

Governor's Advisory Council on Library Development  
April 12, 2024: 10:00a.m.

Location: Sagewood Room at Kalahari as part of the PSLA Conference

**Minutes**

**GAC Members Present:** Marsha Everton, Dale Hamby, Rebecca Long, Allison Mackley, Beth Mellor (online only), Barbara Zaborowski

**Office of Commonwealth Libraries (OCL):** Susan Banks, Deputy Secretary; Carrie Cleary, Executive Assistant; Bri Crum, Library Development Advisor (virtual), Sara Deegan, Library Dev. Supervisor (virtual); Corri Hines, Library Development Advisor; Julie Moore, Professional Development Advisor; Heather Sharpe, Director, Bureau of Library Development; Heather Warren Smith, Library Development Advisor (virtual)

**Guest presenter:** PSLA President Leah Lindemann

**In Person Attendees:** Elizabeth Davis, Aimee Emerson, Don Fadden, Eileen Kern, Michele Legate, Celeste Dircaro Nalwasky, Ila J. Verdirame

**Virtual Attendees:** Nicole Badger, Carolyn Blatchley, Christi Buker, Jessica Church, Mary Grace Collier-Kisler, Kimberley Hrivnak, Erin Joyce, Katie Greenleaf Martin, Ed Miller, Jeffrey Swope, Melinda B. Tanner, Joyce Valenza, Robyn Vittek, 10 others logged in as "Guest" not identified.

**1. Welcome & Introductions**

- a. Call to Order & Introductions – Dale Hamby, Vice Chair, opened the meeting at 10:04a.m. Members in attendance were introduced.

**2. Approval of February 1, 2024 Meeting Minutes** – Dale Hamby

- a. No corrections. Minutes approved as distributed.

**3. Chair's Report** – Dale Hamby presented Garm's report

- a. Hamby shared highlights from **written report attached**.
- b. Lisa Rives Collens accepted a professional librarian seat on the GAC.
- c. State Library Grand Re-Opening Celebration to be held April 26.

**4. Deputy Secretary's Report** – Susan Banks

- a. Banks shared highlights from **written report attached**.

**5. Bureau Reports from the Office of Commonwealth Libraries**

- a. **Bureau of Library Development** – Heather Sharpe, Director. Sharpe shared highlights from **written report attached**.
- b. **Bureau of State Library** – Sarah Greene, Director was not present. Banks shared highlights from **written report attached**.

**6. Public Comment on Agenda Items Only** - No comment

**7. Presentation:** State of PA School Libraries, Leah Lindemann, President of the Pennsylvania School Librarians Association (PSLA) is a high school librarian at Blackhawk School District. She shared that PSLA members are excited to attend the Grand Re-Opening of the State Library. She discussed author talks for school librarians that are provided as a part of the LSTA grant that PSLA received, including When You

Wonder, You Are Learning and a recent retreat in Altoona for the 2024 model curriculum update. PSLA had a successful annual conference and are planning for 2025 in Erie. PSLA distributes an email newsletter that all Pennsylvania school librarians can receive to keep them informed of happenings. PSLA has an advocacy committee and a rapid response team to assist librarians who are facing intellectual freedom and book challenges. There was a full slate of candidates elected to leadership positions.

8. **Acknowledgement of the American Association of School Librarian Intellectual Freedom Award** – Hamby read news of the award, shared congratulations on behalf of the GAC, and introduced recipient Dr. Cathi Fuhrman. Fuhrman credited the PSLA team, thanked the GAC for their recognition, and discussed the importance of intellectual freedom, censorship challenges, and the role of the rapid response team.
9. **OCL Spotlight: Youth Services Overview** – Corri Hines, School Age Services Advisor shared highlights of youth programs including those for birth to age eight, family engagement, early literacy, and programs for ages eight to eighteen including Building Equity Based Summers, Transforming Teen Services, One Book and Play and Grow. She provided overall insight on youth services programs with a focus on what is going on now as well as plans for future work to support excellent and equitable library services to young people. Library staff leverage existing practices and the assets of Pennsylvania libraries and the unique communities that they serve, address current challenges and needs, and envision equitable futures. She shared that she and Heather Warren Smith are also serving on a group that is working on an information literacy toolkit to help youth learn how to interact with media as digital citizens.
10. **Proposed Regulations: Report and What's Next** – Susan Banks and Heather Sharpe noted that they are finalizing the draft administrative regulations for library services in Pennsylvania based on feedback received and will work to submit them to the Independent Regulatory Review Commission for review. They also noted that the LibGuide will be updated with changes made to the draft regulations and any additional FAQs based on feedback by mid-May.
11. **Committee Reports**
  - a. **Bylaws:** Mackley reported that a revised draft moved to the GAC Executive Committee for review and will likely have a draft for approval at the next meeting.
  - b. **Communications and Education and Advocacy:** Everton presented information about the GAC created and printed Report to the Governor about Pennsylvania Libraries. Objectives of the report were to increase the visibility of libraries, share stories about the range of services to all age groups, provide insight into impact of library services, and take the message from the field to the gov. Everton thanked everyone who sent stories and photos. The digital copy of the report is being reviewed for increased accessibility. Marsha said the group is holding the printed copies to have available at the State Library Grand Re-Opening and that plans are in progress to determine the best method to present to the Governor's office.
  - c. **Guidelines and Policies:** Long reported that the committee will pivot to focus on best practices. The Open Hours guideline will be renamed to a Holiday Hours guideline which may be ready soon. The group will work on Guidelines for Distribution of State Aid by PA Library systems next. Full update in [attached written report](#).
  - d. **Planning:** Zaborowski reported that there is a dashboard to keep track of the plan and its initiatives. The group will meet again soon to put forward a new plan for the coming year.

- e. **Ad Hoc Committee / Statute and Regulations:** The committee meets regularly to review progress. This was covered by Banks and Sharpe in agenda item above.
12. **Community Conversation** – Zaborowski presented data from the **attached presentation**. The question answered by 39 at registration was: “What is your understanding of the roles and responsibilities of the Governor’s Advisory Council?” Some said they needed more information, but the majority of responses understood the role and cited the code. Zaborowski shared highlights of GAC responsibilities and recommended people could find out more at the State Library website at [Governor’s Advisory Council on Library Development \(pa.gov\)](https://www.palibrary.org/governors-advisory-council-on-library-development). She noted that the GAC works with OCL but is not a board of directors for OCL. The GAC does not advise on the federal level or serve as an LSTA advisory council.
13. **Council Members’ Comments and Announcements**
- a. Hamby discussed library funding in Lancaster County – Articles were shared **as attached**. Hamby also shared positive news about his experience being invited to attend the Chester County Library System Annual Legislative breakfast on behalf of the GAC.
14. **Public Comment:**
- a. Maryam Phillips of HSLC presented the **attached written report** with three things about POWER Library.
  - b. Elizabeth Davis from Pennsylvania Integrated Library System (PaILS) shared a brief update and the **attached annual report**. PaILS is working on digital card signups so they can do address verification and immediately get access and then upgrade to a physical card. Berks County libraries are joining SPARK.
  - c. Christi Buker, Pennsylvania Library Association shared in chat an update that PALA is advocating for a 4% increase to the public library subsidy.
15. **Adjourn:** Motion by Marsha second by Allison to adjourn meeting at 12:00p.m.

Next Business Meeting:

Thursday, July 18, 2024 at 10 AM (Virtual)

Sunday, October 6, 2024 at 10 AM at Pennsylvania Library Association Conference in Harrisburg, PA

Meeting minutes respectfully submitted,

Carrie Cleary, Executive Assistant, Office of Commonwealth Libraries.