



WINNEFOX LIBRARY SYSTEM

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MEMORANDUM

DATE: March 23, 2016
TO: Winnefox Library System Board of Trustees
FROM: Jeff Gilderson-Duwe
SUBJECT: Winnefox-OWLS collaboration workgroup status report

When the combined employees of Winnefox and the Outagamie-Waupaca Library Systems met on October 2, three workgroups were formed to explore formation of collaborative service models. The workgroups were focused on the areas of consulting services, continuing education and delivery services.

For a number of reasons, progress in the workgroups has gotten off to a slow start. This memo will provide a status report on these efforts:

Consulting:

Winnefox Assistant Director Mark Arend and OWLS Director Geri Moller are the members of this workgroup. To date, they have inventoried the topics upon which they are called on to consult with member libraries. They are working with WiLS to shape this list into a survey to better understand the needs of member libraries.

Continuing Education:

Winnefox Continuing Education Coordinator Joy Schwarz and OWLS Assistant Director Bradley Shipps are the members of this workgroup. Joy and Bradley have built upon a history of cooperative workshop planning, scheduling, and funding and are extending cooperation to additional library systems.

An example is the “CCBC Choices” youth services workshop in April, an event that has been co-sponsored by Winnefox, OWLS and Nicolet Federated Library System since 2011. An example of a successful new collaborative effort was the workshop on effective marketing for libraries, held on March 15, 2016. The marketing workshop far exceeded attendance expectations; this success is attributed to the fact that pooled financial resources allowed hiring additional presenters to provide hands-on experiences during a full day of training. WLS & OWLS, along with the Manitowoc-Calumet Library System and the SEWI consortium (7 southeast-Wisconsin library systems), are planning a full-day Technology Day event in September. This event is planned to be held at Fond du Lac Public Library and repeated at the Franklin Public Library in the Milwaukee County Federated Library System.

Winnefox and OWLS are now combining their annual surveying of member libraries about workshop needs. Survey results will be used to collaboratively plan and schedule continuing education opportunities for libraries during the latter part of 2016, including a combined Summer Library Program 2017 workshop / Youth Services Grassroots meeting to be held in December or January.

Delivery:

Winnefox employees on this workgroup are Administrative Coordinator Julie Schmude and Interlibrary Loan Assistant Michelle Rosenberg. Ripon Public Library Director Desiree Bongers has also volunteered to represent Winnefox delivery customers. Group members will soon submit information about their respective operations to Bruce Smith of WiLS. Bruce's past experience includes running the Statewide Delivery operation at the South Central Library System in Madison.

At a workgroup meeting on April 11, Bruce will present different service models for consideration. The criteria for evaluating the models will be feasibility and whether it improves service at the same cost or less. If a model is identified to meet the above criteria, a piloting process will be mapped out to test its potential costs and benefits.

There is clearly more work to be done to define collaborative service models that can result in more efficient and effective services to the member libraries of both systems. We have established good working relationships with our colleagues in OWLS. We need to not only push forward with the workgroups that have already been constituted but also look for additional services that provide opportunities to collaborate.