

19 October 2018

TO: RAILS Board of Trustees

FROM: Deirdre Brennan

SUBJECT: Draft charges for committees/ task forces on unserved and advocacy

At the September meeting, we agreed to continue our discussion of draft charges for the new board committees or task forces on the unserved and advocacy.

I made some revisions to the advocacy charge based on discussion and suggestions at the September meeting. The unserved charge is unchanged.

Draft charge for committee/task force on the unserved

Recognizing the importance of extending service to the approximately 1 million unserved residents in Illinois, 673,689 of which are in RAILS, RAILS has established a task force to explore solutions to the unserved.

RAILS adopted a plan in October of 2016 which has been updated but should be reviewed and changed as decided by the committee.

The committee will:

- Review the current RAILS plan to serve the unserved and document progress.

- Prioritize goals and objectives in the plan and develop appropriate action steps.

- Be a voice for the unserved by bringing the issue to the attention of local libraries and boards of trustees.

- Develop a thorough understanding of the reasons why there are unserved residents and the implications both for the individuals affected, libraries and Illinois as a whole.

- As appropriate, share information and work collaboratively with the RAILS Board Resource Sharing Committee, ILA Public Policy Committee and ILA Advocacy Committee.

Membership:

- 2 board members

- Member library directors and trustees

- ISL staff

- RAILS staff: Executive Director, Director of Membership Development and Resource Sharing, Member Engagement Manager

Draft charge for RAILS board advocacy committee - revised

The purpose of the RAILS board advocacy committee is to:

Educate board members about issues affecting RAILS and libraries that may require advocacy efforts locally, regionally or nationally. For the purposes of this committee, advocacy means being informed about issues and able to speak persuasively and knowledgeably to library funders, supporters, legislators and other stakeholders when appropriate. Such issues may include:

Importance of librarians

Status of school libraries and importance of school librarians

Value of multitype cooperation, what different types of libraries learn from each other

Funding – state and federal

Intellectual freedom

Net neutrality

Projects and initiatives that RAILS works on

The committee will work collaboratively with the ILA Public Policy Committee and Advocacy Committee and may attend meetings or act in a liaison role for RAILS to these committees. Committee members will attend advocacy events offered by the ILA and the ALA.

Committee members will also work to educate trustees at other RAILS members about these important issues.

Committee members:

RAILS board members

RAILS Executive Director

RAILS Director of Communications