

**MHLS Director's Association**  
**Meeting of Wednesday, November 12, 2014**  
**MHLS Auditorium: 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.**

**BREAK-OUT DISCUSSION**

As part of the ongoing evaluation of MHLS System Services as related to the 2012-2016 Plan of Service, the System Services Advisory Committee has recommended a multi-element evaluative mechanism that includes surveys as well as face-to-face discussions.

At the November DA meeting, directors will break into groups to discuss the statement “**MHLS collaborates with other library systems on projects that benefit member libraries.**” For reference, listed below is the related section of the MHLS Plan of Service and a Sampling of MHLS Cooperative Efforts with Other Library Systems Initiatives 1/1/12 – 10/30/14.

**Element 9: Cooperative Efforts with Other Library Systems 4.17**

*Excerpted from Mid-Hudson Library System: Plan of Service 1/1/12 – 12/31/16*

1. Goal Statement: MHLS will collaborate with other library systems on projects that benefit member libraries.
2. Intended Result(s): Collaborations shall:
  - a. Enhance member library opportunities.
  - b. Maximize the cost effectiveness of services to member libraries.
  - c. Increase regional staff development opportunities.
3. Evaluation Method(s):
  - a. MHLS staff evaluation of cost-effectiveness.
  - b. Survey member library director satisfaction.

**A Sampling of MHLS Cooperative Efforts with Other Library Systems Initiatives 1/1/12 – 10/30/14**

- **Initiatives to enhance member library opportunities and maximize cost effectiveness of services to member libraries**
  - Cooperating in regional delivery of materials by having a twice-weekly transfer exchange point with Ramapo Catskill Library System (RCLS), and by delivering to SUNY New Paltz and Vassar College through contract with the Southeastern NY Library Resources Council (SENYLRC), resulting in expanded regional access to materials and member library savings for postage.
  - Participating in discussions with Westchester Library System (WLS), Upper Hudson Library System (UHLS) and RCLS regarding enhancing and increasing electronic access to regional collections.
  - Participated in 2013 & 2014 statewide group buy through the 3R's for Lynda.com web-based training resulting in over \$7,000 savings to participating member libraries.

- Coordinated advocacy efforts with 5 public library systems (RCLS, WLS, UHLS, Four County Library System [FCLS], Mohawk Valley Library System [MVLS]) and Coordinated Advocacy Day bus with regional library systems, resulting in facilitating attendance from MHLS as well as RCLS, SENYLRC, Dutchess BOCES School Library System and Ulster BOCES School Library System, resulting in more effective legislative office visits.
- Participated in SENYLRC's 'Forum on Shared Services', resulting in contributing MHLS goals into regional discussion about ways to implement ideas of collaboration, shared services and to explore administrative and/or program consolidation.
- Participating with NY Public Library System Directors (PULISDO) with statewide conference of public library systems, and monthly phone meetings, resulting in ideas and partnerships that save money and expand opportunity for MHLS member libraries including cost-saving implementations of technology, group purchasing and enhancing member services.
- Participating with regional and statewide peers through NY3R's (nine Reference and Research Library Resources multi-type systems in NY) statewide I2NY Conference, New York Alliance of Library Systems (NYALS - a coalition of 72 library systems in NY) retreat, and monthly meetings with regional School Library System directors, resulting in ideas and partnerships that save money and expand opportunity for MHLS member libraries.
- Collaborated in 2012 NY summer mini-grant pilot program in collaboration with the Dutchess County BOCES School Library System and NY Division of Library Development to encourage school-library collaboration, resulting in 4 Summer Reading Program Roundtables held at public libraries bringing public library staff and school library staff across Dutchess County together for collaborative activities.

- **Initiatives to increase regional staff development opportunities**

- Collaborates with area school library systems and regional public library systems on programs including annual 'Notable Book Banquets' and 'Fall Into Books Children's and Teens Literature Conference', resulting in increasing cost effective regional staff development opportunities.
- Cosponsoring the 2015 'Emerging Leaders - seminar for library leaders' run by Jerry Nichols and hosted by RCLS, to increase member library directors access to professional leadership building education.
- Provided access for member libraries to attend two non-fiction workshops in 2013 with national speakers ('Get Real: Getting Kids Excited About Non-Fiction' by Kathleen Baxter and 'The Best Non-Fiction Young Adult Books' by Kathleen Odean) hosted by Dutchess BOCES School Library System and Ulster BOCES School Library System, resulting in attendance by MHLS library staff and distribution of the recommended non-fiction list to all member libraries.
- Coordinates annual Southeastern Region Correctional Facility Librarians meeting with RCLS, WLS, and the correctional facility libraries in the southeastern region of NY, resulting in networking opportunities and sharing of best practices.