

## Youth Services Advisory Council

November 20, 2020

9:30-11:00 am

### Attendance: 21

Mary Fellows (UHLS), Amy DuBrey (UHLS), Anita Wilson (PTRB), Barbara Goetschius (RCSC), Carrie Needham (BERN), Chris McGinty (BETH), Elnora Baker (APL), Gail Brown (VOOR), Beth Rienti (GUIL), Anne-Marie Helderfer (COLN), Jen Lubbers (EGRN), Judy Crilley (RVLL), Lee Ackerman-Sawyer (WSTR), Lexi Consler-Neudecker (APL), Lisa Fesmire (VOOR), Olga Setinskaya (GUIL), Rebecca Robinson (TROY), Rose Stuart (COLN), Sandy Tabor (GUIL), Suzanne Cardinal (NASS), Deb Bevevino (VAFL)

### UHLS Updates

#### SRP supplies to offer this year

Due to budget cuts because of the Covid-19 pandemic, we have a much smaller budget and therefore will be offering a scaled down version of supplies for SRP 2021. The state will NOT be providing posters as they have in years past. There will be some items to choose from and an email with a link to a google form will be going out with choices available. Following group input, choices are being limited to posters, bookmarks and reading records, depending on quantities needed.

#### SRP workshop

**SRP 2021: Tails and Tails** Workshop will look different next year. A completely virtual training will take place. The group was asked for ideas. Based on feedback, topics covered may include: Take and Makes, Outdoor Programming, Read Squared, Virtual Trivia, Using Discord, etc. An emphasis will be placed on doing virtual programs but with built-in flexibility to switch to in-person if it is safe to do so.

#### 3-System Take and Make Page

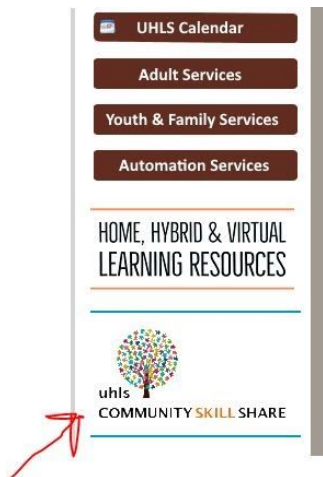
You're all looking for Take-and-Makes. Let's help each other and make our own lives easier by sharing! Please post your ideas [HERE](#). Even basic ideas are welcome! This page is shared with MVLS and SALS and we hope for a lot of traffic on this page!

#### Community Skill Share

Check out the updated UHLS [Home](#) page: *Notice that now "Youth and Family Services" has a link!*



Directly below it is a new program link [Community Skill Share](#):



UHLS is looking to our vastly talented community to share their skills, whether you are adept at teen book parties, can navigate social media, love to do graphic design, or can whip up a virtual storytime in your sleep. Or, if your interests lend themselves to share with our patrons (cook over a campfire, pro at the instant-pot, share your craftiness, etc.) we invite you as well to fill out the Google form and let us know you are interested in sharing your interests and skills with others! We are looking to all of you to share your professional and personal skills with our library communities.

### ATF Update (Antiracism Task Force)

We're starting an antiracism listserv. We will send out a message about it once we have content on our web pages, as it will mainly be used to highlight new content on our web page.

Remember to point us towards resources through [this form](#).

Conceiving the training piece of this - here's what we're thinking now:

- Antiracism Learning Circles – beginner, advanced where there's a piece to read or watch beforehand and we meet to discuss.
- A basic introduction for all staff
- More advanced, on your own training paired with UHLS discussion groups that brings the content of each session back to libraries.

Doing this work is like filling a test tube from a fire hose . . . there is SO MUCH. Add in the pandemic and task force members getting sick, and our pace in this work is slower than we'd like. But – incremental progress!

## Youth Services Survey

Thanks to all who filled in the YS survey. More information was sought on a few of the comments in the survey (Group suggestions are in red):

- Perhaps a venue where staff could privately share concerns about directors/boards and seek advice
  - conflict/resolution training?**
  - training on advocating for yourself**
  - Please know Mary's "door" is always open to you for advice or just to touch base/ask questions.
- Explore/encourage/facilitate collaborations between the libraries.
  - new librarian/director mentorships?**
- More System wide programming that can be used by all...
  - Youth programming idea swap**
  - cross-promotion between libraries**
  - cross/joint marketing**
  - how to Hashtag on social media**
  - basic programs on how to use social media to market library programs/ how to use Facebook, Twitter, Instagram**
- Wellness checks? *"It's a big ask, but I think it would be helpful if UHLS - just until we get through this crisis - would set up short virtual meetings with individual library directors and/or their youth services coordinators to take their temperature for the coming year with periodic check-ins over the coming months."*
  - periodic invites/reminders to touch base with Mary**
- Help us filter out some of the emails about resources that aren't really going to be useful to us? I wish we could see more things just presented "in a nutshell". What is helpful to larger libraries might be of no consequence to small libraries. Also, it's so hard to attend so many virtual meetings, especially on so many days of the week.
  - There are 2 youth related listservs. Youthserv (just UHLS libraries, anyone can post), Youthshare, formerly Kidbytes, (SALS, MVLS and UHLS can post) Please know Mary does not send everything on to you everything that she is asked to and is conscious of not overwhelming anyone with email. To cut back on your own email, remember to unsubscribe to everything you can. The "free" training from School Library Journal and other companies does come with the price of vendors getting your email address.**
- I would love to sit in on the director's meetings from time to time or would it be possible to have access to the minutes?

**-Director's meeting attendance is by invite only but meeting minutes are posted [here](#)**

**Pathway: [About UHLS](#)>[UHLS Governance](#)>[Directors Association](#)**

- More sharing of programs & ideas in a shared space not just at meetings.  
**-Please visit and help populate the [Tri-Y System Take and Make Ideas list](#)**

### **Ronald McDonald House project**

- As a UHLS library, you have an opportunity to partner with Ronald McDonald House (RMH) of the Capital Region in a reading project. Essentially, kids/families get people to sponsor their reading at a certain dollar amount.
- Attached to the email being sent out are all of the details related to the program. It's fairly flexible – you can choose when and for how long you encourage people to read. Readers can be individuals or families. Readers can collect money and mail RMH a check, in which case they are unknown to RMH until the check is received. Or they can set up a fundraising page via RMH for sponsors to contribute to. The library can opt for prizes to its readers or no prizes. (Based on motivation theory, Mary recommends against prizes.) Here is an [introductory video](#) you can share with the public if it's helpful.
- As a little background, normally UHLS steers clear of projects like this. However this year:
  1. Libraries are looking at activities and partnerships differently during the pandemic
  2. The participating library can opt to receive 10% of the funds raised.
  3. A focus group of a few libraries indicated that there was interest in this project

### **Sharing from some reading on benefits of the pandemic and what youth, parents, and library workers need**

#### **Benefits of pandemic to kids and teens:**

- Getting to slow down
- More time with parents
- More agency
- More time to read
- Parents can witness how children learn (virtual learners)

#### **What children need most right now:**

From: <https://www.jmoreliving.com/2020/07/02/what-our-kids-need-right-now/>

- Compassion and understanding
- Patience
- Unconditional love and affection
- Someone to have fun with

- o A Read-In. Post book lists and audiobook lists that would be fun for the whole family, and/or by age groups. Encourage families to dress all cozy (pajamas?) and post pictures. Perhaps a silly slipper contest or a decorate your own book-related slipper craft.
- o DIY book party for families- could be entirely virtual.
  - For example: Captain Underpants Party
    - Outdoor underpants sling
    - Giant underpants ball (stuffed with rags, openings sewn together) activities
- o Growing Readers Kits includes a book, shaker eggs, song lyrics that go along with the live Zoom storytime
- o Storytime Kits to go with pre-recorded or live storytimes which include some kind of shaker or scarf, song lyrics and a simple craft: TIPS: try to call kids by name, personalize as much as you can
- o Virtual Read to a Dog or Read to a Baby!

### **What teens need most right now:**

- To be listened to without solutions or judgment
- To be helped to focus on resilience – what they can't control, what they can
  - o Learn about COVID and take personal actions to stop the spread
  - o Learn what helps you relax. Try new things that may help you, like meditation or listening to a new kind of music. Avoid alcohol and drugs.
  - o Keep to a schedule. Plan times for schoolwork, relaxing, connecting with friends.

From: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/daily-life-coping/stress-coping/young-adults.html> and <https://www.healthychildren.org/English/health-issues/conditions/COVID-19/Pages/Teens-and-COVID-19.aspx>

### **What parents need most right now to help kids and teens:**

- To implement structure and routines
- Reminder to model healthy behaviors – covid, but also self-care
- Find things to be grateful for and share them

From <https://www.helpguide.org/articles/parenting-family/parenting-during-coronavirus.htm>;  
<https://www.health.state.mn.us/communities/mentalhealth/children>; <https://nynj.adl.org/read4respect/>

### **What do library workers need right now?**

- Solid understanding and acceptance of what we can and can't control
- Structure and routines
- Self-care
- Maximize the joy in work
  - o What are some ways that we do that?

- Check-in with each other. Call,email colleagues
- Jokes!
- Find more ways to structure your work/life so you don't have to think about so much.
- Find what you really like (workwise) and do more of it
- Share your accomplishments! (See Times Union article below )
- Share what you know. Teach someone something that you are good at. See [UHLS Community Skill Share](#) to offer! Research shows that helping others boosts your well-being too.

[Story Walk TU article.pdf](#)

**Request an ARC!** New books added semi-monthly!

<http://reports.uhls.org/cgi-bin/staff/arc.pl>

**Upper Hudson Youth Services**

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