

MCCF LAC Minutes

October 18, 2017

1. Call to order

- Linda Curvey-Brown, Kathy Lorr, Mier Wolf, Frank Joseph, and Richard Lorr were present
- Minutes from last meeting were approved

2. Reports

- Financial Report: Funds from FOL-MC remain at \$3300.
- MCCF Library Chapter: Deferred discussion of creating an FOL
- Book sales report – NA. Kathy reported on discussion with Ari Brooks office on the question of whether other libraries might host book sales on behalf of MCCF. This would be difficult because we would be competing for the same funding base.
- Membership report – Still seeking new and diverse membership. Mier is reaching out to elected representatives and their constituents to find members in the Clarksburg area
- Library Manager's report

Collection

- Received new guidelines for backlist reorders 000's-400's due by Sept. 30, 2017 – submitted order for Increment 1; next Increment 2 is due Dec 15-31
- Discussion of the law library. Linda has developed a relationship with the Circuit Court for access to LexisNexis, West Law, Bender, and other legal materials. We will have online legal references through the People's Law Library. Inmates with legal questions make a request and get information from the librarian or do research on their own. Discussion on law library staffing to respond to legal questions and corrections facilities or prison options; and whether or not there is a need for a full time employee with legal experience. Suggestion that the LAC could seek relationships with volunteers from law schools, clinics, and firms who could respond to inquiries. Legal interns could handle inquiries by email. Linda still needs an attorney to review the law library's printed materials and FAQ to be sure it's effective and accurate as a way to inform inmates how to do research. She would like an attorney to do an intro to legal research every 2 months to a different group of inmates. The law library is subject to a grievance over access and the sufficiency of its materials.

- **Facility**

- a). Custody and Security is the top priority here.
- b). Discussion of use of the library's space as a gallery for art work done by Life Pieces to Masterpieces, a vibrant arts and education

organization in DC focused on young black males. Need to connect art work displayed in the library to inmate classes and the art they create for library refresh.

Programming

October 20 Poetry Contest was cancelled due to short staff and no staff time to focus on the program. The LAC is very concerned that the lack of adequate staffing at the library effectively prevents the LAC from proposing or implementing reliable, thoughtful, and deeply necessary programs. 1.5 people is not enough and blocks efforts by the LAC to enrich the lives of inmates preparing to move forward, transform their lives, and leave incarceration. Programs to help individuals on a path to self-awareness and personal success require a long term commitment and we have many in mind that we would like to implement. However, the LAC's first priority must be to secure staffing sufficient to ensure the implementation of such programs.

Services

Meeting with MCCF Staff and DOCR Attorney to review 7-Point Plan recommendations to offer adequate Law Library Services to inmates

- Library Board liaison report – still looking to recruit an interested person

3. Unfinished business –

- a. Mier requested a list of all programs at the jail so the library will not overlap. Linda will provide this.
- b. Recruitment of new members is ongoing.
- c. Kathy will draft a letter to MCCF, MCPL, and the Library Board that will recommend add library staff. The letter will explain the operational challenges at MCCF. The LAC agreed to begin a lobbying effort with the county council, county executive, jail administrators, and others to increase library staffing.

4. New Business

New January date for Poetry Program -with Meier Wolf and Ethelbert Miller and Hispanic Poet; writer's program

Next meeting - November 30 – 6 pm dinner meeting or; December 4 between 11:30-12:30 pm or; December 15 between 11-1 pm