Meeting Minutes, July 10, 2017
Children’s Services Division, Maryland Library Association
Urbana Library

● In attendance: Gretchen Benson, Frederick County; Hanna Wilkens, Frederick County; Christine Freeman, Montgomery County; Joe Farmarco, Baltimore County; Jill Hutchison, St. Mary’s County; Jess Crutchley, Baltimore County (by phone)

● Approval of minutes- Approved with spelling corrections

● President’s Report- President was absent; no report this month

● Program Planning
  ○ Kids Are Customers 2017- no update this month
  ○ B.E.S.T. 2017- registration is open. Facilitators are still needed- passed around facilitator sign-up sheet for Eileen (who was not present)
  ○ Southern/Western 2018- no update this month
  ○ Winter Webinar- no update this month
  ○ MLA Annual 2018- Conni is working on a proposal-submission form for interested session presenters

● Blue Crab Committee Update- no update this month

● Old Business
  ○ Social Media- Keep liking & sharing on our page and group!
  ○ Newsletter- Jess Crutchley stepping down as copy-editor, Sarah Guy taking over this job effective with the Fall newsletter. Sophia Van Schaik remains the primary editor.

● Action item follow-up- anything not covered so far (see end of minutes)

● New Business
  ○ MSL update from Carrie Sanders (via email; C. not present):
    ■ We are no longer DLDS -- now officially the Maryland State Library (MSL). New address: 22 S. Calhoun St. Baltimore, 21223. My email is still the same. My new (temporary) Google Voice number: 443.399.3235
    ■ MD Information Literacy Summit -- July 27th, Maritime Conference Institute. Dorothy Stoltz, Cari Gast, and Bev Izzi are a part of a panel discussion on early literacy at this event.
      ● Jill action item- post about this on FB
    ■ Summer Reading -- Maryland Science Center tickets and Orioles Game tickets were sent out via MILO. Reading Celebration Game is Monday, August 21st. Caregiver info will be going out to all YSC soon. Please
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complete the form (linked here) with reader information:
https://goo.gl/forms/lFsfZilHX2sVkg9n2

- Family Engagement -- The Family Engagement Toolkits were distributed to all branches via MILO. I am working on gathering and sharing data with YSC regarding use and application
  - Discussion- are the budget projections for spending and income for our programs in the MLA budget realistic? We think not, and want to increase the budgeted amount for speakers and catering at our programs.

- Monthly Sharing Topic- Recommendations for professional development reading, viewing, etc.
  - Jess- Early Childhood Investigations has many webinars, most aimed at teachers but many suitable for children’s librarians. They’re free.
  - Christine- recent SLJ article on storytime competencies
  - Jill- Peaceful Neighbor a biography of Mr. Rogers.
  - Joe- Howard County Cultural Arts Showcase (Oct 13?)- all day event where you can shop for performers for your library.
  - Choose next month’s sharing topic!- How do different libraries partner with and communicate with their schools? What are your library’s expectations for how you work with schools?

- Go ‘Round- Share anything of interest from your library’s youth-services department
  - Jill- DNR’s Scales and Tales is an inexpensive but great educational program with live native animals.
  - Hannah- “Flow Circus” was excellent as a summer performer.
  - Joe- Reading Buddies update: It’s a program with volunteer mentors reading with elementary schoolers who are struggling readers. The volunteers are excellent but they are having many problems with communication and follow-through with the families of the junior buddies, getting them to show up consistently to meet their mentors. They’ve had to de-enroll some families who did not end up participating, & had start over with families from the back-up list.
  - Discussion on program registration/ no-shows
    - FCPL & St. Mary’s try not to register for programs unless absolutely necessary
    - Limiting registration windows to 7 or 14 days prior to event is helpful
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- Free tickets are another way to manage attendance for large/popular events
  - FCPL’s baby time has gotten VERY large, up to 75 people in a program, so they have re-vamped how they do baby time to adapt to the crowd size.
  - Discussion of storytime specialists (such as BCPL uses) vs. children’s staff who do a mix of storytime and other duties.

- Next meeting is August 14 at Perryville Library
  - Snack-bringers: Alison Holbrook? (need to confirm)

Action items to review from June:

- Conni- get handouts, slides, etc. from each MLA session presenter and upload them to conference site (check on Ukulele session in particular)- no update
- Conni- develop a draft schedule for Kids are Customers- no update
- Jill- post idea-sharing thread on FB group about how to use Kellogg family engagement grants- post scheduled for Tues morning
- Jill- schedule FB posts to highlight Blue Crab winners & honors, 1 per week or so- done
- Jill- contact Marge Loch-Wouters to discuss possible webinar on program evaluation & costs, scheduling, etc.- pending.
- Jill- talk with Carrie Sanders @ DLDS about database of presenters and how it relates to the one proposed by CSD- see note from Carrie in new business-
  - Early Childhood Investigations website also has a list of speakers that can be filtered by state.
- Jill- post form for interested volunteers to be facilitators @ BEST- will do after today’s meeting, after in-person signups
- Jill- forward Sophia’s request for newsletter submissions to MLA members’ listserv- not done, too late now :-(
- Jill- contact proposed locations for meetings in December 2017 and early 2018, ask if they can host & book meeting space- not done (see list of ppl interested in hosting from member survey)
- Bethany/Jean- update information for Blue Crab web page & add more details. Email Jill a document with the content for the updated page, to pass to MLA webmaster.- no update

Action items from this meeting:
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- Jill- post about Books for the Beast on FB
- Jil- confirm August meeting snack-bringer
- Jill- contact Marge Loch-Wouters to discuss possible webinar on program evaluation & costs, scheduling, etc.
- Jill- post form for interested volunteers to be facilitators @ BEST
- Jill- contact proposed locations for meetings in December 2017 and early 2018, ask if they can host & book meeting space (see list of ppl interested in hosting from member survey)
- Conni- get handouts, slides, etc. from each MLA session presenter and upload them to conference site (check on Ukulele session in particular)
- Conni- develop a draft schedule for Kids are Customers
- Bethany/Jean- update information for Blue Crab web page & add more details. Email Jill a document with the content for the updated page, to pass to MLA webmaster