

Tuesdays with Tammy Nevada Libraries Forum
from
Nevada State Library, Archives and Public Records
10 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.
Tuesday
May 19th, 2020

Notes

Attending: Tammy Westergard, Sulin Jones, Norma Fowler, Bruce Douglass, Joy Holt, Betts Markle, Kelly Robertson, NSLAPR; Kathleen Kuo, Nevada Humanities; Kim Diehm, Boulder City; Amy Lauder, Diane Baker, Tod Colegrove, Carson City; Carol Lloyd, Churchill County; Kassie Antonucci, Elko-Lander-Eureka; Marcie Smedley, Joy Gunn, Henderson; Elizabeth Robinson, Humboldt County; Shana Harrington, LVCCLD; Amy Geddes, Lyon County; Courtney Oberhansli, Mineral County; Forrest Lewis, Shelly Alexander, North Las Vegas; Alysha Wogee, Shanna Gibbons, Susan Wonderly, Pahrump; Kathy Brinkerhoff, Pershing County; Jeff Scott, Joan Dalusung, Washoe County; Cyndi O, NV Library CoOp; Anna Brueher, Lyon Co. School District; Holly Esposito, Washoe Co. School District; Caprice Roberson, CSN; Eric Walsh, Great Basin College; Jeanne Price, UNLV Law Library/SCLL; Maggie Farrell, UNLV; Ron Belbin, WNC; Sarah Bates, Washoe County Law Library; Nancy Schmidt, SCLL; John Pawlak, Sena Loyd, members of the public.



WHAT PEOPLE ARE THINKING RIGHT NOW



Strengths:

- Libraries continue building resilience and sharing ideas through these challenging times
- The library think tank is working, based on surveys submitted by libraries, on draft phased-in reopening guidelines for Nevada Libraries
- Library think tank draft is in line with Nevada Health Response and Governor Sisolak's Nevada United: Road to Recovery documents
- Most libraries are in alignment on phased-in reopening
- The Nevada State Library and Nevada Library Association are partnering on phased in reopening of libraries
- Nevada Libraries are partnering with Nevada Humanities Council to help promote "Nevada Reads" which will be a great addition to the Summer Learning Program



Struggles:

- Libraries have some areas of variance when it comes to the phased in reopening of libraries
- Some libraries are feeling pressure to reopen from local governments
- Primary concern is keeping staff and public safe

- While planning for reopening, libraries are trying to anticipate future problems and how to respond to them



Opportunities

- Demonstrating value of libraries by redeploying staff to help with needs in other government departments
- Providing virtual and digital service to the public
- Libraries can assist in the recovery and return to normalcy within their communities
- Summer Reading Programming partnerships with organizations outside of the libraries
- Participating in Nevada Reads with Nevada Humanities



Trends

- Schools, communities, and libraries continue working together
- Emergency Operations Centers are beginning to close
- Libraries continue to embrace and provide digital and virtual programming
- Usage of library digital resources continues to increase
- Phased in re-opening of libraries is beginning

Announcement: Due to best security practices, starting next week the Zoom meeting will be password protected. The password will be sent with link for next week's meeting email.

Jeff Scott, Washoe County Library, commented that the reopening task force had a good meeting the previous day and are getting guidelines together for the use of all libraries in the state.

Cyndi O, Nevada Library CoOperative, announced that the CoOp has been looking into acquiring a new ILS and is currently collecting price quotations with a deadline of May 29. The Board will then consider next steps.

Nevada Humanities: Kathleen Kuo, the new program manager for Nevada Humanities, gave an update on Nevada Reads and the titles selected this year – *Nomadland: Surviving America in the Twenty-First Century* by Jessica Bruder and *Severance* by Ling Ma. To promote NVReads, Nevada Humanities is organizing virtual book clubs and partnering with Black Mountain Institute on a radio show of 14 episodes featuring readings from the audiobooks. Jessica Bruder will be available to visit individual book clubs on selected dates, and interested libraries should contact Stephanie Gibson sgibson@nevadahumanities.org. Physical copies of the books are also available by emailing Stephanie. Center for the Book - This year's national book festival will likely be cancelled, and in lieu of it, a new program "Great Reads from Great Places" is being planned which will feature a book or two from every state and territory across the U.S. If anyone would like to suggest a children's or young adult title that represent Nevada as a place or a Nevada author, contact Kathleen. The Library Congress website will feature an interactive map of the United States showing the book representing each state along with associated programming (i.e. blog posts, themes of the book, author interview, live reading events, a reading guide, a coloring page with the idea being that readers can visit each state to collect a stamp on a virtual passport). Nevada Humanities is asking for the libraries' help in promoting NVReads and the Great Reads program. If you have questions or comments, please email Kathleen at kkuo@nevadahumanities.org. Sulin Jones added that NVReads will be a great tie-in to your summer reading programs.

Library Reopening: Tammy commented on how quickly the weekly meetings moved from libraries closing down to reopening and recapped the timeline for preparing reopening guidelines: the week of April 27th – sent out a checklist for comment; Monday May 11th - sent out a survey which closed May 13th; Thursday through the weekend - synthesized the findings and created guidelines for reopening. The synthesis of the survey findings and a draft of the guidelines will be emailed directly to everyone on the call and will be posted in the toolbox of the Nevada State Library website, the same location where the meeting notes and recordings are posted.

Tammy then recapped the process of creating the draft guidelines. It was a partnership between NLA and the Nevada State Library who created the survey and disseminated it to libraries. 18 libraries completed the survey, and four libraries shared their local reopening plans. The think tank members reviewed all that information and identified areas of alignment and of variance. Two libraries, LVCCLD and Pahrump, have submitted their plans to their library boards and received approval. Other libraries are refining their final plans before presenting them to their board.

Joan Dalusung deconstructed the 702 data points gleaned from the completed surveys.

From her notes:

Areas of alignment -

- Most libraries are implementing some kind of curbside pickup now or in the near future.
- Most are having virtual programming for most or all summer.
- Most are limiting computer areas and removing furniture to limit time to ensure social distancing.
- Most are removing furniture to discourage lingering.
- Many libraries will be reducing hours with some libraries offering reserved hours for at risk populations.
- Many are investing in plexiglass shields at service desks

Areas of wider variance -

- Washoe County Libraries are investigating a grab and go service rather than curbside.
- LVCCLD is offering adult food programs, proctoring, and workforce connection in Phase 1 and then phasing in programming early than most other library systems.
- Variations in the number of designated phases. For example, LVCCLD has 3 phases while most other libraries have 4 phases.
- Variation when it comes to length of time for quarantining materials from 2-4 days. The IMLS/OCLC study will provide further guidance but isn't expected until late September.
- Variations in computer access. Some are limiting access by time; others are limiting by how many are using the computers.
- Sources of funding for PPE for staff varies widely. Some are struggling with this through budget cuts as well as limited access to supplies
- Variations in expectations of staff wellness. Some are looking at taking temperatures of staff and others are based upon staff self-reporting.
- Variations on training and implementation of PPE requirements.
- Think Tank Members are Joan Dalusung, Jeff Scott, Diane Baker, Kassie Antonucci, Amy Geddes, Marcie Smedley and Starr Hoffman

Tammy thanked the members of the think tank and asked if they had further input. Jeff Scott commented that we have a good start for the document and thanked Tammy for organizing the effort.

Tammy reiterated that the synthesis of the survey results and the draft document will be emailed and posted on the website. She encouraged everyone to give it a good read and provide edits and feedback.

Suggestions about structure, language, formatting, or anything else, should be sent to Tammy no later than close of business this Thursday with track changes. As Jeff said, it's a good draft but writing goes through many iterations to get something great. The think tank members and Tammy will polish it and then send it to Forrest so the NLA Board can read it and add input.

Tammy added that this is very much written in line with the Nevada Health Response and Governor Sisolak's *Nevada United: Road to Recovery*, the document he published on April 30th, 2020. She noted that all the draft plans are absolutely in line with it. She will add the document to the archive of information as she feels it is important that everyone read the entire 32 page document. Among other things, it is important to read the section at the end that talks about fortifying the Nevada economy for the new normal and about the connections and leadership coming from the state department of education and from DETR on keeping Nevadans learning and adults earning. Tammy stated that libraries are truly the lighthouse in the Internet with our ability to shine a beacon on those priorities to keep students learning and adults earning. It is one fantastic way we can add value to moving forward and what things look like post COVID.

Sulin Jones added that those on the call who are not on the library directors' email list should put their email address in chat if they would like to receive email communications related to the weekly meetings and the reopening documents. Registration for the meeting was not previously required so we did not get email addresses for the attendees.

UPDATES:

Anna Brueher: Lyon County School District's last day of school is June 5th and everyone is involved in the process of setting up graduation. With five attendance areas and very different sizes of schools, graduation will be done differently in each community. Getting information out to students and parents is challenging, but in the end, regardless of how they are done, graduations this year will be different and memorable.

In response to a question about how teachers are doing, Anna said it's an emotional time and hits people at different times. Everyone from pre-K through 12th grade was affected by not being able to do the usual end of the school year rituals, but it will be a celebration (and very emotional) when graduations and promotions are able to happen.

Alysha Wogee: Pahrump Community Library has started working on the social distancing with the tables by having only one chair at each table. They have removed all the toys and have covered up the top kitchen in the children's department as well as working to get new books out so the kids will be excited to see all the new titles. They will be encouraging people to know what they want when they come into the library so that they will not need to be there long.

Courtney Oberhansli: The Mineral County library has a lot of books and gifts that they give to kids each year. This year, once the items are cleaned, they will give a book to every child who comes in once the library reopens as a welcome back.

Kathleen Kuo: Nevada Humanities has a statewide project to share and highlight how people have been responding to COVID-19 in their everyday lives. People are asked to share their stories whether through a poem, short story, artwork, etc. Honorariums will be offered to those who contribute, and submissions

will be put on the website making it a truly statewide project for people to connect with each other. Kathleen will be contacting libraries about contributing pieces or promoting the website once it's up.

Tammy responded that we are one Nevada and have something for everyone. She noted that the Governor's four stages to recovery are all subtitled on the Nevada State Song.

Kathie Brinkerhoff: (via chat) I'm getting pressure from County Commissioners to open. There are only three of us (staff), and two of us have health issues. I'll be glad to see the think tanks recommendations.

Jeff Scott: Jeff asked to address this and commented: You are not the only library getting pressure from the commissioners to open, so we are aware of that. We are trying to find some tools so that when you get that pressure, you can push back a little saying if you have health concerns. As part of the think tank, my concern is about libraries being forced to open when not ready. Everyone is on their own schedule and handles things differently depending on the library they have, but I want to make sure you have tools for that. Businesses are eager to reopen because they aren't making any money, but as a library, if you open when you are not ready, you can cause a spike, then cause your whole community to close back down because of that spike. We need to be careful going forward and focus on the virtual as much as we can. I know some of the libraries can't do virtual and some couldn't even get their own protective equipment. Carson City stepped up for doing 3D printing of PPE for other libraries. If you're having those situations, contact Tammy or the think tank members so it can be incorporated into the guidelines. That is the problem there: you are going to have staff vulnerable and that can have catastrophic results and we are very concerned about that.

Tammy thanked Jeff for his well worded comments and added that we will definitely support each other as a library community. She then asked Tod Colegrove to talk about Carson City's current 3D printing activity.

Tod Colgrove: Expressed thanks to Jeff for the shout out and to the think tank members for giving Carson City the opportunity to be of service to fellow libraries. Carson City, like Pershing County and other areas around the state, has a lot of pressure to get open and back to normal. What we have been doing with 3D printing, the PPE, the swabs, and other stuff, has been in part defensive and in part making sure that our local community has a crystal clear sense that the library has played a critical part. This is the 2nd week Carson City library has been open to the public for curbside service for a couple of hours 3 days a week. There has been no interest in using it so the staff haven't been significantly exposed, but it is given us the opportunity to say that we are open. We printed 500-1,000 faceshields, but the City of Emergency Operations Center is ramping down and closing. As far as they are concerned the emergency is going to be over within the next week or two.

In response to a question from Tammy about the EOC ramping down, Tod replied that when there is a state of emergency in the quad-county area, Carson City, Storey County, Lyon County and Douglas County have a joint emergency operating center where all the calls come and the emergency decisions are made. The city's EOC is going to be wrapping up in the next 2 weeks which means that calls go back to city offices as normal and different counties are going back to situation normal. This is the scenario where we are. I have to underline that the Carson City manager's office has a crystal clear understanding, and I have to believe that all of your city or county offices have a similar sense, that the library is a different beast. They've really encouraged us to be mindful of what we're doing. That said, all of us are first and foremost playing a political game when it comes to protecting our staff and communities and again, thank you Tammy and the think tankers, for pulling together so we can borrow from one another.

Forrest Lewis: North Las Vegas put forward a plan for trying to do curbside service at the beginning of June, but the city manager is not ready for that yet. It might not happen until Phase 3. In the meantime, after intensive training, seven or eight staff will be working with the Southern Nevada Health District to do contact tracing and will probably be there for a couple of months depending upon when we will be opening. The hope is that helping out will speed up the process and, hopefully, get opened up a little sooner.

Tammy Westergard thanked Forrest for sharing and reiterated that deployment of staff to other departments helps everyone. In closing, she urged everyone to go to the Rockefeller website and read Dr. Rajiv Shah's article on contact tracing at a very large scale in the country - <https://www.rockefellerfoundation.org/national-covid-19-testing-action-plan/> Dr. Shah, under the Obama administration, led the effort dealing with the Ebola effort in Africa. She commented that not only was it interesting, but it also gave a lot of hope about how as a country it is possible to get our arms around this and get back to something that feels like normal. The only way we are going to be able to do that is in advance of a vaccine and therapeutic is through testing and tracing.