

**Consumer Advisory Committee Meeting**  
**July 25, 2013**  
**Minutes**

Committee members, partners & others attending: Janell Brown, Jo Ferguson, Tracy Grimm, Irwin Hott, Mickey Prahin, Vicky Prahin, Will Reed, Brit Taylor, Sandy Turner, Heather Youngman

**INTRODUCTIONS:**

The meeting was held at the State Library of Ohio. The meeting was called to order at 10:30A.M. by Tracy Grimm. Each attendee introduced him or herself to the committee.

**STATE LIBRARY REPORT:**

***Tri-Regional Conference:*** Tracy and Will attended the NLS Tri-Regional Conference held May 7 – 9 in Pittsburgh, PA. The Tri-Regional Conference includes the Midlands, East & Southern Conferences of the National Library Service. Included in the conference was a tour of the Pittsburgh Regional LBPH (Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped). The biggest announcement of the conference was from NLS stating that they no longer require an original signature on applications. The State Library and OLBDP are now able to accept applications for the program by scanned email or fax.

***Sublending Agency Training:*** SLA Training was held June 5<sup>th</sup> at the State Library of Ohio for the second year in a row. The training had 36 in attendance, including 8 new participants. The training date for next year will be Wednesday June 4, 2014. Guest speaker for the program will be, Sarah Williams, Claire's Williams daughter. Sarah is planning to speak on Access Technology and will be demonstrating some of the various types of equipment she uses. There were many questions about different types of equipment from participants, for example the Braille Notetaker. Next year will also feature another segment from Mandy Knapp about technology with eBooks and eReaders, it was a very popular topic and one that will need to be updated yearly due to so many changes.

***CABVI Visit:*** Tracy had an official Cincinnati Association for the Blind & Visually Impaired (CABVI); visit on July 11 with Brit Taylor in Cincinnati. She was fascinated to learn and see the production area for industries housed in their building and all of the other wonderful services CABVI provides. These include Radio Reading Services, Access Technology Service & Early Childhood and Youth Services, as well as providing Talking Book Services. Brit has also started a book club and has had a very positive turnout so far.

**IMLS Visit:** James Lonergan, Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) Program Officer will be visiting Ohio from August 6 - 8. The State Library receives federal funds to support statewide library programs and services from the Institute of Museum and Library Services. In order to receive these federal Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) funds, each State Library is required to submit a Five-Year Plan. The current Plan runs between 2013-2017. At the IMLS level, monitoring of the federal funds is done through the Library Services, State Programs Office. As part of the monitoring process, once during each LSTA Five-Year Plan cycle the State Library receives a site visit from an IMLS Program Officer.

The first day he will be at the State Library meeting staff, taking a tour, reviewing files, processes and procedures. The next two days will be spent visiting libraries and LSTA projects. James has expressed an interest in visiting programs that address the needs of the visually challenged. Tracy will be taking James to visit Janell Brown and the Ohio School for the Blind on Tuesday afternoon, August 6<sup>th</sup>. James will also be visiting the OLBDP library on August 8<sup>th</sup>.

**Snapshot Day:** – Tracy announced that Library Snapshot Day will be held during the month of November this year. Libraries are asked to select one day in November to represent what a typical day would look like. The State Library has not selected a date at present.

#### **OLBDP Report:**

**Magazines on Cartridge:** Will reported that patrons are having a hard time getting through their magazines in a week. Cartridges need to be returned to the distributor not OLBDP. The biggest change for patrons is having more than one magazine on a cartridge. Patrons may request an advanced player to help reading magazines easier because of the book shelf feature. Patrons need to know that throwing away cartridges is not allowed. Cartridges cost approximately seven dollars each and are not as easy to replace as cassettes due to cost. Another change is that audio magazine readers may receive different magazines on a cartridge each month.

**Talking Book Topics:** Patrons are still currently receiving Talking Book Topics on cassette and cartridge. This will only last during the transition phase to all digital. Talking Book Topics will no longer be available on cassette past 2013.

**Exploring New Communication:** Will announced that he no longer believes the OLBDP newsletter is an effective way to communicate to all patrons of the program. Will believes that new ideas and ways to get the message out should be explored. Some ideas included email blasts, Twitter, Facebook and placing the newsletter on NEWSLINE. The idea of a survey to patrons for their needs and ideas was also proposed.

OLBPD is also working on a new website; however it is a slow process. OLBPD will continue to explore new avenues for connecting with our users and delivering more timely updates about our service. Once the initial website is built, OLBPD will have more control over adding and updating content. Will feels that once the new website is up and running it will help promote the program and help to advertise upcoming events.

**Perkins Summit:** Will attended the NLS Perkins Braille Summit in June in Boston. NLS will take the data gathered from the Summit and release a report outlining a long term strategic plan for Braille. Many members from the CAC committee feel like more can be done in Ohio to promote Braille. Braille is not only for the blind and Ohio needs more teachers able to teach it to students. Braille technology also needs to be more accessible, including 3-D printers and refreshable Braille displays. Will suggested as a goal for 2014 to explore how we can do better with Braille literacy.

The Perkins Braille Summit was recorded and is available to watch on You Tube.  
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CtEeSnFW66A>

**Family Fun & Learning Day:** Will reported that the July 10<sup>th</sup> OLBPD FFLD event held in Cincinnati at the Clovernook Center for the Blind and Visually Impaired was a huge success. The Clovernook Center was a wonderful place to host the event. Will reported that approximately 120 people attended the event featuring NLS Narrator Michael Kramer. The next FFLD events are scheduled at the State Library of Ohio in Columbus on August 14<sup>th</sup> and OLBPD in Cleveland on September 11<sup>th</sup>. Both the Columbus and Cleveland events will feature NLS Narrator Laura Giannarelli.

**BARD Application:** Will reported that the NLS BARD app is almost completed. NLS attended the ACB convention in Ohio and patrons were able to demo the new app. for the first time. NLS is expecting the BARD app to go live sometime late September or early October. Response from the ACB convention was very positive about the app.

Next meeting is scheduled at the State Library of Ohio on Thursday, October 31 2013 at 10:30am.

Meeting adjourned at 11:54am.

Minutes submitted by Tracy Grimm