

**Consumer Advisory Committee Meeting
November 16, 2006
MINUTES**

Committee members, partners & others attending: Irwin Hott, Cheryl Blevins, Mona Pocatko, Barbara Mates, Donna Foust, Lise Seavers, Joel Husenits, Mark Foersterling, Ken Campbell, George Barnes, Shelbi Johnson, Sandy Johnson Jim Buchman

Committee members & partners absent: James Donnan, Michael Southern, Katherine Kadish, Robin Finley, Donna Reeves

INTRODUCTIONS: The meeting was held in Conference Room D of the State Library of Ohio. The meeting was called to order at 10:30A.M. by Irwin Hott. Each attendee introduced him or herself.

MINUTES: Mona Pocatko moved and Cheryl Blevins seconded, approval of the August 17, 2006 meeting minutes as submitted.

REGIONAL REPORTS:

Cincinnati LBPH: Donna Foust reported that a print catalog listing new descriptive videos has been distributed, although the newsletter announcing these has been delayed. A mailing to all of Ohio's public libraries has been sent announcing the availability of these. Circulation has already increased as a result of these efforts.

Donna noted that the digital books are not as heavily used in Cincinnati as they are in Cleveland, but does not know why. One possibility is because Cincinnati has more rural patrons than Cleveland.

Cincinnati has filled two vacant, part-time positions.

Cleveland LBPH: Barbara Mates reported that staff has been extremely busy, even though circulation is down significantly. The Unabridged project remains popular, but staff must spend a great deal of time working one-on-one with patrons helping them to set up and begin downloading titles. Playaways also remain a popular and inexpensive delivery system of audio books.

Barbara will be making a presentation at the Visiting Nurses Association. She suggested that this may be a good group to add as a CAC partner.

STATE LIBRARY REPORT: Jim Buchman reported on the Annual Talking Book Conference, which was held here at the State Library on September 15, 2006. Guest speakers for the conference included Alice Baker from NLS who talked about the NLS transition to Digital Talking Book Machines (DTBM) in 2008, Madeline Brookshire and Valerie Smith who talked about marketing library services. Evaluation results indicated a high level of satisfaction with the overall conference.

A discussion ensued about the roll the CAC could play when Ohio begins its transition to DTBM. Transition to DTBM will be phased in over several years starting in late 2008. Ohio will not receive a sufficient quantity of DTBMs to meet demand. The CAC could assist by adopting criteria for distributing DTBM to individuals. Veterans will have first priority, which has already been determined by NLS. Other suggestions include: a lottery deployment; replace E-1 machines (which are outdated and troublesome); base on use, e.g. individuals requesting over XX number of titles per month to get machines to the heaviest users. Jim will work with the Regional Libraries to draft and refine suggested criteria to bring back to the CAC for more discussion at a future meeting.

This is also seen as a good time to update Ohio's Talking Book application form. Jim will work with the Regional Libraries to update the form.

PARTNER REPORTS: Mona Pocatko suggested that the CAC co-sponsor a session, possibly with the State Library, at the Ohio Library Council Annual Convention, which is scheduled for October 11-12, 2007 in Columbus. The deadline for submission is January 31st. This will be finalized at the next CAC meeting on January 25th, 2007.

OPLIN: Joel Husenits reported that there has been much turnover recently at OPLIN. He is now the most senior staff member with only five years of service. Staff currently is reviewing organizational goals and objectives.

Old Business – Election of a Vice-Chair: It was suggested that the committee go without a vice chair in 2007. The secretary could fill in as chair in the event the chair was unable to attend a meeting. Mona Pocatko moved, and Mark Foersterling seconded, that the secretary will serve as chair when the chair is unable to do so, in absence of anyone serving as vice-chair. The motion passed unanimously.

New Business

Schedule of 2007 Meetings: The committee unanimously approved the following meeting schedule for 2007:

- Thursday, January 25
- Thursday, April 19
- Thursday August 23
- Friday, September 14 – Annual Conference
- Thursday, November 15

Appointment of New Member – Shelbi Johnson: Mona Pocatko moved and Mark Foersterling seconded approval of Shelbi Johnson as the National Federation of the Blind representative to the CAC, replacing Annette Anderson. The motion passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 12:10pm.

The next meeting is scheduled for January 25, 2007 at 10:30 at the State Library of Ohio.

Minutes submitted by Jim Buchman