

TLN Youth Services Committee Meeting Minutes
Friday, January 13, 2017 @Chelsea District Library

Meeting called to order by: Ashley (FERN) @ 9:39am

Agenda approved:

- 1st approval - Jessica (ROMS)
- 2nd approval – Nichole (CANT)

October minutes approved:

- 1st approval – Sara (WIXM)
- 2nd approval – Sue (RHPL)

State/Local Committee Updates

None.

TLN Updates

Janna brought in VOX books – you can buy them in bulk and they are cheaper; if you are interested in purchasing them, contact Jim at TLN.

Meeting Topic Discussion

Topics we want to discuss at upcoming meetings:

- Grant writing workshops
- Makerspaces
- Developing a special needs collection
- Unusual item circulation
- 1,000 Books Before Kindergarten
- How to stay up-to-date with Accelerated Reader websites
- Intergenerational programming
- Collaborating with schools
- How to find the “right” volunteers to suit your library needs
- Community connections/local history culture of different belief systems – how can we meet their needs
- Connecting with homeschooling parents
- Creating different collections to meet different needs in the same community

Storytime/Other Programs for Children w/Visual Impairments - Inclusive Programming Presentation Summary from Stephanie Wambaugh

This was taken directly from an email from Stephanie

1. The Braille and Talking Book Library serves anyone struggling to read standard print due to visual or physical disability- patrons DO NOT have to be legally blind to use our service. This program is made possible through the National Library Service for Blind and Physically Handicapped, Library of Congress (every state has a branch). We offer audio and/or braille books through the mail or by download. Everything with our program is FREE!

2. Visual Impairments- Stats and Spectrum: There are 60,393 students in the U.S., and 1,833 students in Michigan, that are legally blind. Remember this is a very strict definition, so there are actually many more students that have visual impairments or eye diseases that will eventually leave them blind. There are also many different types of eye diseases that affect vision in different ways. Don't assume because someone is legally blind that they can't see anything at all.

3. Inclusive Programming Tips:

- Don't just read the text- try to expand on the text by describing the illustrations. Start with the main character/object and then describe out from there (specific to general). If you choose a good book, a lot of the times the text already describes a lot of what is going on in the pictures so this should come naturally.
- Choose books that make sense to someone listening without seeing the pictures- this will just make your job describing the pictures easier.
- Get kids with visual impairments up front where they can see well.
- Use a sensory bucket or sensory board- attaching a tactile object to the story helps someone who is blind put meaning behind the story.
- Use finger plays, sing, dance, clap, arts and crafts, etc.—again, try to engage the senses other than vision.
- Have a back-up activity, book, or game- it's ok if not everything that you do is not inclusive for all groups of people, but be sure to have a back-up in mind in case someone shows up that won't be able to participate. This is general advice for any group. Simply ask yourself when planning- "is this activity accessible to someone who is _____" and fill in the blank with various things to check how inclusive it is.
- Have a small collection of print-braille books in your library and use one for story time at least once a year- sighted kids love this and it builds awareness. October and January both are months that have special days attributed to the visually impaired communities.
- Use inclusive language when promoting programs- put a disclaimer or notice on any promotional materials. "People of all abilities are welcome." "If you require special accommodations, please contact us in advance". Etc.

4. Resources:

- Seedlings Braille Books for Children – www.seedlings.org
- Michigan Department of Education Low Incidence Outreach – www.mdelio.org
- Michigan Parents of Children with Visual Impairments
- Disability Etiquette Handbook (free PDF printable): <https://www.unitedspinal.org/pdf/DisabilityEtiquette.pdf>
- Braille Institute free book-kits: <http://www.brailleinstitute.org/child-and-youth/special-collections.html>

Group Discussion – sharing ideas about programming in your library for visually impaired kids

- Lego building – read instructions aloud
- Stories that go with felt sets for touch
- Ask if anyone is visually impaired – “would you like some assistance”?
- Adapt raising your hand – pat your knees; stomp your feet, etc.
- Use at least 18 pt. font or bigger if you can fit it
- How to work with working dogs
- Focus on cooperation, not competition with each other’s libraries
- Send people to the Library of Michigan and they will send them back to you

Performer’s Showcase

How can we make the showcase better and get more librarians to participate:

- Change the date
- More promotion
- Send out a survey
- It is even useful
- Newer performers in the am/repeat performers in the pm
- New SHOWCASE performers
- Invite other cooperatives, aside from TLN

Meeting adjourned at: 11:59am

1st: Ashley (FERN)

2nd: Jessica (ROMS)

Next meeting: Friday, March 10 at Brandon Township Public Library

In attendance:

Jessica Wilhoite (ROMS)

Marlena Shuler (YPSI)

Ashley Lehman (FERN)

Brenda Dunseth (HIGH)

Jessica Zubik (CHEL)

Stephanie Wambaugh (BTBL)

Karen Persello (CHEL)

Charli Osborne (OAPK)

Sara Fifield (WIXM)

Sue Walton (RHPL)

Pat Mitchell (YPSI)

Cathy Gimby (BALD)

Amalia Ash (TREN)

Janna VanHouten (TLN)

Nichole Welz (CANT)

Karen Clinton (REDF)