

MLS

## Executive Director's Report to the Board - May 17, 2010

Anne Craig, Greg McCormick and Lawren Tucker attended the ILSDO meeting at Lincoln Trail last Thursday May 13th. The session included a remarkable exchange and I was grateful for their candid assessment of what needs to happen.

Anne Craig's message included:

- No financial relief is in sight. The state's 6-month reimbursement delays will grow longer and will likely continue for the next three to four years.
- The System boards should approve a fully funded FY2011 budget at the May 2010 meeting and submit it to ISL as part of our area and per capita grant.
- Preserve the state's strong resource sharing tradition by continuing Delivery and the work of the LLSAP's.
- System consolidation has to happen. It would be best if system boards did this together, however, if consolidation does not occur ISL will proceed to reduce the number to one or two.
- Work toward a single statewide library services organization with a single Delivery service, and a combined statewide LLSAP.

Last week North Suburban announced suspension of services, except for Delivery, effective June 1<sup>st</sup>. Full implications are not yet known as some staff will be brought back on a contractual basis when needed. The NSLS board will continue to meet and discuss strategic restructuring with the four northern library systems. At this time NSLS is not liquidating, just suspending services. NSLS is not planning to replace their exiting Executive Director Sarah Long.

Tina Hubert announced she is leaving as Executive Director of Lewis and Clark. She leaves June 30<sup>th</sup> to take a position as a library director in her hometown. Lewis and Clark will not replace her, and they plan to suspend services effective August 30<sup>th</sup>.

Shawnee is not going to replace their retiring Executive Director, Joe Harris, after he leaves on June 30<sup>th</sup>. Duties will likely be shared among existing staff.

The MLS response:

- MLS must continue to move forward in a fiscally responsible way. While we are not currently strapped for cash, if funding is not readily available, we will be. (Fall 2010)
- Our immediate goal is to reduce spending drastically by suspending services and reducing staff in order to weather the current cash flow crisis, with the plan to reinstate services as money becomes available.
- Continue on our path of strategic restructuring by participating in SWOT analysis Friday May 21<sup>st</sup> as well as continue to participate in discussions with other systems.
- Support the SWAN membership's request to become a separate legal entity with an Intergovernmental Agreement with MLS.

Alice Calabrese-Berry