

RAILS Board Universal Service Committee Meeting

December 8, 2022 | 1:00 pm

RAILS Burr Ridge and Videoconference Sites

125 Tower Drive, Burr Ridge, IL 60527 | 630.734.5000

MINUTES

1. **Welcome and Call to Order**
Alice Creason, Chair, called the meeting to order at 1:01 pm.
2. **Roll Call of Committee Members**
Palmisano called roll of the RAILS Universal Service Committee members. Present on Zoom: Alice Creason, Jennifer McIntosh, Carol Medal, Becky Spratford, Lynn Stainbrook, Beth Teppen, Catherine Yanikoski. Absent: none
3. **Recognition of Guests and Announcements**
RAILS Burr Ridge: Monica Harris, Stacy Palmisano (designated note taker)
Zoom: Joe Filapek, Leila Heath, Greg McCormick, Tom Stagg
There were no announcements.
4. **Public Comments**
There were no public comments.
5. **Consent Agenda**
 - 5.1. Adoption of the Agenda
 - 5.2. Approval of the RAILS Board Universal Service Committee Minutes of September 8, 2022
Stainbrook moved for the approval of the consent agenda. McIntosh seconded and the motion was unanimously approved on a roll call vote. Ayes: Alice Creason, Jennifer McIntosh, Carol Medal, Becky Spratford, Lynn Stainbrook, Beth Teppen, Catherine Yanikoski. Nays: none
6. **Illinois State Library Advisory Committee (ISLAC) Update**
Harris reported that the October 27, 2022 ISLAC meeting was cancelled due to the lack of a quorum. At the previous meeting on August 25, 2022, the committee talked specifically about the topic of Universal Service. McCormick reported that ISLAC has developed the Nonresident Services Subcommittee. The members of the subcommittee are currently being determined. The next ISLAC meeting will be on January 26, 2023.
7. **New Business**
 - 7.1. Expansion of the Cards for Kids Act (SB3497) Update (discussion only)
Harris talked to the committee about the expansion of the Cards for Kids Act (SB3497), which states that a library board may adopt regulations waiving the nonresident fee for all minors under the age of 18. Committee members reported that there is a lack of knowledge by some library directors on the details of SB3497, and what are the steps to add that service. Timing was another issue that was discussed, such as no current library director to move forward with the service, or time needed to complete the process internally before advertising the service to patrons. Spratford would like to see targeted information from RAILS created exclusively for public library directors on this topic. McIntosh, followed up with a response that a similar

message for academic libraries would be helpful as well. McCormick reported that the data from the Illinois Public Library Annual Report (IPLAR) has been collected as to how many public libraries in the state have issued nonresident cards to minors over the last reporting year. That data will be shared soon. The data collected will help to evaluate the program. Suggested ways to communicate this message include the RAILS e-news, topic at a member update, celebrate the six month anniversary, a FAQ sheet from lawyers Ancel Glink on how to adopt the act, promote to school libraries, include on the My Library Is.. (MLI) website, and also make a prominent and exclusive page on the RAILS website on this topic. Also, getting the message out to the members in a variety of formats would be beneficial. Stainbrook mentioned that there is a need for caution in regard to the wording used in communicating this program since this is a free program while there is also a nonresident fee. McCormick noted that libraries will need to adopt the Cards for Kids Act (SB3497) expansion annually. This information is important to communicate to library members. RAILS will look into ways to evaluate the program to then inform the RAILS membership. MacIntosh suggested that it would be very beneficial to have a panel discussion on this topic at the next Illinois Library Association (ILA) Conference.

8. Unfinished Business

8.1. Statewide Online Educational Resource Program Update (discussion only)

Harris reported that there is widespread library support on having a statewide program for all libraries to receive free online educational resources. The ILA Public Policy Committee will move forward with discussions of this program once Secretary of State-Elect Giannoulas is appointed.

8.2. Alternative Funding Resources for Cards for Kids Participation Update (discussion only)

Yanikoski led the conversation on alternative funding recourses for libraries that participate in the Cards for Kids Act as well as the expansion of the act. Yanikoski suggested to create a task force outside of this committee to research funding resources. Since ISLAC will have the newly created Nonresident Services Subcommittee, they will take the lead on this topic and RAILS will assist when needed. McCormick talked about an overlooked statute under the County Library Law that passed in 1990. The ISLAC subcommittee will research the details of this statute. The committee discussed the value in collecting stories from school and teen librarians about how kids have benefited from the Cards for Kids Act. These stories can then be added to the My Library Is.. website and shared with member libraries, especially school libraries. The committee agreed to continue the conversation on how RAILS can effectively communicate this topic. Lastly, Harris briefly discussed the RAILS School Library Data Project.

9. Meeting recap and agenda building for the next RAILS Board Universal Service Committee Meeting

The agenda for the next committee meeting will include an update on the Multiple Listing Service project, an update on ISLAC and the Nonresident Services Subcommittee, an update on the Statewide Online Educational Resource Program, and communication ideas on ways to share the Cards for Kids Act and the extension to all libraries. The agenda will also include the continued discussion on alternative funding for the Cards for Kids Act. There is a conflict with the scheduled March 9, 2023 Universal Services Committee meeting. Palmisano will poll the committee members for a March 2023 meeting date.

10. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 2:18 pm