In attendance: Jill Hutchison (St. Mary’s Co.), Barbara Jannaman (Cecil Co.), Eileen Kuhl (Baltimore Co.), Leah Kulikowski (St. Mary’s Co), Irva Nachlas-Gabin (retired), Shirley O’Neill (Howard Co.), Kim Preis (Baltimore Co.) Amanda Roberson (Harford Co.), Sophia Van Schaick (Harford Co.), Rachel Wright (Cecil Co.).

Called to order by 10:15 by Amanda

Introductions:
Minutes: Sophia moved to approve the minutes, Shirley seconded. Passed by acclamation.

Action Items will do through agenda

**MLA Executive Board** – Rachel
- Next meeting on March 18
- Budget for next year will reflect a slight rise in expected revenue from CSD, and a slight decrease in expenditures.

**Program Planning** –

**Virtual Training** –
Was cancelled again because of storm.
Will reschedule – third time is the charm – Thursday, May 21st at 2pm new date

**Western** – April 13, Thurmont - Tara will host and will take care of snacks.

**Conference**
Amanda submitted final documents
- All the speakers have selected meals and rooms.
- Speakers will get mileage, not honorariums
- Some presenters are staying in hotel.

Have volunteers for all sessions
- packet pickup
- introductions of speakers, Rachel has bios
- TIG is taking care of the sessions we co-sponsor with them.

**Silent Auction Basket**
- Irva is taking donations
- Kim at Arbutus will take the basket to MLA

Lanyard - Jessica has been inputting our information.
April 15 is conference meeting – Amanda will ask Jessica to go.

**Kids Are Customers**

New Location – Owings Mills Library, Joe Farmarco has been doing the behind the scenes work. It has many advantages.
- More Centrally located
- Lower costs
- Has more break-out rooms
- Local caterer for breakfast and lunch
Ideas – many options
- Sparks grants
- Mine Craft
- Blue Crab speaker
  - Last year had two authors – one before and one after lunch
  - Got mixed reviews – some people wanted more workshops
  - Raises the costs
  - Book sale was more labor intensive

Discussion:
- Having one speaker allows more break-out sessions
- New location offers more spaces for breakout sessions
- One author makes it

*MOTION: Jill moved that we pursue a single author, Shirley seconded. Passed*

Format of Program
- Opening presentation: - This past year was Future Maker
- Breakout sessions
- Get together for author
- More breakouts - Could do “techie stuff” as one break-out sessions and other breakout for “unplugged”
- Closing group activity/

Can we encourage presenters to have handouts. Could put them on website. Or use Lanyard

Ideas for Sessions:
1. Technology session with Gretchen Le Grand (Code in the Schools)
2. SPARKS grants for coding with pre-schoolers – Amanda says probably won’t have a lot of information about how it’s working by Oct. May want to save for Southern/ Western
3. APP storytime presentation – Phyllis Bontrager uses tablets
4. How to choose the tablets, how to find materials to use, etc.
5. App advisory for what to use
6. MLLE graduates are doing a project about device use with early childhood. Julie Ranelli is one. We can ask her about this.
7. Mark Winner from Duckett’s Lane Elementary School in Howard County wrote book about “gamefication.” Game design, game playing.
8. Minecraft world – Amanda and John Courie have presented at MLA etc. but still people who aren’t up to speed. Chris Badeker from Carroll has done trainings for newbies.
9. Classes for parents of 3-5 year olds (Little Clickers) computer training with pre-school – Balto Co. and Harford have done these classes
10. Should we have something with Make-and-take
11. Guerilla storytimes – last year was a break-out, could do a main session. Very interactive, could be closing session.
12. Capitol Choices
15. Storytime Yoga – family yoga with storytime. Movement
Performers workshop – or vendor space with performers. Would need to put time into program for people to go through the “expo”

**Black Eyed Susan Tapestry**
- Date changed to September 19.
- Same location
- Eileen will put out call for facilitators at June meeting

**Joint Divisional Program**
- CSD is planning a joint divisional program with PSD, LLLD, SSD, CSD
- Oct. 1, 2015 at Arbutus, 10 am–1 pm
- Each Division will have 35 minutes for “training session”
- Will need to have topic, title and leaning objectives.
  - Want to have something that would be useful for other departments to understand why children’s services is even there. What we do, why we are important.
  - Could be something to do with Play. Will ask Marissa Connor if she will present.
  - St. Mary’s already has lot of material about play and ECRR. Tie into School age programming: How does role and goal change as ages increase, lead into TIG.
  - Use Lego challenge as an ice-breaker. Then talk about how we teach science.

**Old Business:**
- FaceBook – nothing new
- **Literacy Landmark** – $800 to be listed. Does come with marker plaque. Landmark has to agree to display plaque, and have big ceremony. We are not interested.
- **Newsletter** – Deadline on Mar 15, Send articles to Sophia
- **Summer Reading Council** –
  - Southern – nothing has been happening in council. Each county is doing their own thing.

**New Business:**
- **Blue Crab**
  - Need next year’s chair – haven’t gotten any takers yet
  - Would like to have someone who was on the committee, but will take a newbie.
  - Old chairs will help new chair.
  - Eileen has someone on her staff who is interested. She will approach her.
  - Shirley may be willing to co-chair.

**GO ROUND:**
- **Eileen Kuhl (Baltimore Co.)** – Parkville is starting a Reading Buddies program – high schoolers helping reluctant reader or child having difficulty. Read beginner reader books, language games, scrabble games –
fun, but teaching reading to the little ones. Most of the reading volunteers had been a Summer volunteer and are interested in education. Grade School booktalks – next week.

**Jill Hutchison (St Mary’s Co)** - Revamping Summer Reading program. Instead of gameboard or reading log, will have a set of 7 challenges to earn badges. Need at least 3 badges to “complete” and get their free book. Different levels of activities. For each challenge completed earn a button. Idea is to collect all seven.

Teen game is similar – need to complete a certain number of challenges. The more they complete, the more entries in prize drawings. Have super-secret challenge – for those who finish and want more to do.

**Leah Kulikowski (St Mary’s Co)** - Life-sized Candyland. Ended up having lot of teens participate. Even after they ran out of candy they still enjoyed.

Pre-school science explorers, Color Mixing, Pizza Counting and Measuring, Magnets.


**Sophia Van Schaick (Harford Co. – Bel Air)**- Just had science club meeting. “Storming the Castle. Made catapults and trebuchets. Science disappeared and throwing things took over.

Bethany Vangin started an Acts of Kindness Club – kids to projects such as sending cards to Veterans, a project for Humane Society.

**Shirley O’Neill (Howard Co.)** Black Eyed Susan book clubs – Held during day, at CEN. Although not specifically aimed at them, homeschoolers coming in in droves. Have had to split into several groups. Spin off – Classics Club for 4th-6th grade.

Will have first Comicom on June 9, Will be marketed for teens, but expect people will bring all ages of kids. There are several ComiCom artists who live in HoCo.

Sensory storytimes are taking off at Glenwood. Thanks to Harf. Co. for helping with advice.

Part of Partnership with HoCo Autism society. Storytime is very deliberate, not loud. We tell them what we’re going to do, then do it, and then tell them what you did. Slower, time spent with each individual.

**Amanda Roberson (Harford Co.)** – Just got a Finch Robot loan for 18 robots. Can program through Raspberri Pie. If can do something wonderful with them, get to keep them. Open to all Maryland – digital symposium. Amanda will send

-- April 7 - 8:30 – 4 at Harford County Comm. College – Digital Training.
  Bringing in someone from Fred Rogers Center and Little E-Lit
-- Puppy tales – winter-reading early lit. program. Had over 800 participants this year. Similar to summer reading in winter - read for prizes. (recycled prizes from previous years – got to choose) and certificate of completion.

**Rachel Wright (Cecil Co.)** – Currently planning summer reading schedule. Using outside designer for graphics. All branches holding Summer Reading Blast-Offs on the same day. From a mini Comic-Con to Environmental Heroes to jugglers and ice cream from a local dairy, each branch will invite the community to visit a local branch to register and take advantage of fun activities for the whole family.

Adjourned 12:01pm

Next meeting: April 13, 10am to 12 noon, Thurmont Branch of Frederick County Library
76 E Moser Rd, Thurmont, MD 21788  (301) 600-7200

Followed by Western Conference