

## **ASAC meeting minutes 10.14.22**

### **Attendance:**

Anne Pitlyk (UHLS), Judith Wines (UHLS), Christiann Gibeau (COHS), Peggy Mello (COLN), Tracey Clague (NASS), Amy Powarzynski (WSTR), Catherine Snow (EGRN), Debbie Scott (WTVT), Jane Chirgwin (RENS)

### **Reciprocal Lending Agreement**

UHLS has a reciprocal lending agreement with MHLS in OverDrive. It allows our patrons to check out anything available in their OverDrive collection that isn't metered access and vice versa. Currently, the checkout numbers are showing that UHLS libraries are checking out an average of 22 titles a month from the MHLS collection, while MHLS libraries are only checking out an average of 16.7 titles a month from the UHLS collection. It's not a competition, but if it was, we would be winning.

### **Winter Reading Programs**

J. Wines asked if any libraries were running Winter Reading programs for adults. She gave the example of the Winter Reading Program RCSC runs. Patrons record the books they read and receive small but fun prizes for each level completed (3-4 books per level). If a patron reads more than 13 books in the time allowed, the patron receives a raffle prize for a bigger prize. T. Clague shared that NASS is planning a Winter Reading Program for adults with a raffle prize at the end and may adopt the RCS plan of smaller prizes at different levels.

### **Services to People with Disabilities**

J. Wines shared her top takeaways from UHLS's program with Carrie Painter of ARC of Rensselaer County. Their clients have different levels of support, and it may be part of a client's care plan that agency staff give them more independence. If you are concerned that agency staff are not working closely enough with their clients, feel free to ask about the care plans in place! This may be on purpose. Loneliness can be a real challenge for people in assisted living centers, who often only interact with staff who are paid to be around them. So, visits to the library are important social outings for them.

### **Library Cards for Patrons without a Permanent Address**

UHLS is looking into the possibility of coming up with system-wide parameters to allow libraries to issue cards to patrons who do not have a permanent address. J. Wines asked if any libraries would be open to a system-wide policy and if attendees already had one in place for their patrons.

- T. Clague said NASS does not currently have a policy but that she is open to it.

- J. Chirgwin has an option for RENS patrons to have digital access only without a permanent address. They have experimented with limited borrowing in the past, but most items were lost.
- D. Scott said that WTVT does not currently have a policy, but they have issued cards in special cases. She would be interested in system-wide guidelines.
- P. Mello said that COLN has an option for patrons to put down a deposit that is returned when the library materials are brought back. She does not think it gets used very often.
- J. Wines shared that it may be possible to use outreach funds to guarantee the cards during a trial stage. If that is possible, everyone is very interested.

### **System-Wide Spelling Bee**

UHLS is considering holding a system-wide Spelling Bee for adults! The program would probably take place in April. Each library would hold a preliminary round for any of their patrons. Then, depending on participation levels, there would be a larger Bee held for either the system or the county and then the system. P. Mello and A. Powarzynski both expressed interest on behalf of their libraries, and there were no hard nos. More information to come!

### **Other Virtual Programs**

J. Wines has been invited to attend a virtual Murder Mystery Party at a library outside the system and will report back. If any UHLS libraries ever have ideas for system-wide virtual programming, feel free to reach out!

### **Hybrid Programs**

J. Wines asked if anyone has been running hybrid programs, and, if so, how they have been going. UHLS might be able to put outreach funds towards equipment to make hybrid programs run more smoothly if members are interested.

- C. Snow said that EGRN is planning one for December (a trivia contest), but has not held one yet.
- T. Clague hasn't done any live hybrid programming, but she has tried recording presentations and making the recordings available to patrons after the fact.
- P. Mello said that attendance at programs for adults has been very low since they moved back to in-person. J. Wines said that she has been hearing the same thing from several libraries, and wondered if hybrid programming would help boost attendance.
- T. Clague said that manning Zoom and running a program at the same time is unwieldy. C. Snow shared that EGRN is planning to double staff any hybrid programs to solve that problem.

### **COSAC**

Outreach funds have been distributed in a variety of ways in the past. J. Wines asked attendees if they had a preference between mini-grants and trainings/software purchases.

- J. Chirgwin liked the mini-grants that came with a content menu.
- T. Clague also preferred the mini-grants.

There was not a consensus of strong feelings. J. Wines will meet with COSAC in the coming weeks and inform ASAC what direction they decide to go in.

### **Dealing with Overwhelm**

J. Wines noticed an interest in among attendees of the Services to People with Disabilities program to talk about burnout. She asked if there was any demand for in-person, quarterly meetings to discuss this topic. After some discussion it was recommended that these meetings be added as open-ended forums after ASAC meetings.

### **Open Forum**

P. Mello announced that COLN's new social work intern has started. It has so far been a positive experience, and it may be something UHLS participates in next semester.

P. Mello asked if anyone else is participating in the Great Give Back this year. COLN's food drive has just started, and so far they have received a disappointing number of expired goods.

- C. Gibeau shared that COHS is working with the senior center on a coat drive this year. The library's knitting club will be making hats and scarves to give away along with the coats.
- A. Powarzynski said that WSTR is running a food drive, but it isn't technically a Great Give Back program.

J. Wines would like to start having ASAC meetings in person again. She's hoping that meetings can alternate between Albany and Rensselaer counties. RENS, COLN, and COHS are all willing to host, so we're off to a good start!

C. Gibeau shared that her Friends group was not as active as she might like. She will be tabling for them at the town's Halloween event and she is working on getting them to start collecting email addresses of people who may be interested in membership.