

Job description:

The Network Advisory Council is charged with oversight of the Montana Library Network (MLN), a collaborative community of Montana libraries working together to provide all Montanans with library content and services sufficient unto their needs. With input from Core Services Committees and Montana libraries, the Council advises the State Library Commission on planning, evaluation, funding needs, and priorities to ensure the success of the Montana Library Network.

Key principles of MLN:

- Our success is measured by our users' successes.
- Collaboration makes our services efficient.
- Local librarians know best the needs of their communities, and how to meet these needs.
- We learn from others.
- We are future focused. We work to improve what we do and how we do it, focusing on the present and future needs of our communities.
- We explore, try, test, pilot, and adapt to new and changing programs and services.
- Montana libraries decide how or if they participate in MLN.

To meet their charge the NAC will:

- Evaluate MLN core services, balancing the core services-related needs with a statewide perspective and recommending priorities for investment to the Commission.
- Ensure that, in their assessment, all voices are heard.
- Evaluate interconnectedness between different library types, taking into account parallels for lifelong learning.
- Advocate to vendors, the Montana Library Association, and others to support core service priorities.

- Seek feedback from underserved groups and listen.
- Encourage experimentation by harvesting project ideas from Leadership institutes, etc.
- Plan for and make recommendations to ensure the sustainability of core services for the duration of the service's lifecycle.
- Recommend to the Commission disinvestment in services deemed to be no longer necessary, valued by users, or that are unsuccessful.

1) What competencies should members of the NAC aspire to achieve success?

- a. Be open to new ideas, curious, and interested.
- b. Be willing to take risks after considering pros and cons of ideas.
- c. Be comfortable communicating with other council members, the State Library Commission, and librarians and board members in Montana.
- d. Be interested in learning more about Montana communities – both their current and future needs.
- e. Be respectful of the diversity within these communities.
- f. Have a desire to develop skills and confidence in decision making and providing guidance at a level that works for you.
- g. Have a desire to learn about or experience with budgeting, strategic planning, and evaluation.

2) What knowledge, skills, and abilities should NAC members bring to the Committee to achieve its work?

- a. Understand the needs and respect the diversity within our communities.
- b. Understand the financial differences between libraries.

- c. Be a good listener and proactively seek to communicate with all librarians.

NAC and Core Services Committees Members will be given an opportunity to participate in the following training topics.

Orientation (development of learning plan)

- a. How to be a good committee member
- b. Budget and funding training
- c. Historical view of NAC and structural view of MSL, services, and committees

Training on communicating with different communities

Futurist thinking training

Systems thinking training

Equity, Diversity, Inclusion training