

**Four County Library System
Outreach Advisory Council Meeting
27 July 2016**

Attending the meeting:

Andrea Tillinghast (Your Home Public Library, Johnson City), Kate Grippen (Family Enrichment Network), Noelle Holmes (4CLS Outreach Specialist), Sarah Reid (4CLS Outreach and Youth Services Manager)

1. Bookmobile Update

4CLS Executive Director Steve Bachman shared that 4CLS staff had considered several vendors for a new vehicle and had settled on purchasing from Oneonta Medical Coaches. This company specializes in mobile medical units, but it makes other types of custom vehicles and has built bookmobiles in the past. It also has the added advantage of being within the 4CLS boundaries, making any visits for maintenance and repairs relatively easy.

The question of being able to afford the vehicle was raised, and Steve responded that it could be managed. Grant proposals are in the process of being written.

2. Outreach Coordinators Conference

In May, Noelle and Sarah attended the Outreach Coordinators Conference in Albany. This event gathered people working in Outreach from all of the NYS library systems. Although there was some formal training, what Noelle and Sarah found most helpful was the opportunity to network with other professionals working on the same sorts of issues—making contacts and sharing ideas was very valuable.

3. Bookmobile Stop-Specific Information

For a little over a year, the bookmobile has been stopping at Job Corps in Oneonta, a residential job training program for young people, ages 16 to 24. Although many of the students were enthusiastic about checking out books, the great majority of books were not returned. Despite repeated communication with the staff of the facility about the importance of returning the materials so that other patrons could use them, in June the total cost of unreturned books stood at nearly \$1,700. Though we were unhappy to have to remove this resource from the students, the Job Corps staff's reluctance to be accountable for the missing books led to the decision to remove this stop from the schedule.

The Recreation Coordinator from the Chase Health Nursing Home in New Berlin contacted 4CLS about the possibility of hosting a bookmobile stop. She is in the process of collecting signatures of interested residents. Once that step is complete, a site visit

will take place, and Outreach staff will look at where the stop might fit into the schedule.

4. BOOKS Program Grant

State Senator Fred Akshar has taken on Senator Libous's practice of offering programming grants to libraries through his BOOKS Program, and the Cybermobile program is included as part of his senate district. The past few years, 4CLS has collaborated with the Discovery Center of the Southern Tier to present a BookFest in the fall, and this will be the use of the BOOKS Program money again. The event will take place at the Discovery Center on Saturday, November 19, and the grant money will be used to hire author/illustrator David Hyde Costello to give two presentations to children and families. He will focus on his book *I Can Help*, a story about animal friends who help each other solve their problems.

Andrea suggested sending a special invitation to Mr. Akshar to attend the event.

5. Survey of Member Libraries

In September, Sarah will send a survey out to member library staff with the intent of finding out what outreach activities are already happening in libraries and what support and/or assistance might be desired from 4CLS. Results of this survey will be used to inform where 4CLS Outreach staff should spend time and energy. Additionally, if some libraries share excellent ideas for outreach, we may ask them to share these at regional meetings in the fall.

6. Outreach Ideas

Kate shared that some of her staff are working on a fatherhood program sponsored by the US Office of Family Assistance, and that might open up some outreach possibilities. Also, FEN has a site in Norwich that might be a possibility for a bookmobile stop.

Andrea shared about the Council of Churches looking for books for inmates to give to their children for Christmas, as well as books for children to read in the waiting room when they visit a parent at the jail.

These ideas will be added to a list of outreach ideas that Starr had collected from OAC participants at the end of 2015. Sarah will send out a list ahead of the next meeting with the idea that the OAC will be able to determine priorities and decide which ideas should be addressed first.

7. Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held in October. Sarah will send out an email in September to determine which day might work best for the most people.