

Memo

To: Montana State Library Commission

From: Jennie Stapp, State Librarian

Date: May 29, 2015

Re: **Library Development Study Task Force update**

The Library Development Study Task Force held their first meeting on Wednesday, May 27. The membership is charged to:

- Develop a process to evaluate the importance of programs and services of the State Library that support library development to ensure that Montana libraries are prepared to meet the challenges and to embrace the opportunities that come with being a 21st century library;
- Prioritize those programs and services, keeping in mind the needs of all types of libraries;
- Make recommendations regarding new programs and services if needed;
- Make recommendations regarding how all identified programs and services might be most effectively delivered; and to
- Make recommendations about how these programs and services might best be funded.

Members include:

- Connie Behe, ImagineIF Libraries
- Pamela Benjamin, Montana State University
- Barry Brown, Maureen and Mike Mansfield Library
- Bill Cochran, Billings Public Library
- Joanne Didriksen, Helena High School Library
- Desiree Funston, Missoula Public Library
- Roberta Gebhardt, Montana Historical Society Research Center
- Mitchell Grady, Hearst Free Library
- Susan Gregory, Bozeman Public Library
- Judy Hart, Lewis and Clark Library
- Anne Kish, Montana State Library Commission

- Al Logan, ImagineIF Libraries Trustee
- Jodie Moore, Red Lodge Carnegie Library
- Jodi Oberweiser, Drummond School & Community Library
- KellyAnne Terry, Lewistown Public Library
- Jonna Underwood, Sheridan County Library
- Debbie Wellman, Choteau County Library
- Sonja Woods, Miles City Public Library

Now that the Education and Local Government Legislative Interim Committee has been selected I will ask for legislative participation on this task force. Additionally, we will follow up on a request for participation from the Governor's Office once a new Education Policy Advisory has been appointed.

At their first meeting the Task Force reviewed their charge and a substantial amount of pre-read materials. These materials are available on the Task force website at:
http://about.msl.mt.gov/Home/commission_councils/library_development_study_task_force.

The task force discussed important stakeholders from whom they wish to seek input. That list includes:

- Librarians
- Trustees
- Legislators
- The Governor's Office
- Teachers, faculty, students
- Life-long learners
- Economic development officials
- Local government representatives
- The Office of Public Instruction
- Social Service Agencies

At the next meeting (date to be determined) the task force will strategize about how best to engage these stakeholders. Initial discussion included the need for a survey and key talking points that can be used consistently by all task for members. Strategies suggested include lunch & learn opportunities and listening sessions.

The task force selected Susan Gregory to be their chair.