

Attendance: Anne Pitlyk (UHLS), Judith Wines (UHLS), Laurie Dreyer (TROL), Meg Kelly (APL), Amy McLaughlin (APL), Amy Powarzynski (WSTR), Jill Kobayashi (RCSC), Kelly Akin (VAFL), Melissa Tacke (CAST) Tracey Clague (NASS)

Talking Book and Braille Library

J. Wines opened the meeting and introduced Shawn Lemieux, a guest speaker from New York State's Talking Book and Braille Library. The TBBL serves people with visual, print, and physical disabilities (permanent or temporary) that make standard print books inaccessible. Their materials are mailed directly to patron's homes, postage free. They offer braille and audiobooks. Patrons are also able to download books directly to a mobile device through the BARD app. Public libraries are eligible to sign up for [institutional accounts](#) with TBBL that will enable libraries to better serve patrons with print disabilities.

- A. Powarzynski has a cartridge player and asked if she would be able to share this with patrons who do not yet have accounts with TBBL. That is perfectly fine, just let TBBL know the number on the device and they will move it to your patron's account once it has been created.

Adult Literacy Basics and Resources

J. Wines met with a representative from Volunteer Literacy Project, an organization that takes a phonics-based approach to adult literacy. The representative is offering to hold a 1hr program to teach librarians the basics of adult literacy. J. Wines asked if that would be of interest and attendees agreed that it would be.

Public Benefits Resources

J. Wines has been receiving questions lately pertaining to services for refugees. She [shared a website that has a lot of great resources](#) (check the menus in the upper right corner) and recommended partnering with refugee organizations for Summer Reading Programs, given this year's theme of All Together Now. She also shared [a chart that shows all of the state benefits that refugees and immigrants are entitled to in New York](#).

OverDrive Updates

J. Wines, A. Pitlyk, and Kristina Ronald (chair of the Econtent Committee) met with representatives from OverDrive to go over data from the transition to Libby and peer library comparisons.

- The OverDrive app will sunset in late April. Kindle users will continue to be able to access the OverDrive app until Amazon approves Libby. Most UHLS patrons are actively using Libby now, so our publicity push has been effective.
- UHLS spending in OverDrive is comparable to that of other, similar libraries. Our average wait time for holds is much higher, which is attributable to our purchasing policies. We have many more unique titles than comparable library systems, who likely use a more patron-driven acquisition approach.
- OverDrive provided an [updated diversity audit](#). Because UHLS focuses on purchasing unique titles, we have a much more diverse collection than comparable libraries.

- OverDrive has made changes to the way holds are placed for patrons who have access to multiple libraries. Now, holds are placed on whichever copy has the shortest wait time.
 - J. Kobayashi asked if this automated approach factors in checkout limits. J. Wines said that it does not. However, a patron can manually add holds from libraries with longer wait times, but larger checkout limits.
- The Notify Me feature is coming soon to Libby. It will replace the request to library feature that was so popular in the OverDrive app.
- UHLS is moving towards signing Reciprocal Lending Agreements with MVLS and SALS, which will provide our patrons with limited access to their OverDrive collections.

Albany Guardian Society Collaborations

UHLS has been partnering with The Albany Guardian Society on book discussion programs lately, and AGS has offered to donate adult lego kits to UHLS libraries. We do not yet know how many kits will be available, but all libraries represented at this meeting were interested in receiving one. AGS has also offered to lead a collage program for interested libraries.

CDLC Eform Updates

A. Pitlyk gave a quick overview of the new CDLC eform. If any libraries have not created accounts in the new system yet, they are encouraged to do so [here](#). Meghan Wakeman at CDLC will be turning on lending for all UHLS libraries in accordance with current lending policies. If you have any trouble getting started, check out CDLC's libguide [here](#) or email uhls.ill@uhls.org. J. Wines encouraged libraries to make use of ILL!

Program Swap

The Tri-System Program Swap is back! The next meeting will be April 4th at 10:00am and it will be Summer Reading Program themed. Keep an eye out for registration details coming soon!

Services to Adults with Dementia

J. Wines recommended an excellent webinar from WebJunction on providing library services to patrons with dementia. It is available to take [on demand](#).

NYLA Conference Programming

The deadline to submit program proposals for the 2023 NYLA conference is March 7th. Anyone with an interest is encouraged to submit! For more information, check out the [NYLA website](#).

Blood Pressure Cuffs

The American Heart Association has reached out to offer blood pressure cuff kits to public libraries. The idea is for libraries to add 5-6 kits to their library of things collection, and keep 1-2 for use in the library. The American Heart Association would provide training and will prioritize libraries serving higher needs populations, but everyone is welcome to reach out and ask for the kits.

Outreach Mini-Grants

UHLS Adult Services Advisory Council
February 10th, 2023 | 2:00pm-3:00pm | Meeting Minutes

UHLS is bringing back mini-grants! If you are planning a program that serves an outreach population, you can submit a proposal to the Coordinated Outreach Services Advisory Council (COSAC) to receive outreach funds to support the program.

Open Forum

A. McLaughlin asked if UHLS would register for a spot for libraries in the Pride Parade again this year. J. Wines said that UHLS will definitely be doing that again.

A. Powarzynski gave a shout out to UHLS ILL services. Thanks Anne and Amy!

Trivia

Congratulations to Laurie Dryer from TROL for winning the “American novels” trivia contest. Her prize arrived via courier.