Bilingual Children's Librarian, Pawtucket Public Library; Ed Garcia, Director, Cranston Public Library; Cheryl Space, Director, Providence

Community Library; Stephen Spohn, Executive Director, Ocean State Libraries; and Karisa Tashjian, Education Director, Providence Public Library. For more information on the event, visit the OLIS website at <http://www.olis.ri.gov/about/news/2019/veteranshistory.php>.

IV. CHIEF OF LIBRARY SERVICES REPORT

Rhode Island was honored to host the Librarian of Congress, Dr. Carla Hayden, for the two events at Cranston Public Library. Senator Reed and Dr. Hayden moderated an outstanding panel that presented innovative library projects.

A. Ongoing

i. 2021 State Budget

The 2021 budget is in development; Governor Raimondo will post the state's proposed budget in January. OLIS requested funding at the current service level, including 13 full-time equivalent (FTE) positions; currently 12 positions are funded.

ii. Public Library Annual Survey

The annual public library survey process is complete. Except for Narragansett's Maury Loontjens Memorial Library, all public library applications for grant-in-aid (GIA) have been approved. Narragansett has not met the GIA Maintenance of Effort (MOE) requirement and has filed a request for a waiver of the MOE requirement.

B. Census 2020

The RI Census Complete Count Committee is developing a marketing campaign for the census; materials will be available to libraries. OLIS will offer Census Solutions workshops in January to inform and encourage libraries to engage with Census activities, especially in hard-to-count areas. Ms. Mellor has a seat on the Complete Count Committee.

The RI Foundation is coordinating two rounds of grants for organizations to support census activities at the local level, especially in hard-to-count areas; \$425,000 in grant funding is available. The first grant round closes on November 25, and the second closes in January; more information about the grants is available on the OLIS website.

C. Summer Reading Program Changes

OLIS will no longer fund performers or coordinate the Summer Reading Program Performers' Showcase. To address concerns expressed to OLIS about the changes, OLIS is developing a presenters' database and will invite presenters to share information about services, fees, and block-booking discounts. The database is slated for completion in January and contingent upon performer participation.

A youth services coordinators workshop, scheduled for January 28 at West Warwick Public Library, will demonstrate the database resource, inform attendees how to schedule and arrange block-booking of performers, and provide an opportunity for attendees to network and coordinate block bookings.

D. Upcoming

i. Public Library Directors Meeting

A Public Library Directors meeting will be held December 6 at East Providence Public Library.

ii. Continuing Education (CE), Current & Upcoming (Ms. DiMichele reporting)

Copyright law and guidelines are complicated, so OLIS is offering a series of workshops on the topic. Fairly Useful: Copyright in Libraries, Part Two is November 19 at the Warwick Public Library.

The third of four workshops to assist libraries with planning projects for summer learning will be offered on November 20 at Greenville Public Library. This program explores design thinking for connected learning projects; a workshop last month focused on more broadly defined summer learning projects. On December 10 the last of the programs will focus on the practical steps in writing a summer learning grant application. The three programs are presented by OLIS staff.

OLIS launched its Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) book club as part of its ongoing offerings on EDI. Its first meeting is November 21 and the book is *White Fragility* by Robin D'Angelo.

The Whole Book Approach, a program of the Eric Carle Museum of Picture Book Art, will be presented on November 26.

Exploring Needs Assessment Tools and Techniques will assist libraries assessing community needs when preparing to apply for a grant, to write a long-range plan, or plan a new library program. OLIS staff are presenting this program.

The Librarian's Guide to Homelessness Workshop will feature Ryan Dowd, the Executive Director of a large homeless shelter outside of Chicago, Illinois. Mr. Dowd is nationally renowned for his work training libraries, police departments, schools and other organizations on how to work compassionately with homeless individuals, who often have various challenges in their lives. The workshop takes place on December 11.

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

The LORI Standards were posted on the Secretary of State's website for a 30-day comment period. Receiving no substantive comments, the standards were recently cleared by Legal Services, and must receive final approval by the RI Department of Administration before going into effect. They will become effective January 1.

Ms. DiMichele thanked Board members who served on the LORI Standards Committee.

F. Chief Officers of State Library Agencies (COSLA)

Ms. Mellor attended the annual COSLA meeting in Hartford, CT, November 4-6. Topics discussed included how libraries can provide more access to open data, national broadband policy, and Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) Initiative.

The Acting Director of the American Library Association (ALA), Mary Ghikas, spoke about changes at ALA including a review of organizational effectiveness and restructuring to provide members with better access. A permanent executive director is expected to be hired soon.

Cyndee Landrum was hired as the new Deputy Director for Library Services at the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS). The President has nominated Crosby Kemper III as the new IMLS Director to replace outgoing director Kit Matthews, who is from the museum community. Mr. Kemper has served as Director of the Kansas City Library since 2005.

G. Library Construction

i. Application

The new construction application is being drafted, along with support resources for public library construction and renovation.

ii. Jamestown Philomenian Library

Jamestown has been awarded a Champlin grant for library renovations. Ms. Mellor met with Jamestown library staff, board and town officials at Champlin Foundation offices to discuss Jamestown's library construction project and overall program regulations and requirements.

iii. Narragansett, Maury Loontjens Memorial Library

The prospective buyer of the building originally purchased by the town for renovation as the new Narragansett library, has withdrawn from the deal with the town.

iv. Providence Public Library

Providence Public Library anticipates library renovations to be complete in time for a March 30, 2020 reopening; Senator Jack Reed will attend the celebration. Ms. Mellor will tour ongoing renovations on December 4 at 5pm; contact Ms. Mellor if you wish to accompany her. Members who want to see the library renovations at another time may contact OLIS for arrangements. The April or May LBRI meeting will be held at Providence.

V. SPECIAL TOPICS: eBooks

A presentation on the status of eBooks in Rhode Island was presented by Ms. Julie Holden, President of the RI Library Association (RILA) and Assistant Director at Cranston Public Library, and Mr. Stephen Spohn, Executive Director of Ocean State Libraries (OSL).

Ms. Mellor provided updates on Macmillan Publishing's library eBook embargo. At the recent COSLA meeting, John Sargent, Macmillan's Chief Executive Officer, affirmed the publisher's position that libraries are negatively impacting sales of eBooks; eBook providers are responding by charging libraries more for eBooks and imposing embargos on the selling of new eBook titles to libraries.

Mr. Spohn described issues and challenges associated with providing eBooks. OSL has partnered with OverDrive for 15 years to make eBooks available to libraries, and their use has grown 16% annually the last 5 years. Ebooks have an average wait time of 36 days and represent 13% of FY19 total circulation. For the most part, purchased eBooks are not owned by libraries but leased, their copy use is limited, and they expire after two years. Libraries pay substantially more for eBooks and audiobooks, versus much lower costs paid by individuals for the same media.

Ms. Holden reported on responses to publisher embargoes. The American Library Association is encouraging state library organizations to seek enactment of state legislation to support a fair and equitable market for eBooks. RILA is working with legal counsel to bring the issue to the RI Attorney General and is working on legislation to be introduced in the 2020 session. RILA will be meeting with Representative David Cicilline, chairman of the Antitrust Subcommittee of the House Judiciary Committee, which has previously investigated unfair practices regarding the pricing of digital materials. Libraries in other states are boycotting Macmillan Publishing. Plans are being developed to educate the public about the cost and availability of eBook titles

Mr. Spohn will provide updates to the board in 6-9 months.

VI. COMMITTEE REPORTS

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

Bill changes in the handout are primarily the addition of bill sponsors. Broadband accessibility bills have bipartisan support with disagreement on implementation. A second bill was added to file copyright complaints using small claims court.

B. Federal Budget (Ms. Mellor reporting)

The federal budget is operating under a continuing resolution that expires soon. If another continuing resolution does not pass, a budget freeze will impact OLIS federal funding.

VII. BOARD MEMBER REPORTS

No board member reports.

VIII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Ms. Blais inquired how the school library report will proceed. Ms. Mellor reported that OLIS will be publishing the report soon following departmental review.

IX. NEW BUSINESS

No new business.

X. PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment.

XI. FUTURE MEETINGS

The next LBRI meeting is scheduled for December 16, 2019, from 4:15 – 5:45 p.m., at the Department of Administration, Conference Room B, 2nd Floor, One Capitol Hill, Providence, RI.

XII. ADJOURNMENT

Moved by: Mr. Norris

Seconded by: Mr. Coutu

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

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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.

LIBRARY BOARD OF RHODE ISLAND
The regular meeting of the Library Board of Rhode Island was held on
January 13, 2020
at the Department of Administration,
2nd Floor, Conference Room B,
One Capitol Hill, Providence, RI 02908-5816

Members Attending: Heidi Blais, John Bucci, Aaron Coutu, Melody Drnach (Chair), Annette Feldman, Kenneth Findlay, Rosita Hopper, Monica Nazareth-Dzialo, Doug Norris, Amanda Richman, Leslie Page, Robert Sloan

Members Absent: Cristina Amedeo, Louise Herrington, Phyllis Lynch (ex officio), Marcus Mitchell

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

Guests: Walter Dzialo

Materials Distributed:

- Legislative Report, January 2020
- OLIS Expenditures Report: Federal Fiscal Year 2019

I.WELCOME

The Chair called the meeting to order at 4:22 p.m.

II.APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES from the December 16, 2019 meeting

Moved By: Mr. Coutu

Seconded By: Mr. Bucci

III.REPORT OF THE CHAIR

A. National Library Legislative Day

Board members are encouraged to join Ms. Drnach and Ms. Mellor for National Library Legislative Day (NLLD) on May 4-5 in Washington, DC.

IV.CHIEF OF LIBRARY SERVICES REPORT

A. Library Reports Published

The [School Libraries Report](#) and [OLIS' Annual Year-End Summary](#) are published to OLIS' website.

B. State Budget

Governor Raimondo will present the State of the State address on January 14 and the State Budget on January 16.

It is anticipated that OLIS will be funded at the current level of service in the FY21 budget, with 13 fulltime equivalent (FTE) positions. Ms. Mellor recently received approval to fill the vacant Library Program Manager position.

C. Director, RI Department of Administration (DOA)

Michael DiBiase has left his position as DOA Director; Brett Smiley, Governor Raimondo's former Chief-of-Staff, is acting DOA Director.

D. Online Tools

i. Library Presenter Directory

The Library Presenter Directory (LPD) for children, young adult, and adult programs is being populated with presenter and program information. The LPD will launch at the "Summer Reading Program Planning: Performer Discussion" workshop on January 28.

ii. Library Jobline

OLIS' new LibraryJobline, a project in partnership with Library Research Service at the Colorado State Library, was launched in January; the changeover from the previous OLIS Jobline was seamless. Employers are adding jobs and taking advantage of available features to promote jobs and connect jobseekers with their library.

E. Revised Library of RI (LORI) Standards

The revised Library of Rhode Island Standards and Regulations became effective on January 3 for all LORI libraries.

F. LORI Certification Changes

OLIS is moving the LORI Certification period from January through March to July through September to align with the public library survey reporting period, and academic and school schedules. The shift will also give libraries time to comply with the revised LORI Standards. Libraries currently certified will remain certified until August 2020. The certification process will be embedded in the annual public library survey. Other libraries will access the LORI Certification as a stand-alone survey.

G. Continuing Education (CE) (Ms. DiMichele reporting)

OLIS is offering three programs to support libraries' engagement with Census 2020 and be better positioned to assist patrons. The Census 2020 Solutions Workshop is an interactive, design-thinking workshop for developing ideas for Census 2020 outreach. The Children's Services Roundtable: 2020 Census is a discussion about how youth services librarians can help children and families be counted and embed census information into services already in place in the library. Children from birth through age 4 are among the most undercounted populations and programs such as SNAP, Medicaid, school lunches, Head Start, WIC, and Title I use Census data to calculate and distribute federal funds. Census 101 for RI Libraries will be presented as a webinar and will provide an overview of the 2020 Census, consider ways the census will intersect with Rhode Island libraries, and address frequently asked questions.

Support Small Businesses: Discover the RI Business Portal, is a program to demonstrate resources available in the portal, including an exploration of the RI Business Data Hub. The program will be offered in conjunction with the Office of the Secretary of State on January 29 at South Providence Community Library. LORI Resource Sharing Procedures Review is February 6 at Cranston Public Library and repeated on February 19 at East Greenwich Free Library.

The Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Book Club will discuss "So You Want to Talk About Race" by Ijeoma Oluo on February 12. "The Public", a film about serving the homeless in libraries, will be shown and followed by a facilitated discussion at Warwick Public Library on February 13. Summer Reading Program Planning for "Imagine Your Story" will be held on February 25, and Records Management for Public Libraries is on February 27.

H. LORI Learning Grants

Libraries have until midnight January 13 to submit applications for the LORI Learning Grants. OLIS has received nine applications, totaling \$15,900 in requests.

I. Maury Loontjens Memorial Library (Narragansett)

Maury Loontjens Memorial Library did not meet eligibility requirements to receive FY20 grant-in-aid funding due to a maintenance of effort (MOE) issue; the Town of Narragansett did not appeal the decision.

OLIS will designate Narragansett's unallocated funds, approximately \$186,000, to benefit library users statewide. Considerations underway include a library application tool, additional eBooks to mitigate long hold lists for eBooks, and additional resources for the Statewide Reference Resource Center.

Ms. Mellor welcomed additional ideas from board members. One suggestion was that the remaining fund balance, once certain expenditures for statewide resources and tools were made, could be divided among public libraries in accordance with the funding formula.

Mr. Coutu asked if OLIS could fund a statewide online summer reading system. Ms. Mellor said funds must be expended and programs implemented by the end of the state fiscal year; it would be difficult to identify and implement an appropriate technology solution in such a short period of time. OLIS is also reluctant to engage in new services that cannot be sustained. Ms. Mellor will update the board on funding plans at the next meeting.

J. OLIS Year-in-Review

Ms. Mellor gave an overview of expenditures and programs as reported in the FY19 Annual Federal Report for October 1, 2018 to September 30, 2019, the second reporting year of OLIS' 2018-2022 strategic plan.

Program expenditures were drawn from \$1,082,194 in federal funds, an increase of \$12,000 from FY18, and \$1,325,590 in state funds, a decrease of \$32,000 from the previous year. The change in state funding was a result of decreased expenditures for personnel due to vacancies.

Grant-in-Aid to public libraries, which is administered by OLIS but not included in OLIS' budget, totaled \$8,598,411. The Statewide Reference Resource Center, hosted by Providence Public Library, received \$701,052, and public libraries were reimbursed \$2,176,470 for construction projects.

Library of RI (LORI) expenses make up the largest portion of OLIS' budget, at \$855,765; LORI includes the statewide interlibrary loan (ILL) delivery contract. Talking Books Library was the second largest expenditure at \$441,305. The highest staff time expenditures were Talking Books Library at 20.4% of personnel expenditures, LORI at 18.8%, and Library Development at 15.2%.

V. COMMITTEE REPORTS

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

State Bills S2004 and H7085, prohibiting the manufacture, importation, sale, shipment, delivery, possession or transfer of any undetectable firearm, including 3D-printed firearms, are moving forward. State H7096 requests that the Governor designate a Statewide Broadband Coordinator and establish a RI Broadband Advisory Council. The RI Library Association is advocating that the legislation is amended to include a representative from the library community on the Council.

Federal Bill H5243 will amend the National Telecommunications and Information Administration Organization Act to establish a mobile hotspot grant program; the bill currently has few sponsors.

The US Senate approved Crosby Kemper, Director of the Kansas City Public Library, as the Director of the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS).

VI. BOARD MEMBER REPORTS

No board member reports.

VII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. School Library Report

Ms. Blais inquired about next steps for the School Library Report. Ms. Mellor said the published School Library Report will be presented with the 2019 LBRI Annual Report to the Governor and RI Legislature. Mr. Coutu recommended the School Library Report be presented to the RI Library Association (RILA) Board. Ms. Mellor will present the report to the RILA Board at their meeting tomorrow. Ms. Drnach requested a conference call be convened with the School Library Committee to bring closure to committee activities.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

A. Public Library Trustees Manual

OLIS' Public Library Trustees Manual requires updates. The manual provides an overview of trustee duties, library operations, and RI library laws. OLIS has completed a draft and is now seeking additional input on the document.

Ms. Mellor requested a board committee to review the draft and provide input. Ms. Page, Mr. Findlay, and Mr. Coutu volunteered to participate in an ad hoc committee in the spring. Ms. Mellor will develop a committee charge and provide the current manual revision to the committee.

IX. PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment.

X. FUTURE MEETINGS

The next LBRI meeting is scheduled for February 24, 2020, from 4:15 – 5:45 p.m., at the Department of Administration, Conference Room A, 2nd Floor, One Capitol Hill, Providence, RI.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

Moved By: Mr. Findlay

Seconded By: Mr. Sloan

The meeting was adjourned at 5:42 p.m.

LIBRARY BOARD OF RHODE ISLAND
The regular meeting of the Library Board of Rhode Island was held on
February 24, 2020
at the Department of Administration,
2nd Floor, Conference Room A,
One Capitol Hill, Providence, RI 02908-5816

Members Attending: Heidi Blais, Melody Drnach (Chair), Annette Feldman, Kenneth Findlay, Rosita Hopper, Phyllis Lynch (ex officio), Leslie Page

Members Absent: Cristina Amedeo, John Bucci, Aaron Coutu, Louise Herrington, Marcus Mitchell, Monica Nazareth-Dzialo, Doug Norris, Amanda Richman, Robert Sloan

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

Guests: Patti Arkwright, Director, Maury Loontjens Memorial Library (Narragansett); Laurie Kelly, President, Maury Loontjens Memorial Library Board of Trustees

Materials Distributed: None

I.WELCOME

The Chair called the meeting to order at 4:20 p.m.

II.APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES from the January 13, 2020 meeting

Moved By: Mr. Findlay

Seconded By: Dr. Hopper

The minutes were approved with recommended language changes.

III.REPORT OF THE CHAIR

A. Providence Public Library Grand Reopening

Board members are invited to attend Providence Public Library (PPL) Grand Reopening activities on March 30 to celebrate the completed renovation and redesign of the building which began in September 2018.

B. National Library Legislative Day

Board members are encouraged to join Ms. Drnach and Ms. Mellor for National Library Legislative Day (NLLD) on May 4-5 in Washington, DC.

IV.CHIEF OF LIBRARY SERVICES REPORT

A. Ongoing

i. State Budget

OLIS is funded at current service levels and public library Grant-in-Aid (GIA) is level funded in the FY21 State Budget.

ii. OLIS Website Updates

OLIS staff updated and seamlessly transitioned the OLIS website to a new server with updated platforms and added security features. The addition of a security certificate will also elevate the ranking of the website in Google searches.

iii. Reading Across Rhode Island (RARI) 2020

Rising: Dispatches from the New American Shore, by Rhode Island author Elizabeth Rush, is RARI's 2020 book selection. Ms. Rush will speak at Salve Regina University on April at 6:30pm; more information about the event is on the RI Center for the Book website.

iv. Kids Reading Across Rhode Island (KRARI) 2020

The 2020 KRARI book is *Changeling* by William Ritter. The author will be at the annual Summer Reading Kickoff at the State House from 2-4 pm on May 2. Attendees will be able to participate in library activities and each family will receive a copy of the book.

B. Continuing Education (CE) (Ms. DiMichele reporting)

A trainer from Project Outcome will introduce a system for gathering meaningful outcome measures using Project Outcome tools at Measure Your Impact with Project Outcome on March 18. Participants will learn how to use Project Outcome surveys and other tools, use the collected data, and leverage the project's support network to ensure successful adoption.

Youth Services programs include two sessions of Summer Reading Program: Planning for "Imagine Your Story" on February 25 and 27, a Children's Sensory Story Time Support Group on March 10, Young Adult Roundtable: Open Topic on March 12, and Decoding and Disrupting Dominate Narratives on March 23.

Library Management programs include Records Management for Public Libraries on February 27, and Access to Public Records Act and the Open Meetings Act on March 11. A Special Collections Roundtable, National Digital Newspapers Program, will be held March 3, and an Adult Services Roundtable: Adult Programming Favorites and Flops is March 5.

Technology & Digital Innovation Roundtables programs include Google Analytics on March 12 and Digital Literacy & Technology Instruction Favorites and Flops on March 25. An Access & Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion program, Stepping Over Print Barriers, takes place on March 31.

More information about CE programs is available on the OLIS website.

C. State Program Report (Ms. DiMichele reporting)

The State Program Report, submitted in December to the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS), was accepted with minor edits. OLIS' Program Officer noted their appreciation for the succinct abstracts and the links to additional materials that present a fuller picture of Rhode Island's use of Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) funds.

D. LORI Learning Grants (Ms. DiMichele reporting)

OLIS awarded 8 LORI Learning Grants to public libraries, a total amount of \$14,280. The Town of Hopkinton's Langworthy and Ashaway libraries partnered on a grant project. Five grants were awarded for Summer Learning projects, and three were for Connected Learning projects. More information about the grant awards is posted on the OLIS website.

E. Grants

i. Ocean State Libraries (OSL)

Ocean State Libraries will receive funds to acquire online information resources and technologies to support those resources, including a mobile library application that will provide patrons access to the statewide database. OSL will also receive funds to purchase and deploy SimplyE, an eBook platform that allows users to access eBooks from multiple vendors.

ii. Statewide Reference Resource Center (SRRC)

A supplemental grant will be awarded to SRRC to digitize materials with statewide significance and to purchase learning courses for the benefit of RI library patrons. Providence Public Library will receive funds to purchase Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI) materials for the statewide catalog.

F. Census 2020, RI Census Awareness Week

RI Libraries Census Awareness Week is March 16-20. "I Count. You Count. We All Count" is the RI Census 2020 slogan. Senator Jack Reed will kick off Census Awareness Week on March 16. RI's Complete Count Committee will release census materials for distribution to libraries soon, and public distribution of census cards, designed to encourage online participation, will begin March 12. More information about the 2020 Census can be found on the OLIS website.

V. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Federal & State Legislative Updates (Ms. Mellor reporting)

A Senate hearing for Rhode Island S 2004 that prohibits the manufacture, sale, or possession of 3D-printed firearms is scheduled for February 25. A hearing scheduled for H 7096, requesting the governor to establish a RI broadband advisory council, was postponed at the sponsor's request. S 2103, which requires internet service providers to comply with net neutrality requirements, was held for further study.

There are no current federal legislation updates to report.

B. American Library Association (ALA) Congressional Fly-in

Ms. Mellor attended the ALA Congressional Fly-in event February 10-11 in Washington, DC where advocates sought an additional \$11 million for the recently reauthorized Museum and Library Services Act, which increases the LSTA base grant for individual states from \$680,000 to \$1,000,000. The \$11 million increase will fully fund the base grant at the

authorized level; RI will receive \$320,000 in additional funding when the base is fully funded. The Federal Budget, approved on December 30, provided an additional \$6,000,000 for the Institute of Museum and Library Services Grants to States program; RI will receive an increase of \$112,000 in its FY2020 award.

C. RI Library Association (RILA) Roundtable

On February 3, RILA hosted a roundtable with Congressman David Cicilline to discuss inequities with publishers' business practices towards libraries, and to request inclusion of this issue in the digital market investigation launched by the Antitrust, Commercial and Administrative Law (ACAL) Subcommittee, chaired by Congressman Cicilline.

VI. BOARD MEMBER REPORTS

No board member reports.

VII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. Public Library Trustees Manual Committee

The board will convene a committee to serve as a sounding board and provide input for the next iteration of the Public Library Trustees Manual.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

A. Interlibrary Loan (ILL) Resource Sharing

The Library of RI (LORI) Standards require libraries to share collections equally with other libraries. OLIS has received complaints that some libraries are not in compliance with the requirement, and that some libraries maintain 'Express Collections' exclusively for their patrons. OLIS would like to convene a panel of all types of libraries to understand the issues and define policies for resolution.

IX. PUBLIC COMMENT

Ms. Patti Arkwright, Director, and Ms. Laurie Kelly, Board of Trustees President, Maury Loontjens Memorial Library, detailed Narragansett's library construction project history. They described the efforts of the Board and library advocates to build a new library and actions of individuals who have stopped the construction project.

X. FUTURE MEETINGS

The next LBRI meeting is scheduled for March 16, 2020, from 4:15 – 5:45 p.m., at the Department of Administration, Conference Room A, 2nd Floor, One Capitol Hill, Providence, RI.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

Moved By: Ms. Blais

Seconded By: Mr. Findlay

The meeting was adjourned at 5:45 p.m.

LIBRARY BOARD OF RHODE ISLAND
The regular meeting of the Library Board of Rhode Island was held on
April 20, 2020
Online Via Zoom

Members Attending: Heidi Blais, John Bucci, Aaron Coutu, Melody Drnach (Chair), Annette Feldman, Kenneth Findlay, Rosita Hopper, Monica Nazareth-Dzialo, Doug Norris, Amanda Richman, Leslie Page, Robert Sloan

Members Absent: Cristina Amedeo, Louise Herrington, Phyllis Lynch (ex officio), Marcus Mitchell

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

Guests: None

Materials Distributed: None

I.WELCOME

Ms. Drnach called the meeting to order at 4:15 p.m.

Ms. Mellor informed the group the meeting is being recorded and held online under the Governor's Executive Order 20-25 which allows public bodies to conduct public meetings online, providing all other requirements of the Open Meetings Act (RIGL §42-46-5(b)) are observed, including ensuring public access to the meeting of the public body. The meeting was posted, and access information was made available to the public.

Member attendance was affirmed with a verbal roll call.

II.APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES from the February 24, 2020 meeting

Moved By: Mr. Bucci

Seconded By: Mr. Coutu

The minutes were approved as presented.

III.REPORT OF THE CHAIR

Ms. Drnach welcomed the Board and thanked them for their participation.

IV.CHIEF OF LIBRARY SERVICES REPORT

A. Ongoing

i. Staffing, Donna DiMichele

After 20 years of state service, Library Program Manager Donna Michele retired on March 31. Due to the coronavirus situation, it was not possible to hold a public celebration of Ms. DiMichele's accomplishments but staff hosted a farewell event via Zoom that included guests from the Department of Administration (DOA), the Library

Board of RI (LBRI, past and present), and the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS).

Dr. Hopper recommended that Ms. DiMichele receive a letter of commendation from the LBRI; Ms. Drnach and Dr. Hopper will work together to draft a letter to Ms. DiMichele.

ii. State Hiring Freeze

Two vacant Library Program Manager positions that were in the process of being posted in February are on hold because of the state hiring freeze.

B. COVID-19

i. Library Guidance

In late February/early March, OLIS began fielding and responding to queries from libraries about COVID-19, specific to the handling of materials. Ms. Mellor provided information based on the common recommendations available at that time and guidance from the RI Department of Health (RIDOH).

ii. Suspension of Delivery / Closure of Libraries

The Governor declared a State of Emergency on March 9, followed by closing schools on March 13; libraries began announcing closures at that point. OLIS suspended delivery on March 14; following the recommendation of RIDOH, OLIS recommended the closure of public library buildings on March 15.

iii. OLIS Response

OLIS staff began transitioning to teleworking on March 16. By March 17, OLIS had developed and posted a robust guide of online resources for state employees and the public. Unique learning resources were drawn from AskRI and the web for placement in the Online Learning and Enrichment Resources, which was arranged for elementary, middle, and high school learners, adult learners, and families. The guide was promoted by OLIS, the State, and Ocean State Libraries (OSL). Ms. Baffoni, who led the effort, reported the guide has been visited 7,000 times in 5 weeks, with 400-500 weekly visits and a link click rate of 50+%.

iv. Online Meetings and Continuing Education

OLIS and Ocean State Libraries (OSL) began co-hosting weekly meetings on March 23 to provide updates and support to the library community during the crisis; the weekly meetings are attended by upward of 100 library staff and a few trustees.

OLIS' Continuous Education (CE) in-person programs were canceled, with some rescheduled as online presentations. OLIS added 5 weekly online programs including twice-weekly youth services chats, adult services chats, digital services chat in partnership with OSL, and a special topics session focusing on COVID-19 topics. More information about online programming is on the OLIS website. Online programming attendance is strong and continues to increase with over 200 weekly participants. The

sessions provide opportunities for library staff to connect while providing standard programming and crisis-specific guidance.

vi. Ocean State Libraries

OSL has extended material due dates and library card expirations until June 1, closed the online hold process while library buildings are closed, and developed an online application and renewal process to ensure all Rhode Islanders are able to obtain an active library card. Library cards are required to access Ezone (downloadable books and audiobooks) and some AskRI resources. Over the past month, Ezone use has steadily increased.

vii. AskRI

AskRI has added several new resources, including Tumblebooks and more EBSCO resources; these resources were provided at no charge by the vendor. OLIS also added Udemy, an online learning product provided by Gale Cengage, to provide access to professional and personal development courses. Beatrice Pulliam at Providence Public Library has worked tirelessly to add these new resources and troubleshoot access issues with AskRI resources.

viii. Library Support

OLIS continues to inform communities and support libraries by providing guidance on safe material handling and curbside delivery practices.

Libraries are closed to the public, but staff in some libraries continue to maintain and develop collections, perform standard internal processes, and provide virtual online programming. Libraries are submitting virtual program listings to OLIS for inclusion on a statewide library calendar and creating innovative ways to provide services and materials to the public.

C. Governor's April Reading Challenge

OLIS partnered with the RI Department of Education (RIDE) to support the Governor's April Reading Challenge. OLIS convened a meeting of public library directors to determine how to best support the initiative and provide materials for students K-12. Currently 15-16 libraries offer curbside pickup to Reading Challenge participants. In addition, packets of books are being delivered to meal sites by RI Center for the Book, Reach Out and Read, Books Are Wings, and the Children's Book Festival. OLIS provided 500 books from the Kids Reading Across RI (KRARI) program for the Reading Challenge for distribution at meal sites.

D. Online Resources: AskRI

i. AskRI

AskRI has added new resources to meet the needs of distance learners, with existing vendors EBSCO and WorldBook expanding their resources until June 30.

Tumblebooks, a resource for early learners and elementary students, was added and

is available until June 30. In addition, Flipster, digital magazines aggregated by EBSCO; was added to offer readers a wide range of periodicals.

A grant awarded to Providence Public Library was used to purchase Udemy, an online learning tool with 4,000+ classes. Patrons can take courses and work toward certifications in a variety of areas; personal development sessions are also available. Library cards are required to access Udemy courses.

Beatrice Pulliam, Director of Technology and Information Services at Providence Public Library and AskRI Coordinator, has worked tirelessly to add these new resources and troubleshoot access issues with some AskRI resources.

Ms. Blais noted that she speaks to individuals who are not aware of the many AskRI resources available and requested that more attention be given to promoting the resources. Ms. Mellor will investigate ways to further promote resources.

E. Grant-in-Aid (GIA) and Learning Grants

Grant-in-Aid fourth quarter payments will go out within the next few weeks. Summer and Connected Learning grants awarded earlier this year will move forward reframed to work in the current environment. OLIS will monitor state budget activities to determine if GIA will be impacted.

F. Business as Usual

i. Public Library Annual Survey

The annual Public Library Annual Survey will move forward as usual; OLIS is developing reporting guidance for libraries that will capture the different activities that libraries are engaged in due to the pandemic. Certain data collection elements will be significantly impacted by the current library closure and statistics in those categories will look very different this year. The survey will be released in July and collect data from FY2020.

ii. Library of RI Certification

The Library of RI (LORI) annual certification was moved this year to align with the Public Library Annual Survey and will be released with it. OLIS will pilot the LORI certification process with some libraries in May to refine and troubleshoot any issues.

iii. Summer Reading Program

OLIS will continue to provide Summer Reading Program material resources and is finalizing the purchase of a user-friendly online tracking tool for libraries that includes a mobile app. OLIS will partner with PPL to roll out this tool and will provide grants to libraries currently using other products.

G. Census

Ms. Baffoni reported that the Census is extended to mid-August and 47% of Rhode Islanders have completed it to date. Libraries continue to promote Census participation.

H. Talking Books Library

Ms. Mellor reported Talking Books Library (TBL) continued to ship materials to patrons until the week of March 23 when Massachusetts' Governor Baker ordered closure of all businesses; Perkins Library, which is contracted to ship audio books to RI Talking Books patrons, closed as a result. TBL staff have been ordering interlibrary loans from the Multi-State Center West, which is located at the Utah State Library, to meet patron's needs for books. TBL staff are also making wellness calls to check on patrons they have not heard from and ask if they need books.

I. Personal Protective Equipment manufacturing at libraries

Several libraries are using 3-D printers to print face masks and other PPE needed by first responders. Providence Community Library has moved all 3D printers to Rochambeau Library and have manufactured over 2,000 face masks. Several libraries manufacturing PPE are using 3-D printers purchased previously with OLIS LORI grants.

J. Providence Public Library Reopening

The reopening of the Providence Public Library (PPL), scheduled for March 30, has been postponed. PPL is hosting a virtual event on April 24 to celebrate the new library and provide a virtual tour; the grand reopening will be scheduled for a later date.

V. COMMITTEE REPORTS

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

The RI Library Association (RILA) is composing a letter requesting that Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act funds be used to support libraries and watching for potential budget impact on GIA.

VI. BOARD MEMBER REPORTS

A. Ms. Feldman

Louttit Library has remained open with only two staff members in the building at a time. Louttit joined other small libraries in creating lists of vulnerable and at-risk patrons and staff is making wellness calls to them. Louttit's Circulation Head has made over 80 face masks, supplying the West Greenwich Police Department, cleaning service staff, and patrons upon request. Louttit is providing printing services, external Wi-Fi, and curbside delivery with social distancing measures in place.

B. Mr. Norris

For beginning adult English as a Second Language (ESL) learners the most effective learning method has been sending educational materials by mail and following up via phone. Intermediate and advanced learners are using resources such as newsela.com and conducting group email classes.

C. Mr. Sloan

Mr. Sloan inquired if any libraries have used the Small Business Administration (SBA) Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) to retain staff. Ms. Mellor is unaware of any libraries currently using PPP funds and will make libraries aware of the funding source.

D. Ms. Nazareth-Dzialo

Ms. Nazareth-Dzialo asked if homeless individuals housed in hotels during the pandemic will be counted in the Census. Ms. Baffoni reported the 2020 Census Group Quarters Enumeration process includes visits to shelters and point-in-time single night large scale efforts to count homeless people. If groups of people are staying in a hotel, it is conceivable that those individuals will be counted in that environment by Census workers.

VII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. Public Library Trustees Manual

This item remains on the agenda and will move forward as the crisis abates. When possible, Ms. Mellor will submit a PL Trustees Manual to members for review.

B. Interlibrary Loan (ILL) Resource Sharing

This item remains on the agenda and will move forward as the crisis abates. In person meetings important to this process will be scheduled when possible.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

A. Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act Funding

The first federal COVID-19 relief package included \$50,000,000 for the Institute of Museum & Library Services (IMLS) of which \$30,000,000 is allotted to the Grants to States program. OLIS will receive approximately \$96,000 in CARES funds based on a population formula and welcomes recommendations for how the funds can be dispersed to support libraries. \$14,000,000 of the CARES Act IMLS funds will be made available through a discretionary grant program to be announced.

B. Reopening Libraries

Ms. Mellor requested LBRI member input on the development of a phased plan to resume in person services at libraries.

Ms. Drnach recommended working with libraries to determine how various types of libraries should reopen. Board members should contact Ms. Mellor or Ms. Baffoni with suggestions and recommendations, and if they would like to volunteer to help this effort.

IX. PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment.

X. FUTURE MEETINGS

The next LBRI meeting is scheduled for May 18, 2020, from 4:15 – 5:45 p.m., online via Zoom.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

Moved By: Dr. Hopper

Seconded By: Mr. Coutu

The meeting was adjourned at 5:55 p.m.

LIBRARY BOARD OF RHODE ISLAND
The regular meeting of the Library Board of Rhode Island was held on
May 18, 2020
Online Via Zoom

Members Attending: John Bucci, Aaron Coutu, Melody Drnach (Chair), Annette Feldman, Kenneth Findlay, Rosita Hopper, Phyllis Lynch (ex officio), Monica Nazareth-Dzialo, Doug Norris, Amanda Richman, Leslie Page, Robert Sloan

Members Absent: Cristina Amedeo, Heidi Blais, Louise Herrington, Marcus Mitchell

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

Guests: None

Materials Distributed: None

I.WELCOME

Ms. Drnach called the meeting to order at 4:20 p.m.

Ms. Mellor informed the group the meeting is being recorded and held online under the Governor's Executive Order 20-25 which allows public bodies to conduct public meetings online, providing all other requirements of the Open Meetings Act (RIGL §42-46-5(b)) are observed, including ensuring public access to the meeting of the public body.

The meeting was posted, and access information made available to the public.

II.APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES from the April 20, 2020 meeting

Moved By: Mr. Coutu

Seconded By: Mr. Norris

The minutes were approved as presented.

III.REPORT OF THE CHAIR

Ms. Drnach welcomed the board and thanked them for their participation.

IV.CHIEF OF LIBRARY SERVICES REPORT

A. Ongoing

i. State Budget

The RI General Assembly Finance Committee began work last week on the FY21 State Budget; the state has an \$800M budget deficit. Ms. Mellor is monitoring the budget process for potential Grant-in-Aid (GIA) and OLIS impact.

ii. OLIS Telework

OLIS staff completed a second month of telework that will continue into the foreseeable future as RI moves into Phase I of 'Reopening Rhode Island'. Some staff go to the

Department of Administration building weekly to check mail and attend to various processes. OLIS staff have been working diligently, with very few absences.

B. Reopening Libraries

With assistance and input from libraries, Ocean State Libraries (OSL), the RI Library Association, and the Library Board of RI, OLIS staff developed a [comprehensive, phased plan](#) to reopen libraries. The plan was presented to libraries May 7 at an online meeting attended by 130 librarians and library staff, and updated May 11 and May 18 as new state guidance was published. OLIS received feedback from the Government Readiness group, which approved the plan on May 12 following review by the RI Department of Health (RIDOH). In her May 14 press conference, Governor Raimondo announced that libraries would begin offering limited services.

Ms. Mellor presented a thorough overview of the Library Reopening Plan, designed to align with the state's reopening plan. It includes information about developing individual reopening plans and details practices for managing key library processes while complying with state reopening regulations and best practices. Each public library has been assigned an OLIS staff member to assist them through the reopening process; OLIS will review library reopening plans upon request.

With one exception, all public libraries will begin offering curbside services in Phase 1 but are not open to the public. OLIS is maintaining a webpage for the status of public libraries services, and working closely with OSL to provide circulation guidance to libraries. Every Monday, OLIS and OSL host online update meetings with libraries to address questions and convey information; meetings average 100+ attendees.

Ms. Mellor extended her thanks to libraries and Board members for their input on the reopening plan, and to Ms. Baffoni for her work setting up the plan framework and website. The plan and related resources are available through the OLIS website.

C. Interlibrary Loan (ILL) Delivery

Interlibrary loan delivery resumes May 18 for public and academic libraries, with libraries receiving one delivery per week. Materials will be quarantined for a minimum of four days at the delivery vendor's warehouse; safety procedures have been communicated to libraries. OCLC is conducting a study to determine how long live virus can live on different library materials; the study will be available in late June/July.

D. Virtual Services Statistics

OLIS is hosting a calendar of virtual library programming. Libraries are conducting a tremendous amount of online programming, and eBook circulation and virtual library card applications have nearly doubled.

E. Continuing Education (CE) (Ms. Baffoni reporting)

Ms. Baffoni provided a statistical comparison between FY19 CE programs and virtual CE programs offered during the pandemic. In FY19, 679 people participated in 50 mostly in-

person programs, each session averaging 15 attendees. From April 20-May 15, 2020, 751 participants attended 21 virtual sessions, each averaging 68 attendees. Adding participants from the Monday update sessions, over 1,000 individuals have attended OLIS programs in the past two months. As librarians become more comfortable with participating in online programming, OLIS will incorporate more virtual programming into CE program schedules.

Upcoming summer programming will center on the theme, 'Civic Engagement in a Virtual Age'. Virtual chats will continue into June, with reopening sessions added to assist library staff. Technology and mental health workshops are also planned.

Other upcoming CE programs include a 3-part Diversity Audit series about auditing collections through a diversity lens, and Talking Books Library (TBL) will present 'Stepping Over Print Barriers', a workshop for helping patrons navigate libraries. More information about current and upcoming CE workshops is available on the OLIS website.

F. Summer Reading Program

Beanstack, a reading tracking application, has been purchased for libraries to track summer reading and other reading programs year-round. The application can be used on computers and mobile devices, supports reading challenges, and engages readers of all ages. Additionally, the application is customizable and will return a deeper view of statewide summer reading statistics than previously available. The purchase was made possible with COVID funds, and should be available by mid-June.

G. Business as Usual

i. Public Library Annual Survey

Staff is preparing the annual survey to be released mid-July. Data elements will be added to gauge what is happening at libraries during the health crisis.

ii. Library of RI (LORI) Certification

LORI certification will launch with the annual survey; certification allows libraries to participate in LORI delivery.

iii. Library Services Technology Act (LSTA) Coordinators Meeting

Ms. Baffoni and Mr. Ackermann attended the online annual LSTA Coordinators Meeting. The Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) administers LSTA funds; about half of OLIS' annual budget is funded through LSTA. Information from the meeting will be used to help complete the annual federal report.

iv. National and Regional Response to Coronavirus

Ms. Mellor has been attending online Chief Officers of State Library Agencies (COSLA) meetings. State library agency chiefs are meeting monthly to share experiences and learn about other state's approaches to the crisis, reopening and other topics. In addition, the Council of State Libraries in the Northeast (COSLINE) has been meeting weekly; these meetings are helpful in learning what neighboring states are experiencing and how they are addressing issues in their states.

H. Upcoming

Delivery will resume slowly as holds lists are cleared and libraries begin to open. OLIS will be monitoring school libraries as the school year closes and schedules for September sessions are published.

V. COMMITTEE REPORTS

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

There is no reportable state legislative activity on libraries.

HR 6800, the Health and Economic Recovery Omnibus Emergency Solutions Act (HEROES Act) passed by the House of Representatives, contains \$1 trillion in funds for local response and recovery, which includes \$5 million for libraries. The Senate has not acted on a version of this bill yet.

VI. BOARD MEMBER REPORTS

A. Ms. Richman

Hospital libraries are busy lending and fielding research requests; some libraries' staff is working remotely to assist patrons with resource acquisition.

B. Mr. Findlay

The Providence Community Library (PCL) donated 50-60 boxes of paperback books to the Department of Corrections. Mr. Findlay welcomes more donations and will provide donation contact information to the Board.

VII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act Funding

OLIS will offer a round of mini-grants with approximately \$60,000 in CARES funds to help libraries offset costs associated with COVID-19 supplies. Rather than submitting proposals, libraries will apply for reimbursement of eligible expenditures online, with OLIS awarding funds following the submittal of proof of expenditure for supplies and services procured for response to and recovery from coronavirus.

B. Reopening Libraries

Ms. Mellor extended her gratitude to the Board for their contributions to the Reopening Plan and for serving on various committees developing the plan. Suggestions for revisions or updates are welcome.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

A. Minimum Standards for RI Public Libraries under COVID-19

Because libraries cannot be open due to the health crisis, the minimum standard for library hours cannot be met. Ms. Mellor requested input from the board on how the standard can be adapted to provide equity within the library community to ensure all libraries are

providing services equally within their scope of ability. Ms. Drnach, Dr. Hopper, Ms. Page, and Mr. Coutu volunteered to assist in the review of the Minimum Standards.

VIII. PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment.

IX. FUTURE MEETINGS

The next LBRI meeting is scheduled for June 15, 2020, from 4:15 – 5:45 p.m., online via Zoom.

X. ADJOURNMENT

Moved By: Dr. Hopper

Seconded By: Mr. Findlay

The meeting was adjourned at 5:47 p.m.

LIBRARY BOARD OF RHODE ISLAND

The regular meeting of the Library Board of Rhode Island was held on

June 15, 2020

Online Via Zoom

Members Attending: Heidi Blais, John Bucci, Aaron Coutu, Melody Drnach (Chair), Rosita Hopper, Phyllis Lynch (ex officio), Doug Norris, Leslie Page, Robert Sloan

Members Absent: Cristina Amedeo, Annette Feldman, Kenneth Findlay, Louise Herrington, Marcus Mitchell, Monica Nazareth-Dzialo, Amanda Richman

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

Guests: Stephen Spohn, Executive Director, Ocean State Libraries

Materials Distributed:

- Ocean State Libraries E-Zone Digital Services Overview for June 2020
- LBRI Proposed Meeting Schedule 2020-2021

I. WELCOME

Ms. Drnach called the meeting to order at 4:20 p.m.

Ms. Mellor informed the group the meeting is being recorded and held online under the Governor's Executive Order 20-25 which allows public bodies to conduct public meetings online, providing all other requirements of the Open Meetings Act (RIGL §42-46-5(b)) are observed, including ensuring public access to the meeting of the public body. The meeting was posted, and public access information made available.

II. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES from the May 18, 2020 meeting

Moved By: Mr. Coutu

Seconded By: Dr. Hopper

The minutes were approved as presented.

III. REPORT OF THE CHAIR

Ms. Drnach welcomed the board and thanked them for their LBRI service. She commended libraries and library staff for their continued commitment to providing library services to the public during the COVID-19 Pandemic.

IV. CHIEF OF LIBRARY SERVICES REPORT

A. OLIS Updates

i. Telework

Staff continues to provide all library services while teleworking during Phase 2 of the Reopening RI Plan. In Phase 3, staff will begin returning to the office while adhering to all safety protocols.

ii. RI State Budget/Library Grant-in-Aid

There is currently no state budget while the state awaits information from the federal government about the next federal COVID-19 stimulus package. The Governor's FY21 state budget, proposed in January, provides level-funding for library grant-in-aid (GIA). OLIS has been informed that some libraries are expecting budget reductions as a result of shortfalls in municipal budgets.

iii. State Employee WorkShare (WS) Program

The state is implementing a voluntary part-time WorkShare furlough program for state employees. Because of current public library service reductions, some OLIS staff will participate in the program that runs from June 15-September 3. No services provided by OLIS will be reduced or negatively impacted by employee WS participation.

B. Public Library Annual Survey

The annual public library survey will launch on July 15 with additional questions about COVID-19-related library issues. Beginning this year, the annual survey will incorporate the Library of RI (LORI) annual recertification process, and collect summer reading programming statistics.

COVID-19 survey questions have been developed nationally, with local additions based on conversations with Rhode Island libraries. The data will inform OLIS and provide information to the Institute of Museum and Library Services' (IMLS) national Public Library Survey about the pandemic's impact on library services.

C. Continuing Education (CE) (Ms. Baffoni Reporting)

OLIS developed a tool to aggregate Continuing Education (CE) statistics. The current CE session is winding down and a comprehensive year-end review will be presented at the September meeting. Virtual online chats are now being held bi-weekly with an average attendance of 20 participants. Adult and Youth Service virtual program sessions will continue throughout the summer and their frequency will be reassessed in the fall. OLIS is also investigating mindfulness/mental health training this fall for library staff with a breakaway session planned for directors.

Ocean State Libraries' (OSL) ongoing CE program 'Reopening RI Libraries - On the Front Lines' is well-attended and informative, presenting approaches to library services in the age of COVID from front-line staff. In partnership with the RI Library Association (RILA), Cornucopia of RI (CORI), and the University of RI's Graduate School of Library and Information Studies (URI GSLIS), OLIS is planning virtual statewide Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI) and anti-racism workshops for the fall.

D. Rhody Radio Podcast Series (Ms. Baffoni Reporting)

Ms. Baffoni is part of a statewide group of public libraries developing a bi-weekly podcast to share library programming virtually. The group is developing best practices and training for interested libraries and identifying a variety of presenters for upcoming episodes. Staff training is planned for July with the podcast launch anticipated for September.

E. Reopening Libraries

OLIS posted Phase 2 reopening guidance for libraries on May 29 for various library operations in conformance with government guidelines. Most libraries are offering curbside pickup with some libraries allowing limited in-person browsing. A few libraries have socially-distanced computer use available with stringent disinfectant processes in place. 98% of libraries are providing virtual programming.

F. Public Library Status Surveys

Ms. Mellor presented statistics from two public library surveys distributed in May and June. May survey responses from 46 libraries indicated that 288 mostly paraprofessional part-time library staff had been furloughed or laid off, approximately 28% of the public library workforce. Responses to the June survey reflected that a portion of the furloughed staff had been recalled. OLIS is monitoring staffing situations in libraries. Budget data for libraries was not readily available.

OLIS has partnered with Ocean State Libraries to develop the Public Library Service Status tool, searchable by library or city, that is available on the OLIS website. The tool includes open hours and services of public libraries and will be updated weekly.

V. SPECIAL TOPIC: Ocean State Libraries Digital Services Presentation

Stephen Spohn, Executive Director of Ocean State Libraries (OSL), presented a statistical overview of digital library resource usage from the last three months. OSL coordinates the acquisition of eBooks, audiobooks, and downloadable video via OSL's eZone, the consortium's implementation of Overdrive. Additionally, to ease the burden on libraries during the pandemic, OSL took over the process of approving virtual library card applications. OLIS and OSL have partnered to provide digital services to patrons and support to libraries during the COVID-19 crisis.

Presentation data can be found at the following links. Members may contact Steve with any questions.

- [eZone Data:](https://public.tableau.com/profile/stephen.spohn#!/vizhome/eZoneDashboard/eZoneThisYear)
<https://public.tableau.com/profile/stephen.spohn#!/vizhome/eZoneDashboard/eZoneThisYear> [public.tableau.com]
- [Circulation Data:](https://public.tableau.com/profile/ocean.state.libraries#!/vizhome/OSLCirculationFY2020_15701153140770/Circulation)
https://public.tableau.com/profile/ocean.state.libraries#!/vizhome/OSLCirculationFY2020_15701153140770/Circulation [public.tableau.com]

VI. COMMITTEE REPORTS

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

Federal legislation is focused on coronavirus mitigation and promoting broadband development.

VII. BOARD MEMBER REPORTS

No board member reports were heard.

VIII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act Funding

OLIS launched the LORI CARES Grant application process on June 11. Public libraries may apply online for grants of \$1,000 per library system with an additional \$500 for each library branch. Up to \$60,000 in total will be awarded for expenditures associated with coronavirus response and library reopening. The program is not competitive; grants will be awarded to all eligible applicants, with expenditures reviewed for conformance with program guidelines prior to fund disbursement.

B. Minimum Standards for RI Public Libraries under COVID-19

Ms. Drnach, Dr. Hopper, Ms. Page, and Mr. Coutu previously volunteered to review the Public Library Minimum Standard specific to library open hour requirements. The standard is currently relaxed because of government shutdown directives. Ms. Mellor requested input for establishing guidelines to govern the current situation and any potential future similar situation(s). Members recommended establishing a threshold for compliance to be incrementally increased in conjunction with RI State Reopening Phases until the standard requirements are restored. A meeting of member volunteers will be convened within the next few weeks to review the recommendations.

C. Trustees Manual

Ms. Baffoni will assist board members with the review and update of the Trustees Manual. Ms. Page, Ms. Drnach, Mr. Coutu, and Mr. Findlay volunteered to assist with the process.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

No new business.

VIII. PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment.

IX. FUTURE MEETINGS

The next LBRI meeting is scheduled for September 21, 2020, from 4:15 – 5:45 p.m., at a location to be announced.

Board members will review the proposed 2020-2021 LBRI meeting schedule and recommend changes. Dr. Hopper inquired if Zoom meetings will be possible for future meetings. Ms.

Mellor noted that state law requires in-person meetings; however, state laws may be relaxed to continue online board meetings.

X. ADJOURNMENT

Moved By: Mr. Coutu

Seconded By: Ms. Page

The meeting was adjourned at 5:55 p.m.