

MCLS Administrative Council Meeting
March 20, 2008
Monterey Park Bruggemeyer Library

HIGHLIGHTS

Consent Calendar. The consent calendar was approved which consisted of the minutes of the January 24, 2008 Administrative Council meeting.

Library Card for Foster Children. Steven Sturm, L.A. County Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS), presented information on and encouraged library participation in the no-fault library card program for foster children. The no-fault card incurs no late fees or lost book charges; these fees may be charged to DCFS. Mr. Sturm distributed a sample flyer of the program from the Pasadena Public Library; sample packets from CoLAPL may be requested from Terri Maguire or Penny Markey.

2007/08 Financial Update. Rosario Garza, MCLS Executive Director, reviewed the financial forecast included in the agenda packet. Interest revenue is much lower than originally anticipated. MCLS funds have been reinvested at 2.3%. The forecast for the end of the year is a deficit of \$21,330.

2008/09 Proposed Budget. Rosario Garza reviewed the proposed 2008/09 budget distributed at the meeting. She noted that information from the State Library indicates that the CLSA systems are not being affected by the 10% reduction recommended by the Governor. The 10% reduction (\$1.4 million) for CLSA will be taken from TBR reimbursements. Reductions were noted in the number of reference questions from SLS and SSCLS, and in the LSTA administrative fee; expenditures have been cut to a minimum. A deficit of approximately \$52,000 is being projected for the 2008/09 budget. It is a high priority for Ms. Garza to work toward a positive budget in the next year. A final budget will be presented for approval at the May Council meeting.

Nominating Committee. Janet Sporleder, Nominating Committee Chair, reported that Robin Weed-Brown, DORA, has been selected as the candidate for MCLS Vice-Chair/Chair-Elect for 2008/09. There were no nominations from the floor and nominations were closed. The election will take place at the May Council meeting.

CLSA Plan of Service. Rosario Garza asked for input for the 2008/09 CLSA Plan of Service. People with disabilities and foster care children were suggested as possible underserved groups. Ms. Garza welcomed Council members to contact her with any other input in the next few weeks.

Contracts with Other Systems. Council members approved the proposed contracts with other systems for 2008/09 which result in average increases of 1.5% for the Santiago Library System, 4.2% for the South State Cooperative Library System, no change for the 49-99 Cooperative Library System. Peninsula Library System pays for each question submitted and the per question charge is going up as of 7/1/08.

Consolidation Update. Greg Mullen, SAM, Consolidation Steering Committee Chair, reported on the meeting held the previous week with representatives from MCLS, Santiago, and South State. The committee discussed advantages, disadvantages, hopes, expectations, concerns, and approaches to consolidation. Rosario Garza reported on consolidation activity taking place in northern California. BALIS/MOBAC/PLS/SVLS plan to request approval to consolidate at the next Library of California Board in August 2008, to become effective July 1, 2009. The committee is interested in moving forward with planning for consolidation, working toward the same timeline being used by the northern California systems.

Long-Term Planning. Council members responded as follows to the Long-Term Planning Questions included in the agenda packet.

Current MCLS services considered to be most valuable to the libraries include: delivery, training, networking, committee meetings, leadership training, FILL intern program, collective voice regionally and statewide, reference, advocacy, grant writing, connection with the State Library.

MCLS activities to eliminate or change: more group purchasing, e.g. with databases, avoiding duplicate communications, outdated statistics needed for State Library reports, new ways of looking at reference service, fiscal issue, teleconferencing of meetings possibly with a modest fee, contracted rather than in-house delivery.

Services MCLS could offer that would be difficult to obtain any other way: substitute librarian service (Rosario Garza is working on a business plan for this service); people resources and expertise from 33 libraries, grant programs such as Big Box Programming.

Trends, changes in technology, or other issues that will have a significant impact on MCLS over the next 5 years: with changing technology, duplicate communications are sometimes necessary to be sure information is received; introduction of new formats is important, e.g. Playaways; online delivery of books, music, movies; reliance on portable devices and importance of library presence on portable devices; cell phones having multiple functions; an effective, elegant electronic book device; print-on-demand book service; MCLS could play an important role with legal impacts, i.e. licensing, copyright issues; politics and economy; a marketing committee to assist with advocating libraries regionally which may be facilitated by electronic conferencing; why do cities want to fund public libraries/what does the library contribute to the community, looking at different models being used; some city departments offer duplicate, competing services; opportunities/cost savings with open source ILS; duplication of effort with ordering process, shared ILS; need to develop more content, i.e. become specialists with local content to share.

LSTA Grants Update.

Big Box Programming. Pam Alger, MCLS Training and Development Officer, reported that the first four events have been held with Ken Jennings' trivia program. MCLS and Peninsula Library System have parallel programs for this grant but the two programs are handled differently. MCLS has a turnkey program with consultants who handle all arrangements: negotiating with authors, publicity, overseeing the program. The Peninsula

system is developing a database of various authors and their contact information. After the grant period, one option is that the database will be available to libraries for a fee. Part of the value of the MCLS program is the staff time saved by having the work done by the consultant. Publicity for the library is also a positive outcome from the program.

AskNow. Pam Alger reported that chat sessions have increased from the first to second quarter, however sessions by California librarians for California patrons has decreased. The number of questions continues to increase but at a very modest level.

Día de los Niños/Día de los Libros. Rosario Garza reported the project is going well. A storyteller has been contracted and 2,000 books will be given away to those attending the programs. An application is being submitted to extend the program to more libraries next year.

Out-of-School Time Online Homework Help. Participants in next year's grant program will be negotiating directly with the vendors for service.

Statewide Reference. Rosario Garza reported that the first survey conducted by Zogby International of California residents on how they seek answers to their information needs was completed in January. A second survey is being held through March 30, available in English and Spanish, via links on library web sites. A small group of six called the Creators Group, representing libraries throughout the state and including Hilary Theyer from Torrance, will be meeting in the L.A. area with two futurist consultants. They will plan a 1½ day session to take place in late August or early September with 80-100 participants who will apply to be part of this Think Tank Group. From this meeting, a report will be prepared with three viable options for statewide reference service. A presentation will be made at the CLA Conference.

FILL (From Interns to Library Leaders). Pam Alger asked Council members to review the FILL Plan 2008/09 included in the agenda packet, and to let her know if there are any changes. She will be soon be recruiting for summer interns from San Jose SLIS.

Training Update. Pam Alger reported that the Library 2.0 sessions were very well-received. Another series will be planned for late summer or early fall. She would like to be notified of topics Council members are interested in for next year, in addition to customer service and problem patrons.

Executive Director's Report. Rosario Garza reported that she attended the Library of California Board meeting on February 28 where they approved the change of membership for Merced County Library from the 49-99 system to the San Joaquin Valley Library System. The Board also discussed second level reference and the fiscal situation in the state. She will be attending the PLA conference and will be planning a group dinner for those who are interested.

Reference Center Update. Rosario Garza referred to the charts included in the agenda packet. One chart was a YTD comparison of reference questions submitted, showing an overall decrease from last year.

Legislative Update. Rosario Garza reported that Senator Simitian has submitted a bond measure for \$4 billion; letters of support are being requested. She will be attending CLA Legislative Day in Sacramento and several MCLS members will be attending National Library Legislative Day in Washington, D.C.