

UHLS Youth Services Advisory Council + CE

June 10, 2025

10:00 - 12:00 in person at UHLS

Attendance: Sarah Bailey (TROY), Julie Weston (VAFL), Lee Ackerman-Sawyer (WSTR), Suzanne Cardinal (NASS), Gail Brown (VOOR), Sarah Stanwicks (APL), Mary Fellows (UHLS), Chris Sagaas (UHLS), Anne Myers (UHLS)

Welcome and introductions

As part of group introductions, Mary introduced new Executive Director Chris Sagaas.

Warm-up glitter-braining

Brainstorming program ideas for different ages and topics.

Age Group	Theme	Our Ideas
Preschool	Frogs	Books: Froggy Gets Dressed , The Wide-Mouthed Frog (use funny voices), A Spoonful of Frogs (bring in spoons and put paper frogs in pot), Too Many Frogs (lots of sound effects) Songs: "Five Green and Speckled Frogs", sound clip of how frog sounds change through the season Activities: sensory bin, have someone bring in tadpoles, paper bag frog puppets
Early Elementary	The Human Body	Books: The Magic School Bus Inside the Human Body , The Magic School Bus Inside Ralphie Activities: Use balloons, straws, and a plastic bottle to make lungs, trace bodies on butcher paper and draw body parts, Operation board game
Upper Elementary	Gross Things	Books: I Need a New Butt! , I Broke My Butt! , Butts on the Run! , Walter the Farting Dog Activities: animal scat, Le Petomane , Bethlehem Gross-ology program, garbage truck visit, gastroenterologist visit ("The Scoop on Poop" program), composting
Tweens	Fantasy Animals	Create-a-Monster, Canon Creative Park programs
Teens	Music	Taylor Swift party, turntable play, open mic night, karaoke (UHLS has equipment you can borrow with CDs and/or bluetooth connection)

Webinar: “The Myth of School Readiness”

The group viewed [this webinar](#) with discussion along the way.

Highlights of the list

Mary highlighted:

- [Casey’s Cases](#) - fun and funny early chapter book
- [Huda F Wants to Know](#) - third in popular GN series about Muslim teen
- [Dan in Green Gables](#) - queer reimaging of the classic; protagonist similarly endearing and story just as heartfelt
- [The Bear Out There](#) - great for storytime!

UHLS Updates

- Hoping to have new staff member hired this month and starting in July
- Mary asks: SRP programs at your library – how can I help, or come see something you’re proud of or think others should know about? Invite me; I’m really glad to come!

Resource and Idea Sharing

- Julie informed us/shared a concern about new State rules regarding community youth group rec program counselors. Valley Falls couldn’t find staff for theirs because of the new rule and it’s cancelled for the summer. Library partnered closely with this group; concerns about getting any teens to programs without that framework.

Reminder: request Advance Reader Copies from UHLS (to keep!) at

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

Next Meeting: September TBD

Find More Events, Trainings, & Resources

<https://www.uhls.org/youth-and-family-services/>

Upper Hudson Youth Services

Mary Fellows - 437-9880 x228 –mary.fellows@uhls.org

Colleague to be determined! - 437-9880 x231 - yssupport@uhls.org

Quote of the day:

“Think of children’s books as literary vodka. Children’s fiction...helps us refind things we may not even know we lost.”

-Katherine Rundell