

VII. OPERATIONS REPORT**A. Management Team members' reports – information item**

Report from State Librarian Stephanie Bailey-White

- I attended the COSLA (Chief Officers of State Library Agencies) meeting in Washington D.C. at the National Library Service on June 23. The COSLA organization is going through a strategic planning process and several guest presenters talked about “futures” topics and changes in the U.S. population.
- Met with staff members from Rep. Simpson’s Office and Senators Risch and Crapo on June 22 about how Idaho benefits from IMLS, ARPA and other federal funds. All had a good understanding of the benefits of IMLS funding and said they supported an increase in the base funding amount.
- I represented the agency at a National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) roundtable, hosted in conjunction with the Idaho Department of Commerce, on July 27 with Deputy Assistant Secretary April McClain-Delaney. The group discussed NTIA’s Internet for All initiatives. The goal of NTIA is to connect everyone in America to affordable, reliable, high-speed internet access. This discussion was an opportunity for Idaho partners to raise both areas of opportunity and concern as it relates to high-speed internet implementation in the state and to foster an open dialogue and continuing relationship with NTIA.
- We are continuing one-on-one interviews with digital access partners. This has been a great opportunity to talk about ICfL’s role in digital inclusion and learn more about barriers and assets that other groups bring to the table.

Report from Deputy State Librarian Dylan Baker

- I submitted our State Digital Equity Planning Grant Program application to NTIA ahead of the July 12 deadline. This was a team effort, with support from Stephanie, Amelia, William, and Grants/Contracts Officer Talela Florko. Our application for Idaho’s total tentative award allocation amount of \$564,706 will support the development of our Digital Access for All Idahoans (DAAI) plan over the next year (October 2022 – September 2023). NTIA expects to complete its review of applications by September 15, with a start date for awards as early as September 29.
- On July 20 and 21, ICfL hosted Summer Summit, an annual conference for Idaho’s school librarians. This year’s conference, led by School Library Consultant Jeannie Standal with an internal team, focused on the fundamentals of school librarianship. Summer Summit was a hybrid event that hosted 18 virtual participants and 45 in-person participants, including table facilitators. The group included many who are new to libraries, and participants learned about skills needed to maintain the library’s collection and physical space, along with skills needed to provide quality library service to teachers and students. Our keynote speaker, Shannon McClintock-Miller, focused on how to make the most of the library, whatever its size, through using digital tools effectively. While

holding a hybrid event requires a bit of additional preparation and more staff, comments like, “I appreciated having the virtual option. I probably wouldn’t have been able to participate otherwise” and “Virtual/in-person hybrid is amazing!” confirms that it is an effective way to allow access to valuable training and networking to more school librarians.

- I attended NTIA’s State Broadband Leaders Network (SBLN) Summer Summit in Denver on August 3-5. I was invited to speak on two panels due to ICfL being Idaho’s designated administrative entity for the Digital Equity Act Programs: “Effective Partnerships for Digital Equity” and “Engaging Industry and Government Stakeholders.” As before with the National Governors Association – Broadband, Workforce Innovation and Digital Equity Summit that I attended in New Orleans in June, this convening will be an excellent opportunity to gather more information that will help us develop our DAAI plan as well as bring recognition to ICfL and libraries in general among state broadband leaders.

Report from Administrative Services Manager Jamie Smith

- Preparing the FY2024 budget for submission through Luma! The budget will be submitted by August 31, 2022.
- Both Phase 1 of Luma (Financial Management and Procurement) may go live as early as January 1, 2023. All efforts are going toward meeting that date resulting in increased trainings, workbook preparation, and system testing. Phase 2 (HR and Payroll) is ready to follow Phase 1 at least 3 months after implementation. The Luma Governance Board will decide in the coming months on an official go-live date, but January for Phase 1 and April for Phase 2 are looking promising.
- The Fiscal Team is preparing for the financial and grant management work involved in new grant funds including Digital Access and ESSER funds.

Report from E-Services Program Supervisor William Lamb

- Attended Summer Summit in Lewiston where we were able to test out some new tech equipment for hybrid programs. While we had a few minor glitches, everything worked well and the response from in-person and virtual participants was positive.
- I’ve been working with the state IT department to push out our new printer to all staff workstations. While we’ve been running into some issues with this, I believe it will simplify our processes in the future when we replace workstations.
- We have a team that is working to update our internal SharePoint site to promote collaboration and ease-of-use for all staff. We are excited about this project and look forward to seeing how we can continue to improve processes.
- We are working through the process to hire a Digital Inclusion Consultant and hope to have that opened publicly in the next month.
- Doug Baker, Library Technology Consultant is piloting a new project called Connecting Communities. The Connecting Communities Digital Inclusion Program provides Chromebooks, carrying bag, and accessories to public libraries throughout Idaho for the purpose of expanding digital inclusion, equity, and literacy efforts. This program will

directly benefit the upcoming Digital Access for All Idahoans plan and libraries are encouraged to utilize the Chromebooks to target one of the eight covered populations, specifically:

- Aging individuals
- Veterans
- Individuals with disabilities
- Individuals with a language barrier
- Individuals who are a member of a racial or ethnic minority group
- Individuals who primarily reside in a rural area
- Incarcerated / recently incarcerated individuals
- And individuals living in households whose income is not more than 150 percent of the poverty level.

I do have to give major kudos to Deana Brown, Emerging Trends Consultant and Talela Florko, Grants/Contracts Officer for all their assistance with this project! The team collaboration is really something special.

Report from Partnerships and Program Supervisor Amelia Valasek

- Telehealth Initiative: We now have a landing page for the ICfL's telehealth initiative, which can be found at: libraries.idaho.gov/telehealth. This landing page provides background about the project with links out to other pages, grants, and resources. The next big phase for this initiative is the "Upgrade Your Space" project with the Department of Health and Welfare. We have finalized the logistics for this project and plan to launch applications to the library community on August 15th. We continue to meet with existing and potential partners across the healthcare sector to establish a strong foundation and partnership coalition. I was able to present at the Idaho Primary Care Association meeting in Boise on June 17, and we are working with Cornerstone Whole Health Organization on a potential opportunity for telehealth technical assistance. I will be attending the regional telehealth conference in Salt Lake City in September hosted by the Northwest Regional Telehealth Resource Center. I will also be hosting a telehealth in libraries panel at the ILA meeting in October featuring some of our current partners and pilot libraries.
- APRA Learn/Earn Subgrants: The APRA grant period comes to a close on August 11, and the majority of grantees will have their projects completed and reports submitted by this date. However, due to supply chain issues, staff turnover, and other unforeseen complications, we are working with several grantees on extending their grant expenditure period and reporting deadline. I have been working with our grants officer to provide guidance and technical assistance to our grantees as they close out their projects and submit their reports, and we are working with IMLS regarding grant extensions, where needed.

Report from Talking Book Service Program Supervisor LeAnn Gelskey

- The position of TBS Program Specialist was filled by Rachel Welker who previously served as a Customer Service Representative. I am confident that she will do a great job.
- I traveled with Donna Eggers to visit three libraries -- Middleton, Payette, and Marsing.

- I also attended the ribbon cutting of the new 'Low Vision Center' at the Nampa Public Library and spoke on services offered through the talking book service.
- A delegate from Girls State visited our ICfL. I took her on a tour, answered her questions, and enjoyed lunch with her before returning her to the Capitol.
- 'That All May Read' interim reports were submitted by the participating libraries. Final reports are due the end of August.
- Fifteen out of 24 libraries have been selected for the upcoming 'Let's Talk About It' program. Participating libraries include: Armorial Tuttle (New Plymouth), Boise Basin (Idaho City), Boundary County, Camas County, Coeur d' Alene, Clearwater County, Emmett, Garden Valley, Gooding, Grangeville, Idaho Falls, Jerome, Larsen-Sant (Preston), Nampa, and Valley of the Tetons. Some programs begin in October and will run through March 2023. Virtual sessions are also planned for the spring.