

**Mohawk Valley Library System
Outreach Advisory Committee
Monday, July 23, 2018
Minutes**

Attending: Denelle Baker- Schoharie County Community Action Program, Sarah Beekman, Schoharie County WIC, Karen Bradley-Schenectady County Public Library, Barry Finley- patron, Schenectady County Public Library Lois Gordon-MVLS, Marion Grimes-MVLS, Nicole Hemsley – Amsterdam Free Library, Eric Trahan, MVLS

Introductions

New committee member, Denelle Baker, was introduced and spoke about the various programs under the SCCAP, Inc. umbrella. Their focus is on providing services to help people with low income become independent. These include childcare resources, emergency assistance, tax preparation assistance, energy services, family support and parenting, and healthy family initiatives for nutritional and health information

Overview of 2016-2018 Adult Literacy Grant

Focused on improvement of adult literacy and enhancement of workforce or entrepreneurial skills for people 16 years of age or over, who are not in school.

Amsterdam Free Library worked with the Inman Center to develop a specific area in the library for people to apply for jobs and work on their resumes and use a dedicated printer. One-on-one help was given and 6 people got a job after working with the library. Some of the community attends on an inconsistent basis and need to catch up on their computer skills when they return.

Schenectady County Public Library partnered with Washington Irving Adult Education Center to provide ESL classes at the Bornt Branch Library and Literacy Center. Library staff introduced the learners to library resources and services. Seventy percent of 56 people (40 people) worked to reach 81 hours of class which is required for retesting. Fifty percent of 56 people (28 people) showed an improvement in the 6 life-skill categories that are tested for. Difficulties included needing an additional teacher to accommodate the two levels of learners, those educated in their native language and those who are not; and not being able to close the library on-time due to transportation issues or classes not leaving enough time to clean up. Also, there was great demand for these classes and not all people interested could be accommodated.

New Initiatives

2018-2019 Adult Literacy Grant

Will provide group and one-on-one sessions focused on resume writing & evaluation and career Counseling to enable better job candidates. Possible programs include:

- Figuring out a career direction that fits
- Networking to get an interview and begin the conversation
- Resume critiquing
- Career coaching- clarifying your goals
- Invisible Disabilities in the Workplace- targets employers and offers strategies to engage employees w and w/o disabilities to stay productive / discussion of performance issues and reasonable accommodations

Library Moon Walk

Three system grant from National Network of Libraries of Medicine (NNLM) promote consumer health resources from NNLM, especially Medline Plus (MedlinePlus.gov)

Libraries determine if they want to participate. Grant activities include:

- Provide training for member libraries and community organizations on NNLM resources
- Offer community based interactive programming for the public by networking with local community health organizations
- Development of a website which allows people to log in to record their exercise with the purpose of trying to get enough miles to get to the moon.

Respectfully Submitted

Lois Gordon

7/23/18