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February 21, 2025

TO: RAILS Board of Directors

FROM: Monica Harris, Executive Director

SUBJECT: 9.1 Exploring Options for Future RAILS Board Development

As we look toward planning for FY26's slate of Board Development topics, we wanted to take the opportunity to talk with you about the subjects we focus on in our monthly meetings, and ask if there are topics you would like to prioritize for your learning in your roles as the RAILS Board of Directors.

Each month we offer both a 'Service of the Month', which focuses more on a deeper dive into RAILS departments and their work, and then a 'Board Development' topic which can range from a specific new RAILS service to a more general focus intended to support the Board's learning.

We'd love to hear from you about what you'd like to hear more about, or what topics would support your learning as a Board member. Below, I'll offer some ideas to get you started in your thinking, but we'd also love to hear more generally what you'd like to see.

Potential topics could include:

- Universal service in Illinois
- Technology training
- Proactive planning
- Advocacy and communication
- Intellectual freedom and combatting censorship
- Parliamentary procedure
- Recruitment and retention of trustees
- Board evaluation

I look forward to your thoughts and perspective.