

Idaho Talking Book Service Advisory Committee Meeting

Wednesday, September 1, 2021

10:00am – 12:00pm

Join Zoom Meeting

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Meeting Purpose: To remain current with Talking Book Service items

Desired Outcomes:

- Share updates on various topics
- Introduce TBS Technology Specialist and Studio Production & Training Specialist
- Learn about dyslexia and how changes to certifying authorities benefit those students
- Discuss TBS Patron Survey 2021 Results and share takeaways
- Receive updates on ARPA Outreach

Meeting Leader: LeAnn Gelskey

Facilitator: Stephanie Bailey-White

Recorder: Candace Reynolds

Time	Agenda Item	Action	Time
10:00	Meeting set-up: agenda, guidelines, additional topics	Review Agree	5 min
10:05	Icebreaker activity - Stephanie	Share	5 min
10:10	Introduction of TBS Technology Support Specialist and Studio Production & Training Specialist – LeAnn & Colleen	Share	5 min

10:15	Presentation by School Library Consultant, Jeannie Standal (topic: dyslexia)	Share	15 min
10:30	TBS Patron Survey 2021 Results Round robin discussion – Takeaways from results - All	Review Share	30 min
11:00	Updates on ARPA Outreach – ‘Big Bold Blitz’ – LeAnn	Review Share	10 min
11:10	TBS update <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Website revisions – Candace • Summer outreach participation – Rebecca 	Share	10 min
11:20	Committee member updates	Share	25 min
11:45	Next steps	Discuss List	10 min
11:55	Meeting review	Share	5 min
12:00	Adjourn		

Attendees: Dana Ard, Stephanie Bailey-White, Colleen Clark, Megan Egbert, LeAnn Gelskey, Erin Rainey, Candace Reynolds, Marina Rose, Jeannie Standal, Alison Steven

Next meeting: December 1, 2021

Agenda Items:

- Committee members terms
- Meeting schedule 2022
- ARPA Outreach updates – lessons learned

Introduction of TBS Technology Support Specialist:

LeAnn introduced our new TBS Technology Support specialist, Megan Egbert, who has worked for the Meridian Public Library for the past 10 years. Megan is contracted for the next year to provide support to the TBS staff for training of mobile devices and applications.

Presentation by School Library Consultant, Jeannie Standal, Dyslexia:

Jeannie spoke about the importance of audiobooks in early childhood development, especially for students with Dyslexia or other learning disorders. Those who come from low-income homes who haven't been exposed to many vocabulary words are at a disadvantage when they start school and audiobooks can help bridge this gap. Some children are better auditory listeners than visual learners and listening to books can assist in student's understanding the content of the story, rather than having to concentrate so hard on the mechanics of learning to read. We also discussed ideas about how to educate students and teachers about the Talking Books and the way in which it can be a valuable tool in schools. Going forward we will concentrate on TBS outreach to students through events like Summer Summit and reaching out to school librarians and psychologists.

TBS Patron Survey 2021 Results Discussion:

The results of the TBS survey are in. Numbers are down for Idaho and nationwide; much of this due to the impact of Covid. We discussed the survey questions regarding BARD. The results show that the reasons patrons do not use BARD is because they are technically challenged or do not have access to the Internet. Newline numbers are down 6%. To promote Newline, the NFB is looking to hire someone, but the search has been unsuccessful so far. Alison has been working to get students interested in Newline and suggested that updated promotional and educational material might be beneficial. Another problem with promoting TBS is a high turnover of Activities Directors in care centers, so it is difficult to keep them trained. Jeannie suggested working with special education teachers or attending a teacher In-Service Day to promote TBS.

Updates on ARPA Outreach – Big Bold Blitz:

The ARPA outreach was originally planned to include site visits to 12 selected public libraries around the state. The goal is to create a partnership with library directors who will volunteer to be TBS Ambassadors and work with care facilities in their communities to promote TBS to Idaho's unserved and unserved population. We are modifying this plan due to the rise in Covid cases. We plan to work remotely towards these same goals. The care facilities will receive large

print books and TBS promotional materials. The libraries will receive canvas TBS bags with demo players and promotional materials. A Webinar to present the idea to Library Directors is scheduled for September 15th.

Other promotional ideas discussed were exploring other markets such as print or website ads for ophthalmologist's offices.

TBS update:

- Candace shared updates on the changes she made to the TBS website including the banner highlighting individuals with reading disabilities who now qualify for the service without a doctor's certification.
- Rebecca, working with Jeannie, attended the Summer Summit to promote TBS and will continue this going forward.
- Colleen spoke about the success of the first TBS Book Club on August 11th through Zoom and a 1-800 number for patrons to call in. They discussed "Educated". The next Book Club will be on November 10th and the book chosen is "A Dog Named Beautiful: A Marine, a Dog, and a Long Road Trip Home". Eventually we will transition the Book Club to become a volunteer-run group. Some ideas for promoting the Book Club to patrons are Listserv and emailing.
- The pilot for the Braille E-Readers has begun and Utah Talking Books will be mailing out readers to our Braille patrons soon. Patrons must qualify by taking a survey and will be required to return the E-Readers afterwards.

Committee member updates:

- Dana announced that the NFB conference will be April 21-23 in Idaho Falls at the Holiday Inn and will be in person as of now.
- Allison announced that they are still going to meet with students in person, but they do have virtual programming. The conference this year will be at the Transition Institute at the BSU campus on Nov 3rd and 4th.
- Marina is working to promote TBS and the homebound can drop materials off at the library.

Next steps:

- LeAnn will follow up with the committee members on what they need to do for TBS promotion.
- We will come up with additional ways to promote the Book Club.
- The TBS team will begin the Big Bold Blitz outreach with an introductory Zoom Webinar on September 15th and follow up with calls to library directors.
- LeAnn will contact Utah on the status of the Braille E-Readers.