



10 November 2017

**TO: RAILS Board of Directors**

**FROM: Dee Brennan**

**SUBJECT: Executive Director Report – November 2017**

#### Executive Director Goals FY 2018

- Continue to implement the goals and objectives of the strategic plan.
- Analyze the strategic plan and update it as needed.
- Ensure financial sustainability for RAILS by finding efficiencies and cost savings, streamlining processes and procedures, and setting service priorities that still serve all RAILS members.
- Lead discussion of LLSAP funding changes based on need for sustainability, equity and stewardship.
- Support development and implementation of ILL/resource sharing overlay.
- Implement ExploreMoreIllinois.org program
- Develop RAILS expertise in Design Thinking methodology
- Develop long term plan to consolidate buildings and delivery hubs (continuation)
- Encourage resource sharing and cooperation among different types of libraries
- Measure the importance and impact of RAILS services.
- Communicate with board members so board members can make timely, informed decisions.

My monthly reports are organized according to the goals of the strategic plan and these goals.

#### Resource Sharing

We are continuing to work on the ExploreMoreIllinois museum pass program. Our next step will be to set up a page on our website with information for libraries and museums and other cultural institutions to find out more about the program. We will also be working with Quipu, the vendor, and with RAILS consortia on library card authentication issues. We remain hopeful that the Chicago Public Library will also participate with RAILS. We hope to launch this program in early 2018.

## Membership Standards

RAILS staff are continuing to work on a beta test for the membership standards. The test will run from November 14 through November 30 (approximately). We have approximately 50 libraries of all types from across Illinois participating.

## Access to Information

We continue to work on expanding services to unserved residents. I sent the Warren County Public Library District proposal to the state library and we are now awaiting feedback.

## Member Engagement

On October 25 I traveled to Kishwaukee College in Malta to meet with the PrairieCat Delegates Assembly. I updated them on our work with LLSAP funding to ensure their financial stability going forward. Veronda and Anne Slaughter also attended the meeting. We were able to update the group about Biblioboards and other issues of interest.

On November 2 I met with Christine Barr at the Harrison Elementary School in Geneva. I toured the library, met some of the adorable students and talked with Chris about RAILS services.

I traveled to Wheeling to meet with Brian Shepard at the Indian Trails Library District on November 3. The renovation of the library is really outstanding. It was great to see the building packed with customers of all ages doing an incredible variety of things in the Makerspace, the Children's Room, checking out books, reading magazines – all the wonderful activities that take place in our libraries every day.

I also talked with Brian about RAILS and our strategic plan update project. He is also in the midst of strategic planning with his library, so it was a great opportunity to pick his brain.

On November 6 I attended the ILA Public Policy Meeting. There was much discussion of the possibility of a property tax freeze bill passing the General Assembly.

On November 8 I attended the steering committee meeting for the Elevate Illinois library leadership project.

On November 9, I visited the Joliet Public Library and met with Megan Millen, and in the afternoon I traveled to Carol Stream to meet with Nadia Sheikh and Susan Westgate, Library Director. Megan is at the beginning stage of complete renovation of the central library building (designed by Daniel Burnham). I was very impressed with the work being done in Carol Stream;

they have an ambitious and exciting renovation planned, and are really engaged with their community.

### Organizational Excellence

We have begun an initial review of our strategic plan to determine what updating is needed. I will provide a report to the Board at the meeting, and there is a memo in the packet with more details.

Our next RAILS service evaluation project will focus on how well we engage with/orient/communicate with the RAILS board and how we can do better. I will provide further information at the board meeting.

### Leadership and Innovation

I did a podcast with Karen Keefe, executive director of the Hinsdale Public Library, on November 10 about her future forecasting group and the work they are doing.