

Ad-Hoc OverDrive Committee Meeting Notes – 12/11/2023 at 11 am

Meeting was called to order by Chair, Stephanie Harrison

In Attendance:

Columbia: Matt Pavloff, Kinderhook Memorial Library; Tamara Gaskell, Roeliff Jansen Community Library; Tobi Farley, Philmont Public Library

Dutchess: Carol Fortier, Beekman Library; Carol Bancroft, Clinton Community Library; Mary DeBellis, LaGrange Association Library; Courtney Tsahalís, Millbrook Library; Daniela Pulice, Pleasant Valley Library

Greene: Catherine Benson, Heermance Memorial Library; Jen Grounds, Heermance Memorial Library; Katie Scott-Childress, Rosendale Library

Putnam: Stephanie Harrison, Patterson Library (Chair); Michele Capozzella, Mahopac Library

Ulster: Gillian Murphy, Elting Memorial Library; Julie Kelsall-Dempsey, Highland Public Library; Katie Scott Childress, Rosendale Library

MHLS: Rebekkah Smith Aldrich, Laurie Shedrick, Nina Acosta

Review of the OverDrive spending reports issued to libraries that covered the spending from May through October of 2023: It was observed that many libraries, over 30, have closed the gap and in some cases even eliminated it and wait times have been reduced as a result. The committee noted the following:

- The actual spending gap in a dollar amount should be included to provide a tangible goal, understanding that the number is somewhat fluid because it is based on the libraries' circulation and total spending which are not constant figures.
- The reporting period does not reflect the entire spending year. Libraries whose spending percentage fell below their use percentage in this period, may have been over in the previous report. Each library must evaluate their total spending for the year. The purpose of the report is to review the past six months. The committee discussed reviewing the data as a full year in future meetings.

The committee asked that Laurie issue a new report to all libraries falling below the spending recommendation in this reporting period (which worked out to be approximately 30% of MHLS libraries) that includes the additional amount that would be required to meet the recommended spending goal.

What does success look like: The committee discussed what successful OverDrive spending might look like, and the consensus was an overall decrease in wait times for patrons along with equitable purchasing by member libraries.

Purchasing CPC titles: There was a brief discussion to clarify at what point a library could purchase a CPC title, and the consensus was that if a library was meeting their OverDrive spending requirements, then they could purchase CPC titles regardless of whether they had first purchased a metered access or one copy/one use title of the material in question.

Next Steps:

- MHLS staff to contact member libraries who are considerably underspending to inquire if they need help with training and/or budgeting/making the case to their boards.
- MHLS staff to investigate if an overreliance on CPC before meeting the spending goal is a factor.
- Committee to discuss if two reports a year are necessary, many felt once a year would be enough.
- Committee will next meet in April.
- At the November 2024 meeting the committee would like to see both the 6 and 12 month data.

Submitted by Stephanie Harrison