

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF
THE ILLINOIS DIVERSITY PROGRAM ADVISORY COMMITTEE
ROOM 309 ILLINOIS STATE LIBRARY
SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS
September 28, 2006**

The meeting was called to order at 11:12 a.m.

THOSE PRESENT:

Committee:

Harish Bhatt, Illinois Department of Employment Security
Keshia Garnett, Chicago Public Library, West Englewood Branch
Kathryn Harris, Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library at Springfield
Hector Hernandez, Chicago Public Library
Carol Little, Illinois State Library Advisory Committee Representative
Donna Schaal, Lincoln Trails Libraries System

(Present By Telephone Conference:)

Michael Conlon, Gerber Hart Library, Chicago
Nina Harris, Springfield Urban League
Marcellus Leonard, University of Illinois at Springfield

Staff:

Vandella Brown, Manager, Illinois Diversity Program
Sharon Layne, Program Registrar
Michael McCaslin, Program Coordinator, Chicago (by Telephone Conference)
Mary Jo Zumstein, Program Assistant

THOSE NOT PRESENT:

Committee:

Rosalynn Anderson, Kenwood Academy High School at Chicago (resigned)
Tracie Hall, American Library Association Diversity Office at Chicago
(resigned)
Carolyn Pemberton, LaSalle Bank, Chicago
Dana Wright, University of Illinois at Champaign/Urbana

Staff:

Anne Craig, Director, Illinois State Library
Patricia Norris, Associate Director, Library Development Group

Vandella Brown welcomed everyone present and called for corrections, additions or deletions to the contact information sheets. Corrections were noted, and Vandella asked that Sharon Layne make these changes. Vandella introduced the members and staff and asked that the members speak about the programs in which they are involved at the present time.

ACTION ITEM: Sharon Layne make corrections in contact information.

Carol Little – is serving until 2008 on the Illinois State Library Advisory Committee and is a local Literacy coordinator at the Lincoln Land Community College.

Kathryn Harris – Library Services Director at the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library in Springfield - involved in the Springfield community and with the Illinois Library Association in Diversity/Cultural and Racial issues.

Keshia Garnett – Branch Manager of the Chicago Public Library’s Englewood branch – involved with the American Library Association’s committee on Diversity and an upcoming program celebrating Hispanic Heritage Month with a cooking program.

Harish Bhatt – Illinois Department of Employment Security; is Past-President and a member of the India Association of Greater Springfield; works with the Emergency Response Team of Springfield and other community programs; and is currently involved with a program to help reduce violence in Springfield schools by establishing a Mahatma Gandhi Reading Room at Springfield High School.

Hector Hernandez – Branch Manager for the Rudy Lozano Branch of the Chicago Public Library – active in Hispanic services for his community; a chess tournament for children; a book club discussing Spanish American writers; an English as a Second Language program; and translating bookmarks into Spanish.

Marcellus Leonard – Ombudsman at University of Illinois at Springfield currently involved with Diversity authority issues, a Sculptor on Campus program, and other issues pertaining to minority students on campus.

Nina Harris – President and CEO of Springfield Urban League currently engaging in a number of workforce development, education and youth programming such as a Springfield Freedom School, a summer reading program targeting Hispanic and African American students.

Michael Conlon – Gerber Hart Library in Chicago, an independent Gay and Lesbian library. Currently working with a group of Gay and Lesbian scholars who share ideas, as well as working with the Illinois State Library in developing poster and book displays for their Diversity Month observances.

Donna Schaal – Lincoln Trail Libraries System – Project Director of their Diversity Program and Coordinator of their Diversity Grants. Currently received a grant to do “I Am An American” Programs.

Corrections were made to minutes from the June, 2006 DPAC meeting. A motion was made and seconded to accept these changes.

Meeting dates for 2007 were discussed. It was decided that our next DPAC meeting would be in June 28, 2007 at 11:00 a.m.

Vandella reviewed the basic Ground Rules for IDPAC meetings for the benefit of the new members Harish Bhatt, Michael Conlon, Keshia Garnett, Carol Little, and Donna Schaal.

A Diversity Eye Exam was given to all present in the form of viewing a “Vision Test” video, and the video was discussed. Suggestions of kinds of programming the members

envision the Illinois Diversity Program having were discussed. The following was suggested:

- Suggested the unbiased presentation of all Cultures and religions to get to know the differences and similarities. Harish offered to obtain a poster display on the Hindu religion, a speaker, Indian foods, entertainment, and any ideas we need for programming, and suggested we could make this happen in other libraries around the state.
- Programming in an historical dimension, including the history of the country along with the programming, and books and materials from the library systems to complement the programs.
- Aztecs and Colonial Mexico – an exhibit showing the Aztecs in a more human light, with artifacts, the involvement of the Mexican Consulate, and materials in both Spanish and English. Hector suggested contacting Mary Janzen Quinn at the Newberry Library in Chicago for ideas, and gave her phone number as 312-255-3593. (Newberry has such an exhibit, but it is not a traveling exhibit.)
- Cultural Competency programs to make communities aware of ways to make libraries more friendly and ways to work with small budgets. As Donna Schaal's library system consists of mostly rural libraries, she finds a consistent feeling of reluctance to address Diversity issues. She would like to see cultural competency programming be held each year in the smaller communities because of the need to reach out to cultural groups and make them feel welcome. As part of a recent Secretary of State grant, her system has created a Diversity Website to promote Diversity programming, and she offered to post any of IDPAC and ISL's activities and information on this website, www.librarydiversity.info. As part of this grant, the website also offers downloadable bookmarks and posters in 5 languages. Donna would also like to see IDP instate Poverty as another category to include in programming, and would like to see more state-wide programming on the subject of poverty.

ACTION ITEM: Vandella Brown to have each member of IDPAC placed on list to receive ISL Announce.

ACTION ITEM: Donna Schaal will place IDP on list to receive two 2007 posters of selected holidays.

ACTION ITEM: Vandella Brown will make sure all on IDPAC receive finalized copies of IDP programming for 2007, if they have not already received them.

The IDP Diversity Month programming, exhibits and displays were discussed.

Vandella then called for announcements from members. Donna announced that Lincoln Trails Libraries System is planning to hold a **Diversity** forum which will include the grandson of Mahatma Gandhi last year, and that it is open to all libraries to attend.

ACTION ITEM: Donna Schaal will inform IDPAC members of the date, place and time for the above mentioned Diversity Forum when plans are finalized.

Harish invited members of IDPAC to the Grand Opening of the Mahatma Gandhi Reading Room at Springfield High School on Monday, October 2, 2006, when a scholarship fund will be established for area students who show character and accomplishments befitting a student of Gandhi's teachings.

Hector reminded IDPAC that one of six Americans are now of Hispanic origin, and that this number will grow to 33% of the U.S. population by the year 2020.

Keshia announced that CPL's West Englewood Branch is holding a "Bring Your Parent to the Library" program on October 9, 2006, featuring sessions on Origami and Hispanic Cooking.

Luncheon was served and the meeting was adjourned at 1:00 p.m.