

Idaho Talking Book Advisory Committee Meeting Notes
Wednesday, December 7, 2016
Teleconference Call

Meeting Purpose: To remain current with Talking Book Service items

Desired outcomes: By the end of the meeting, participants will:

- Review and approve FY2017 Work plan
- Share member updates
- Agree on 2017 meeting schedule

Meeting leader: Sue Walker

Facilitator/Recorder: Stephanie Bailey-White

Other Attendees: Dana Ard, National Federation of the Blind (NFB); Vickie Prin from Eagle Public Library, Pamela Bradshaw, ex officio Idaho Commission for Libraries (ICfL); Sue Sebranek, TBS user; Catherine Stanton from Madison Library District; Nancy Wise, Idaho Commission for the Blind and Visually Impaired; Susan McCoy, Idaho School for the Deaf and the Blind; and Customer Service Reps Terri King, Sue Robinson, Steven Bailey, and Judy Mooney.

Sue had hoped the group could review a draft user survey and provide feedback, but it's not available yet. When it is available, a draft will be emailed to advisory members.

The group reviewed this fiscal year 2017 Work Plan, which goes from July 1, 2017 through June 30, 2017. Sue said next year, she'd like to get this out to the group earlier in the fiscal year. She encouraged advisory members to volunteer for a work group.

The first area reviewed was collections. TBS patrons now have access to about 2,000 commercially-produced audio books now, but they are unrated which limits access for many who have requested exclusions for strong language, violence, or sexual content on their accounts. Judy and Pam volunteered to rate some books this fiscal year based on criteria that Sue will get to them. Sue is also part of a national group that is reviewing as many of the new books as possible.

Outreach to institutions and the general public was discussed. Catherine said she could help develop a plan for promoting TBS through public libraries. Sue S. said shy could help with the TBS vendor table at the March NFB conference. Vicki mentioned they run a TBS ad on a TV monitor at their circulation desk. While people are waiting to check out books or ask questions, several promotional spots scroll through and they have had several inquiries about the program as a result.

Outreach to specific audiences was discussed next. Vicki said she could help with eye care specialists' mailings. Sue R. said the Department of Occupational Licensing may have a list of eye care specialists. Sue said she would check with Susan McCoy to see if she could help get the TBS display in at least 10 schools. It was suggested to interview Mrs. Davis to get some quotes for an article that can be used in Commission on Aging newsletters.

Training was the final category in the work plan and Nancy confirmed that ICBVI were already doing some BARD training, but there may be a need to update the training and reach new teachers. Sue will follow up with Nancy, Lisa Baker, Laine and Scott. Dana said she might be a resource for the plan to recruit BARD mentors. It was also suggested to add a question to the upcoming survey about BARD mentoring and recruiting at the NFB conference. Sue also said the new user survey should shed some light on why or why not patrons are using BARD. Dana cautioned

staff to not assume that once patrons “get the system” that they’ll be good. She has found that ongoing support may be necessary. Downloading magazines proved to be difficult for Sue S.’s husband recently.

Under member updates, Sue Walker said staff were working on a patron-centric cartridge that would have 5-8 books downloaded on a cartridge at one time. This would be convenient for those who have more eclectic reading tastes, but is turning out to be a more complicated process than once thought. They are still working out bugs with the vendor. Dana asked how long people would be able to keep these cartridges and suggested they be allowed to keep them until they are done with all the books. Sue said they hadn’t worked out all those details and will start with a pilot group of a few and gradually expand.

Sue also said public service announcements about TBS will air on TV and radio January through March. She encouraged anyone who hears or sees them to let her know. She said the Customer Service reps recently visited the Idaho School for the Deaf and the Blind in Gooding and all learned a lot during the visit. Other outreach sessions occurred in Midvale and an optometric conference.

Dana asked about cartridge containers and whether the distinctive features that differentiate state- from federally-sourced books are still in place or are being phased out. She’s noticed they aren’t as consistent as they once were which may create some problems for patrons. Sue said she would look into this. Dana also reported on plans for the 2017 NFB Conference.

Committee members agreed on the following meeting dates in 2017:

- March 1
- June 14

- September 13
- December 6 (conference call)

Happy holidays to all and we'll see everyone at the March 1 meeting in the Commission's River Room at 9:30 a.m.