

# Creating More Effective Public Library Systems – Part 1



## History and Background

**Rick Krumwiede, OWLS**

**<http://www.srlaaw.org/2013Process/process.asp>**

**<http://bit.ly/Ushv8Z>**

How did this process start?



# Why did SRLAAW undertake this process?



- Increased service demands without sufficient increases in resources
- Aging of Chapter 43
- Economic environment in Wisconsin and other states
- Desire for library community to make its own future

# How was the process designed?



- **SRLAAW discussion**
- **WiLS proposal**
- **Subcommittee of volunteers**

## Intended outcome from the process



*“Recommendations and action steps to address concerns about and barriers to system reconfigurations, as well as addressing how systems remain effective in meeting the member library needs into the future”*

# Stated Values



- **Transparency**
- **Inclusiveness**
- **Dialogue**

# Steps / Timeline



- Identify specific services and other areas of concern to be addressed through the process
- Survey Wisconsin libraries about the identified areas (January 2013)
- Hold 2-3 webinars with states that have undergone system consolidation (January 2013)
- Hold a SRLAAW retreat (February 2013)
- Prepare a list of recommendations and action steps based on survey and retreat results (March 2013 – May 2013)

## Identify specific services and other areas of concern to be addressed through the process



- Awareness of library system and library services
- Funding
- Library law
- Resource sharing
- Service implications of technology
- Technology infrastructure



## Survey Wisconsin libraries about the identified areas



- 6 surveys – one for each area
- 152 – 197 responses received for each survey
- Report and raw data posted on SRLAAW process webpage

## Hold 2-3 webinars with states that have undergone system consolidation



- **2 webinars held: Massachusetts and Illinois**
- **3 additional states contacted: California, Iowa, Ohio**
- **Report and webinar archives on SRLAAW process webpage**

## Hold a SRLAAW retreat



- **3 representatives per system (system, resource library, other)**
- **Focused around the six content areas**
- **Large/small group discussions**
  - best practices
  - long term and short term future
- **All the information from the retreat is available on the process webpage**

## Prepare a list of recommendations and action steps based on survey and retreat results



- Subcommittee worked from February through April to draft report
- Considered all of the input collected from surveys and retreat
- Focus evolved from best practices to recommendations and standards
- Discussion focused on service to library patrons throughout the state
- Progress Report and Preliminary Recommendations released May 1st

# Now what?



# Feedback mechanisms



- **Focus group sessions**
- **Individual interviews**
- **Online feedback form**
- **Email to committee ([SRLAAWfeedback@wils.org](mailto:SRLAAWfeedback@wils.org))**
- **Contact committee members**

# Steps / Timeline



- **Collect feedback on the recommendations from the library community and others. (May – July 2013)**
- **Revise recommendations and action steps based on feedback received. (July 2013)**
- **Present recommendations to SRLAAW for endorsement. (August 2013)**
- **Ask appropriate parties to work on implementing recommendations. (August 2013)**
- **SRLAAW begins taking recommended action steps. (August 2013)**

# How can you get involved?





# There are many ways to be involved



- Read *Progress Report and Preliminary Recommendations*
- Listen to the webinars on the recommendations and the proposed standards
- Offer your feedback
- Share the report and recommendations with others, and encourage them to provide feedback
- Ask questions or make comments to committee members

# The Committee

- Sue Cantrell, MWFLS
- Jim Gingery, MCFLS
- Rick Krumwiede, OWLS
- Jessica MacPhail, Racine PL
- Rebecca Petersen, MCLS
- Steve Platteter, ALS
- Krista Ross, SWLS
- Marla Sepnafski, WVLS
- John Thompson, IFLS
- David Weinhold, ESLS

Stef Morrill, WiLS –  
Facilitator and Consultant

# Please get involved!



**For more information, or to offer  
feedback, please go to:**

**<http://www.srlaaw.org/2013Process/process.asp>**

**Or**

**<http://bit.ly/Ushv8Z>**