

**MVLS Children's Services Committee  
Madelyn Helling Library, Nevada County Library  
October 8, 2008**

**Meeting Minutes**

**Those in attendance were:**

Mary Ann Trygg, Nevada County  
Lucinda deLormier, Nevada County  
Kristina Wetherbee, Nevada County  
Stephanie Bertin, Folsom PL  
Debbie Centi, Folsom PL  
Roberta Wahlberg, Dixon PL  
Sushila Mertens, Placer County  
Chalese Valdez, Sutter County  
Roxanna Parker, Sutter County  
Joel Pimentel, Sutter County

Patty Lakie, Woodland PL  
Peggy Rollins, Yolo County  
Nancy Owen-Hazard, El Dorado County  
Mary Beth Embree, Roseville PL  
Karen Holt, Roseville PL  
Kathleen Stewart, Yuba County  
Andrea Stephenson, Lincoln PL  
Stacey Aldrich, Deputy State Librarian  
Bessie Condos, Library Programs Consultant

**Introductions** were made around the room and the roster was updated.

**Minutes** from the October 2007 meeting were reviewed. Karen Holt made a motion for approval of the minutes with a correction and Patty Lakie seconded. Motion carried. Correction: Karen Holt was added to the attendees at last year's meeting.

**Presentation** by Stacey Aldrich, Deputy State Librarian on "Thinking about the Future."  
Her presentation was divided into three parts: Assumptions – Rolls – Cool Books

She pointed out that our **assumptions** are what drive our **decisions** which in turn drive our **actions**. So while thinking about our assumptions we need to be explicit and clarify our mental models. There were several other statements that we were asked to comment on that she posted around the room.

First she asked, "What is the role of the Children's Librarian in the future?" Responses were:

- Early literacy (all kinds)
- Teaching Role
- Emotional Role
- Creating "The Place" – Safe, Sense of Community
- Creating future users
- Educating entire staff – about: needs, new medias
- Equalizer
- Power of Story
- Values/Manners/Social Skills
- Keeper of traditions

Then she asked each of us to answer the question: "What is my role in building the future of my library?"

- Fundraising
- Keep advocating for new programs/tech → bring future in
- Reach out to kids – anyone can relate
- Advocating to schools about role of public library
- Mentor to paraprofessionals
- Promoting Creativity – exposure to new experiences
- Make a community a better place
- Building relationships

The follow-up question was “What skills do you need to do this?”

- Building partnerships
- Versatile/flexibility
- Sense of humor
- Political skills
- Listening
- Communication
- Understanding new tech
- Budgeting
- Writing
- Grant writing
- Making libraries more visible – Marketing/PR
  - making quick easy marketing tools
- Early Childhood Development
- Reading (teaching)
- Presentations: articulate, persuade

A couple of questions that correlate to our role as children’s librarians are: How do people know things? and How do people learn things? it is our job to create opportunities to answer these questions.

Lastly she suggested some books for pondering, they were: Orbiting the Giant Hairball; Change the Way you see Everything; and Art of Possibility.

Lastly she suggested a way to change the mood of a conversation by responding, “How Fascinating.”

**Consolidation** – MVLS, NBCLS and North State Cooperative

Mark Parker, Library Director from Placer County library in Auburn talked about the technology tools that will be necessary for the consolidation of the three library systems, NSCL, NBCL and MVLS into a region that runs from the south in Mono County to the north in Del Norte County and east from Modoc County to the west in Marin County. We will not only need to communicate across our vast region but still provide services to our patrons.

Mark demoed different web and technology tools that could help our area communicate with each other. These included: Skype, wikis, blogs, and Google groups. A concern was brought up that not all libraries would have the needed hardware for the people to use these tools. He agreed that more

information was needed to see who had the available technology and that perhaps a survey could be used to gather this information. Our small group did agree to at least start with exploring the use of the Google tools that were available like Google docs, groups, etc.

Mark said that there would be a savings in operating expenses by going from 3 systems to 1 and that many decisions had yet to be made but that the completion of the merger was set for 2009.

Roxanna Parker took over and we addressed 7 items that needed to be brought back to the merger committee.

Before addressing the 7 items, our overall concern was how/where to address Children's and Teen Services since by law the regional system can only fund:

- A) Reference
- B) Communication and delivery
- C) Administration and
- D) a System Advisory Board (SAB)

Where does Children's and Teen fit in? We don't – so these services need to be addressed under reference.

The discussion centered around these issues that we need to identify as a system:

- a) What we need
- b) What's important to us
- c) What can only be provided by MVLS

1. Charge and Plan of Service

How this group fits in

Change the name of Children's and Teen to YOUTH

Youth to be defined as Children, Pre-teen and Teens as underserved and addressed under Reference

Write ups for this will be shared through Google docs

**Service:**

Summer reading

Shared programming and resources, including performers, authors and crafts, etc.

Workshops (including virtual ones)

A commitment to virtual collaboration as well as

Face to face meetings and sharing sessions

**Charge:**

Provide quality services to underserved youth

Provide professional development

2. Representation in a consolidated system?

- A) Children's
- B) Teens

Minimum 1 representative from each current area and an overall balance from urban and rural library systems.

3. Staff Development Programs/ professional development

A) Number of programs per year

B) Location and workshops

One each per year of staff and professional development workshops that are 2 hours or less one way to the location of the workshop.

4. How to decide the programs or topics – what are areas of interest?

Use online voting and the Google groups tool

5. Annual Budget

Allocation to be determined by the cost of 2 workshops per year

6. Communications:

- Meetings

- Interest groups

- Bookmarks

- Sharing programs, authors and crafts

7. What happens now?

Consolidate the 3 current sets of Plans of Service into 1 plan

Consolidate the representatives in to 1 cohesive group

There is still a lot of programming and planning to do

Timetable: 2008-2009

June 2008 - MVLS sent letter to Library of CA Board requesting approval to explore consolidation

August 2008 – Library of CA Board approved request

September 2008 – Consolidation task force had its first meeting

October 2008 – MVLS Children’s Committee had its meeting

October 2008 – NS Children’s committee will have its meeting

October 2008 – there will be a meeting in Davis

November 2008 – North Bay will have its meeting

November 2008 – CLA will have a consolidation meeting

December 2008 – MVLS will have its meeting

January 2009 – Putting together a budget

March 2009 – MVLS will have a meeting

April 2009 – Looking to finalize the plan

May/June 2009 – Vote to finalize the merger

**Annual projects** were discussed. It was decided to do the MVLS bookmark again. A sign-up sheet was passed around for all who were interested in submitting titles. Suggestions should be 6 recently

published titles for various grade levels. Please submit titles to Nancy Owen by November 30. It was determined that author visits are not something that can be funded through MVLS.

**Professional Development Workshops** – Lucinda de Lormier drew attention to the feedback from the evaluations of the Spring 2008 Workshop (see report in Agenda). Chalese Valdez introduced the Spring 2009 Workshop, *Education through Music*. It will be on March 4, 2009 at the Arcade Branch of SPL from 12 – 4pm. MVLS may be able to purchase the accompanying materials for member libraries.

Specific needs, interest, and ideas for **2009 Summer Reading** will be discussed in the morning of March 4<sup>th</sup> before the workshop. Member libraries can submit successful ideas and performers from 2008 to Peggy Rollins. They will be posted on the MVLS Google group (to be created).

Roxanna Parker briefly reviewed the contents of the **Liaison Report** from the agenda packet.

Submitted by: Andrea Stephenson