

## UHLS Youth Services Advisory Council

September 24, 2021

VIRTUAL

9:45 – 10:00 Casual chat

10:00 – 11:30 Meeting

**Attendance:** (18, GTM) Mary Fellows (UHLS), Suzanne Cardinal (NASS), Molly Chatt (EGRN), Mary Klimack (NGRN), Joelle Adler (CAST/EGRN), Jenna Zaborowski (EGRN), Lee Ackerman-Sawyer (WSTR), Michelle Conte (BETH), Heidi Carle (RVLL), Elissa Valente (COLN), Anita Wison (PTRB), Elnora Baker (APLB), Carol Roberts (TROY), Amy Relyea (TROY), Debbie Sternklar (VOOR), Gail Brown (VOOR), Leanna Sweet (GRAF), Lexi Consleur (APL) plus two phone attendees.

### UHLS updates

- SRP stats – due today! (9/24)
- [Report on RIF](#)
  - Twenty-two libraries (17 UHLS, 5 MVLS) in UHLS and MVLS participated, passing out 476 books to teens. Our titles this year were Ghost by Jason Reynolds and Warcross by Marie Lu. Price per copy was \$4.79 and \$4.49, respectively.
  - A whopping thirty-five entries were made in the evaluation survey, as compared to five last year! All but three (1 Ghost, 2 Warcross) liked the book they read. All but six said they did or would RIF – and those six did not include the three who didn't like their book.
  - If you are interested in choosing next year's title keep an eye out for an email in late fall.

### ATF Update

- Collections team has a digital diversity audit which they will be sharing once they get with ECAC.
- Contract has been signed with a consultant for staff and board training. More information to come.
- Learning Circle announcement: [“Just Belonging: Finding the Courage to Interrupt Bias.”](#) – on Wednesday, October 27 from 11:00 – 12:00 p.m. See your email for connection information

**Virtual programs: what have we learned?** Panel discussion with input from Molly Chatt (EGRN) Elnora Baker (APL), Elissa Valente (COLN) and notes from Elisabeth Smith (GUIL)

**How did you evolve into virtual programming?**

#### Molly (EGRN)

- Virtual recorded storytimes with no interaction, doing a few books and songs per week.
- transitioned to ZOOM storytimes about a year ago
- teen programming with Kahoot and an online anime club (very popular)
- many Bingo programs via ZOOM
- virtual programs like MiSci and we had a reptile expert.

- continuing to provide storytime virtually and ZOOM Bingo, virtually.

#### **Elnora (APL)**

- recording one storytime a week from home on ipads, phones
- transitioned to weekly ZOOM storytimes
- a few paid programs from Cornell Cooperative Extension, etc.

#### **Elissa (COLN)**

- started filming one book at a time and pushed it out on Facebook
- transitioned to ZOOM storytimes
- learned that taking our usual programs and putting them on ZOOM doesn't always translate
- needed more tools to make it successful in a virtual format ie: phone/ tablet stands, better lighting, focused the camera right off the object, pin it on ZOOM so the kids could see up close, tech help is important
- now doing escape rooms, painting (birdhouses), homework helpers, Paint and Sips, etc.

#### **What were your biggest challenges in implementing virtual youth programming and did you overcome them?**

#### **Elissa (COLN)**

- having tech help (2 staff people on during virtual programs) because of people not muting or needing help and to answer questions in chat while the book is being read, etc.

#### **Molly (EGRN)**

- also having tech help
- pressure to do live virtual programming concurrent with in person programming. Concerned it would diminish the experience for both sets of patrons

#### **Elnora (APL)**

- lighting, glare off books (Elissa suggests using as much natural lighting as you can as does Molly, and to use the best camera you can)

#### **What tools are most helpful in learning to do and/or doing virtual programming?**

#### **Elissa (COLN)**

- interactive platforms like [NearPod](#)
- up your game with video-editing

#### **Elnora (APL)**

- having a good editor
- practice, practice, practice

#### **Molly (EGRN)**

- virtual games on [jackbox](#)
- trivia games on [Kahoot!](#)

#### **Elisabeth (GUIL)**

- [Library-Tutorials](#)
- [8 tips for teachers, librarians, and small business. How to make videos during coronavirus](#)

### What are the benefits of virtual programming?

#### Elissa (COLN)

- travel not necessary (all teen meetings going forward are now hybrid)
- less of a time commitment
- reach more people, especially people who can't get to the library
- host from anywhere
- less set up/ clean up

#### Elnora (APL)

- all APL libraries have a wider reach and patrons from different neighborhoods are mixing together
- patrons can count on weekly/monthly programs
- working with other APL staff; less isolated/ more cooperative

#### Molly (ERGN)

- people can be connected to the library wherever they are. During the pandemic a library family was stuck in the Bahamas and it was comforting to their child to see familiar faces from the library

### What virtual programs are you planning for Fall/Winter and are you also doing in person programs?

#### Elnora (APL)

- no in person children's programs at the library since end of August
- continuing Take and Makes, sing alongs
- hosting an author program with Jarrett Krosoczka- Hey Kiddo

#### Molly (EGRN)

- in person storytimes, outside on library grounds and at a park
- weekly ZOOM storytimes
- Storytime Activity Packs (coordinating crafts each week with rhymes, songs etc. ) to go along with ZOOM storytimes. Attendance is higher when they are given out.

#### Elissa (COLN)

- back to in person/ inside in the Fall
- following DOE guidelines (3 ft. apart with the floors taped, requiring masks, smaller capacity)
- On My Own (3 and 4 year olds) , Toddler Time w/ families and kids ( also fully virtual offered in afternoon and evening once a week), Stay and Play for babies and caregivers
- teen programs are a mix of in person and hybrid. Hosting movie night with masks required
- masks are required for everyone in the library over the age of 2. Willing to work with families of young children. Emphasize that they are "being a helper" by wearing masks.

### **Elisabeth (GUIL)**

- Read Alouds: Heritage and Holidays
- Zoom storytimes
- virtual art show
- Choose Your Own Adventure
- creepy baking contest

### **What is your advice to libraries struggling to do quality virtual programming?**

### **Molly (EGRN)**

- If there is an audience in your community then go for it!
- decide week to week and don't be afraid of last minute decisions

### **Elnora (APL)**

- build your audience on recurring programs
- have things your patrons can always count on and throw some special programs in the mix
- giving stuff away boosts attendance (storytime crafts and kits, egg shakers, scarves, etc.)

### **Elissa (COLN)**

- bags for storytimes
- try to make virtual programs personal (saying names, etc.)
- don't be afraid to try new things
- Be patient with yourself!

### **Elisabeth (GUIL)**

- have fun with it and let your personality show

## **Let's talk about copyright and permissions**

What do you do for virtual storytimes?

- Use only books that are on a "permitted" list of publishers
- Seek permission for materials you want to use
- No permissions sought
- Something else

*Most people said "no permissions sought".*

ALA says it's fair use when the public isn't coming into the library (pandemic) but circumstances change that fair use.

Most helpful guidance Mary has seen: "Fair Use" section of this: [VSS Copyright Considerations](#)

**Bringing in an author for a library event** from Gail Brown and Debbie Sternklar (VOOR)

[AUTHOR VISITS](#)

[Program hooks](#) (opens in Google Slides)

**November is:**

- National Native American Heritage Month

[A Thanksgiving Lesson Plan Booklet from a Native American Perspective](#)

- NaNoWriMo (National Novel Writing Month)

[NaNoWriMo Prompts](#)

[National Novel Writing Month](#)

- Picture Book Month

[16 Picture Books Just For Adults](#)

Find other unusual “holidays” here: [National Day Calendar](#)

**Fun anytime:**

[Fairy Golf: The Mini-est Mini Golf](#)

[Adopt a HousePlant](#)

[JeopardyLabs - Online Jeopardy Template](#)

**List highlights:** Some books from this month’s book review with ideas for use in programming, display or for reader’s advisory.

**Upper Hudson Youth Services**

Mary Fellows - 437-9880 X228 – [mary.fellows@uhls.org](mailto:mary.fellows@uhls.org)

Amy DuBrey – 437-9880 X231 – [amy.dubrey@uhls.org](mailto:amy.dubrey@uhls.org)