Meeting Minutes, Feb 13, 2017
Children’s Services Division, Maryland Library Association
Howard County Central Branch, 10375 Little Patuxent Pkwy, Columbia, MD 21044

- Introductions: Jess Crutchley, President (BCPL); Conni Strittmatter, VP (HCPL); Jill Hutchison, Secretary (SMCL); Joe Farmarco, BCPL; Carrie Sanders, DLDS; Spohia Van Schaick, Harford Co.; Jennifer Carter, Cecil Co.; Allison Holbrook, Cecil Co.; Rachel Peffer, EPFL; Kristen Bodvin, Carroll Co.; Eileen Khul, BCPL; Christine Felix, Montgomery Co.; Cari Gast, Howard Co.
- Approval of minutes
- Action item follow-up
  - President’s Report:
    - Presentation at MLA meeting about standardizing language among libraries about our programs, classes, workshops, and other services.
    - There is a bill in the MD legislature to make DLDS its own agency rather than part of MSDE.
    - If we have the expected attendance for Southern/Western, we will hit our income goal for the FY, but we have overspent our spending goal by about $1000. We’ve still made a profit for MLA overall.
- Program Planning
  - Southern/Western- all set.
    - Jess will bring snacks for the programs- chocolate and fruit.
    - We may need to arrange for additional laptops to be brought than the host libraries can provide- Conni and Jill can bring some if needed.
  - MLA Annual-
    - Ukuleles in ST preconference- Presenter can bring 21 ukuleles. If we have more people register, we'll need to borrow additional ukuleles from another library system or ask any participants who are able to, to bring their own ukuleles.
    - We are fully covered for room host volunteers. Conni will send out the schedule of who is hosting which sessions and the backups.
  - Kids Are Customers 2017- Thursday, October 19 at Owings Mills Library
    - Overarching theme will be brain development
    - Laurie Desetels of Butler University will be our keynote speaker on the topic of brain development and learning related to early literacy, and she will also do a breakout session.
Buff Kahn of Carroll County will do a breakout session on Social and Emotional Foundations of Learning

Darrell Robinson of Carroll Co. will do a breakout session on middle school brain development

Conni will send out a Google Form for people to submit proposals for KAC 2017 and Southern/Western 2018 sessions. If any CSD members know anyone who might have a good idea, encourage them to make a proposal.

Jennifer Carter shared the recommendation from a colleague to invite Saroj Ghoting as a speaker, but the group feels she has presented a lot in Maryland, and also we know that she has a somewhat expensive speakers’ fee. Rachel from PGCMLS has a colleague who also speaks on brain development from 0-5 and may be able to lead a session.

If anyone has good ideas for a KAC, Southern/Western or MLA session but does not have confidence in their presentation skills, SSD is having a highly recommended workshop on public speaking this spring.

Blue Crab Committee Update

The committee is voting this month, and we will notify the winners and honorees after the vote.

Winners and honors will be publicly announced at the Southern conference.

We will be seeking volunteers for the next committee soon! Encourage people to consider applying.

Old Business

Social Media- Keep liking & sharing on our page and group!

The official page is for folks to follow, to get news and updates from the division.

The group is for members to post and share links and tidbits with each other, and to interact.

We are open to volunteers to join our social media team!

Christine Felix will join the team starting this month; Conni will make her an admin of the page and group.

Kate at the MLA office needs the logins and passwords to our division Google account, as well as our Instagram and Twitter accounts.

Newsletter
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- Deadline for Spring issue is mid-March
- Send pictures with captions, articles, etc.

- New Business
  - Add an additional program to the FY18 plan on evaluating youth services programs and services? - there is great interest in this topic
    - Length/ Depth?
      - A session at KAC or Southern/Western? - would be short, and not go into much depth.
      - Half or full-day MLA preconference - good length, but many people are not able to attend MLA that might benefit
      - Standalone half or full-day program?
      - Online? Webinar? Asynchronous?
      - Rachel & Carrie propose sending out a google form survey to the various counties to find out what they’re currently doing and what they’d like to learn about evaluation.
      - We will take the next month between meetings to explore options for content and format, and continue this discussion in March.
    - Bring in a speaker (Jill mentioned Marge Loch-Wouters as a possibility), or use Maryland librarians?

- Monthly Sharing Topic- How does your library welcome and support children and families from marginalized groups? Or, what are some ideas on how you could make everyone welcome, safe, and supported in your library?
  - Rachel of PGCMLS- working with housing complexes that are designated for refugees to hold programs and storytimes in those locations; the programs are “aimed” at kids but designed to benefit the adults as well. They are also doing a “kids acheive” club for children of ELL parents, to provide help with homework. “Books for Me” program provides parent workshops and book distribution in Judy Centers and head Start. They’re offering a hybrid of “Books for Me” and “Raise a Reader” to a teen mothers’ group. Waverly Branch has just started a Mandarin & English storytime. PGCMLS has a new ELL coordinator who is working on translating materials into more languages.
  - Rachel from Pratt- working with MD Out of School Time Network to develop additional programs, and are adding language to all program descriptions,
program presenter contracts, etc. to state that accommodations will be made for anyone with disabilities.

- Conni- family accessibility nights for those with disabilities and sensory sensitivity, held when library is closed, so that families who may be worried about outbursts or meltdowns feel comfortable attending. Also offering summer meals and afterschool snacks at certain branches, which attracts participants who otherwise don’t use the library, and attaching programs to the meal and snack times.

- Eileen from BCPL- visits special needs classroom groups & offers tours. We visit Charles Hickey School to talk to the juvenile offenders there.

- Jess Crutchley, BCPL-
  - Our branch has specifically reviewed all of our branch-created programs to determine how to make them more accessible for differing abilities.
  - Hosting after school snacks and meals for teens through Kidz Table

- Choose next month’s sharing topic: Food programs in the library- summer meals, after school and summer snacks, food as part of programs.

- Go ‘Round- Share anything of interest from your library’s youth-services department

  - Jess Crutchley, BCPL-
    - highly successful Frozen Sing-Along/Craft night. Lots of dressup.
    - Wiggles & Giggles sensory storytime has finally taken off. We seem to have regular attendance.

- March Meeting- Waldorf West Branch in Charles County, followed by Southern Conference.

  - Snack-bringer: Sarah G.