

## System Services & System Funding Task Force Meeting

04.05.13

Linda Vittone, Mike Nyerges, Merribeth Advocate

Pat Kaufman (Mahopac), Gloria Goverman (E. Fishkill), Tom Lawrence (PPLD), Faith Johnson (Town of Ulster), Frank Rees (Kent), Erica Freudenberger (Red Hook), Carol Rodriguez (Beekman), Julie Kelsall (Highland), Linda Deubert (Coxsackie), Sally Alderdice (Claverack), Jeanne Buck (Carmel), Karen Garafalo (Philmont)

Tom opened discussion

- About merging the two committees
- Want to get as much info out to member libraries as soon as possible about System Services fees

Mike Nyerges posed the following questions:

- Are we going to merge?
- What is the objective of the merged committee?
- Who will serve on the committee?
- Discussion of funding for 2014

Merribeth said both groups were formed to be temporary, asked if they should continue?

It was generally agreed that they still served a purpose, but that similar people served on both committees, made sense to merge the two.

Mike said it makes sense to combine the two committees to determine what will happen with the growth of MHLS, but reminded all present that while the committee was an important forum for an exchange of views, it was an advisory committee, not able to implement decisions.

This led to a discussion of the role of committees and the change in the relationship between member libraries and MHLS since the implementation of member fees. Tom asked what the role of the committee would be, and if it (or any other committee) would really be heard.

Mike sees need for an advisory committee that focuses on services and funding.

There was also a fair amount of discussion about fees, if paying fees to MHLS entitled member libraries to any specific rights or input and the question of what would happen if a member library wouldn't or couldn't pay.

Mike responded that if a member library did not pay fees, the first repercussion would be that they would lose the delivery service, then access to the ILS.

Tom asked Mike how the additional 4.9 percent of aid restored by NYS will be spent by MHLS, given the issue of member fees and stress on some member libraries to pay the fees. He said that member libraries

are assessed 26% of what MHLS receives for its total budget. Members are contributing a lot of money to only serve advisory roles.

Mike: The decision re: member fees in 2010 did not take into account the tax cap.

Erica responded that it also did not take into account the improved funding from the state – at the time, the worst case scenario was assumed that funding would never be restored. Since that is not the case, we need to take another look at the necessity of member fees.

Faith made a motion to create an ongoing System Services Advisory Committee

Sally Alderice seconds the motion.

- Each county may appoint two voting representatives to the committee
- Everyone agrees to propose this as new business at the next DA meeting
- In the meantime, both advisory committees will continue to meet together
- Revised 2013 budget presented to MHLS BOT in May; available to DA for May 2 meeting
- DA will vote on revised budget at June 3 DA meeting

MHLS System Services Advisory Committee:

Mission Statement:

To represent MHLS member library interests by collaborating with System staff and Board in determining services and how they are funded.

Suggested activities:

- Review and recommend changes in member services
- Review and recommend changes in member assessments
- Assist in the evaluation of System Services

Membership:

Each county may have two voting members serve on the committee.