

## Idaho Talking Book Advisory Committee Meeting

Wednesday, March 4, 2020

9:30am –1:30 pm

**Meeting Purpose:** To remain current with Talking Book Service items

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

- Learn State Librarian Stephanie Bailey-White’s vision for Idaho libraries
- Understand each member’s organization and target audience
- Brainstorm how to collaborate to better meet the needs of those unable to read standard print
- Receive updates on TBS activities
- Share member updates

**Meeting leader:** Sue Walker

**Facilitator:** Stephanie Bailey-White

**Recorder:** Rebecca McKay

Meeting Set-up, introductions	Stephanie	•Share	10 minutes
State Librarian’s vision for Idaho’s Libraries	Stephanie	•Share	20 minutes
Supporting those unable to read standard print	All	•Share •Brainstorm	60 minutes
Break	All		10 minutes
Scribe Demo	All		20 minutes
Revised website review: <a href="https://libraries.idaho.gov/tbs-new/">https://libraries.idaho.gov/tbs-new/</a>	All	•Discuss •Suggest changes	20 minutes
Break	All		30 minutes
TBS workplan update	Sue	•Share •Discuss	20 minutes
TBS updates	Sue	•Share	20 minutes
Member Updates	All	•Share	20 minutes
Next Steps	All	•List	5 minutes
Meeting Review	All	•List	5 minutes

## Vision for Idaho Libraries:

- 1) Building institutional capacity for libraries around Idaho i.e. Broadband support, grants, continuing education
- 2) College and Career Readiness i.e. LiLI database, Summer Reading, early readers
- 3) Underserved Idahoans i.e. TBS, early literacy, have welcoming libraries
- 4) Support Work Force Development i.e. Summer Intern Program, SWEP (Summer work experience program)

-In U.S. Idaho ranks #1 in child program attendance, #2 in circulation of children's material. Overall there is a 32% increase in library program attendance. Visiting the library is the most common cultural activity in U.S., the library is now a place to interact, not just research.

-Although there is an increase in e-books and e-readers, overall circulation of physical reading materials hasn't really changed. Increase in non-book circulation i.e. Board and STEM games, canes, wheelchairs, fishing poles, cake pans, sports equipment, reminiscence kits for patrons with dementia or Alzheimer's. Almost every library has a LP section. Currently, public libraries do not offer electronic magnifiers, CCTVs, or magnifier platforms, although the VA does.

-Sue is Retiring, currently in the hiring process so Sue can overlap work with her replacement, redefining her position to be a supervisor for TBS employees as well as program supervisor.

### Catherine Stanton, Madison County Library:

158,000 visits in the last year. Struggles to keep staff informed of TBS services because of high staff turn-over rate also smaller libraries in the surrounding area don't do any promotion.

Possible Solutions: Have Patrick reach out to libraries and list Cathy as a referral, have more pamphlets, more signage on website, more posters in the libraries.

### Marina Rose, Caldwell Public Library:

Caldwell library has monthly readings at assisted living, technology assistance, adulting 101 programs, healing library kits (i.e. loss of a loved one), and reference assistance through phone, email, snail mail and in person.

ICBVI would be happy to do outreach at public libraries i.e. Summer Reading events.

### Steve Achabal, ICBVI:

Vocational Rehabilitation Services help people get back into employment through braille, Assistive Technology, Woodshop, Acts of Daily living (home-ec), Business Enterprise Program, independent living services with canes and phones, training on low tech options, using aids like magnifiers. There is also Sight Restoration Services i.e. Cataracts surgery, laser surgery (does not include LASIK), and a Low Vision Store with aids such as talking watches to help those with visual impairments conduct daily activities.

Alison Steven, ICBVI:

ICBVI helps 15-21 year-olds with programs like SWEP, a College Days Program (what will college be like with lack of support, can get credits for taking a BSU class for 5 weeks), a Leadership Program (develop service projects for more independence, have mentors, and a Residential Program: one week in Boise learning independent living, personal care. There are also retreats, counseling, and BELL (Braille Enrichment Literacy Learning) programs.

Dana Ard, NFB:

NFB (National Federation for the Blind) is a volunteer run 501C3 Non-Profit. Idaho has chapters in Twin Falls, Pocatello, Boise, Moscow, and Idaho Falls. They partner with ICBVI, participate in Health Fairs, "Cycle for Independence", and train veterans in braille, and home management. They have a focus on making medical equipment and home appliances accessible and advocate with Legislature i.e. AIM High Act (establish national guidelines for colleges on accessibility). They also have the Free White Cane Program.

-NFB Idaho State Convention April 16<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup>, Hilton Garden Inn, Idaho Falls.

-Vendor Expo; Public libraries could represent to talk about their outreach, LP, and audiobooks.

-Readers are Leaders Contest 2020

-Participation cash reward, get more students to participate. January 4<sup>th</sup> (Louis Braille's Birthday) to March 4<sup>th</sup>. Open to adults and children.

Susan McCoy, IESDB:

Idaho Educational Services for Deaf and Blind provide outreach to different schools, and braille teaching. The most successful students have access to all opportunities. Our departments should work together to cover all bases. Helps from birth to age 21. They provide an Expanded Core Curriculum, as well as summer, winter and work-readiness camps.

Applied for \$100,000 grant to fund assistive tech for students.

Travis Wilson, VA:

VA provides magnifying devices, VR, adaptive sports, 6 different national games, a Summer and Winter sports clinic, and rehab centers that teach assistive technology (which participants get to keep i.e. computers and smart phones). Eligibility is decided case by case, they are usually pre-diagnosed for VI program, enrollment process does mention TBS and BARD. There is the Blind Veterans Association, and Support groups as well. At the Blind Veterans Conference in Tulsa 2019, they got to test new products.

Aubrey Matthews, BSU:

Primary problem for students is a lack of information about resources, younger students are often left out. There is also an underrepresentation in Idaho leading to an underrepresentation of information.

Possible Solutions:

- 1) More outreach to younger students
- 2) Have the resources to do more outreach
- 3) Teach at a young age its okay to use resources, i.e. prevent stigma that its “weird” or “lame” to use a cane.
- 4) Go to Support groups of Blind Veterans they could receive good advice on how to get over “pride barrier”.
- 5) Have Aubrey record a presentation about services that can be passed around, post it on different websites.
- 6) Get parents more involved with a parent education seminar, “need resource to find resource”

-Side note from Dana: it is hard to get parents/families to go to workshops i.e. NFB conference only had five families attend, and it was difficult to get them to come.

Sue Walker, TBS:

Website Feedback: Dana thought it was easy to navigate, some glitches on the application, not very clear, three links at the end aren't linked. Alison thought it was easy to navigate but also found the application options befuddling, one of the videos was not linked. Steve thought it was more streamlined and involved less scrolling which is good. Overall, only a few glitches which may be affected by which browser you're using.

Rating unrated books: 53/100 so far! Sue will continue to coordinate volunteers after she retires

Latest Technology: Idaho is one of the first regional libraries to use Scribe. TBS will start transferring groups of patrons, approximately 100 a week. Postcards with braille overlay officially done, and 1.500 emails were sent out about Newsline.

NEXT STEPS:

- 1) Promote Treasure Valley Reads book “Honey Bus”, talking books through TBS, braille copy through Utah, LP through public libraries.
- 2) Approximately 564 students from IESDB could be using TBS, discuss best way for outreach
- 3) Blind Veterans Association should have a representative at Advisory Committee, invite Doug to join us?
- 4) Can Travis and Steve bring in demos of assistive devices to next meeting, possibly have a Vendor come as well.