



Mendocino County Library Advisory Board

NOTICE OF MEETING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Mendocino County Library Advisory Board (“LAB”) will hold its regular Board Meeting at:

1:00 pm - Wednesday, March 16, 2022

Via Zoom

Following the Public Health Officer recommendation of September 29, 2021 for public bodies to meet remotely, the next Library Advisory Board (LAB) meeting will be held via Zoom. The public may join the Zoom meeting at (no registration required):

<https://mendocinocounty.zoom.us/j/87084294738>

or participate by sending comments to libtechservices@mendocinocounty.org. All email comment must be received by 8:00 A.M. the morning of the meeting in order to be published online prior to the meeting.

AGENDA

1. Call to Order
2. Introductions and Welcome
3. Approval of the Agenda
4. Approval of the Minutes from the January 19, 2022 meeting
5. Public Expression

Note: The Library Advisory Board welcomes public and government participation at its meeting. Items can be added to the official agenda up to 72 hours in advance of the meeting date and time. For items not on the Agenda, comments within the jurisdiction of the Board shall be limited to three minutes per person so that everyone may be heard. No more than ten minutes will be devoted to any non-agenda subject. No official action on non-agenda items will be taken by the LAB at the meeting where presented. Individuals wishing to address the Board under Public Expression are welcome to do so throughout the meeting at the appropriate points in the approved Agenda.

6. Health Officer’s recommendations for remote meetings and possible action for next month’s meeting (Lynn)
7. Library Director’s Report - news (Deb)
8. Admin Services Manager Report - budget and library positions (Barb)
9. Willits Branch Library Report - update from Branch Librarian (Nicole)

9. Report Out: A-87 Ad Hoc Committee to report on charges to the Library claimed by the County Auditor/Controller in accordance with the LAB By-Laws, Book of Cost Plan Procedures for California Counties and BOS Resolutions (Olga)
10. Report Out: Citizens' Committee for Library Initiative Group to report on progress towards a new measure which would increase the Library sales tax by 1/8 cent in perpetuity and provide for capital improvements (Janice)
11. Unfinished Business
 - A. Clarification on re-districting: Hopland
12. Updates from Working Groups to improve Library branches
 - A. Districts 1 & 2: Ukiah
 - B. District 3: Willits, Laytonville, & Round Valley
 - C. District 4: Fort Bragg
 - D. District 5: Point Arena
 - E. Bookmobile
13. New Business
 - A. Building Forward Infrastructure grants
 - B. District 2 Member vacancy effective May 19, 2022
 - C. Selection of Vice Chair
14. Next Meeting is May 18, 2022 at 1:00 (In Person or Zoom)
15. Announcements and Comments

Attachments:

LAB Minutes for Jan 19, 2022

Director Report

CA State Library staffing level comparison report

Library News

YTD budget report

Next year in progress budget report

Ukiah branch report

Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Compliance

County of Mendocino complies with ADA requirements and, upon request, will attempt to reasonably accommodate individuals with disabilities by making meeting material available in appropriate alternative formats (pursuant to Government Code Section 54953.2). Anyone requiring reasonable accommodation to participate in the meeting should contact (707) 459-2736 at least five days prior to the meeting.

Mendocino County Library Advisory Board
Minutes of January 19, 2022
via Zoom

Meeting called to order: 1:03 by Chair, Lynn Zimmerman

Introductions and Welcome: Chair Zimmerman welcomed the committee

Members Present: Janice Marcell, Mo Mulheren, Olga O'Neill, Larry Riddle, Michael Schaeffer, Carolyn Schneider, Richard Towle, Lynn Zimmermann

Ex-Officio Member: Debra Fader Samson, County Librarian

Members not Present: None – District 3 representative seat currently vacant

Others Present: Nicole Bird, Willits Branch Librarian; Barb Chapman, Admin Services Manager

Approval of the Agenda: *L. Riddle moved and then amended to approve with addition of Officer Selection: C. Schneider 2nd, carried unanimously*

Approval of 9.23.21 Minutes: *J. Marcell moved to approve, C. Schneider 2nd, carried unanimously*

Public Expression: None

Health Officer's recommendations for remote meetings and possible action

O. O'Neill moved that in light of the Health Officer's current recommendation the LAB meet in March via Zoom.

J. Marcell 2nd, motion carried unanimously

Library Director's Report- Debra Fader Samson

- See written report - Further clarification and discussion on some key points
 - Roofing and solar panels for Willits and Fort Bragg – funding appropriations have changed and the library does not have a designated amount, though there is funding to request it of the Board and it would be helpful to move quickly on that request.
 - Discussed the productive and positive meeting with the Auditor's office regarding A-87 charges. Changes in communication and procedures will ensure no double billing.
 - Laytonville Branch – Logistic concerns continue to present challenges, but those are being addressed. At this time, the opening date is uncertain.
 - Discussed the minimum wage increase and the **effect it will have on the personnel budget** in the coming years.

Admin Services Manager's Budget Report and Library Positions- Barb Chapman

- Reviewed budget- Allocations in County maintenance and rents and leases are rapidly being used
- Security in Ukiah – Money budgeted; filling the position with a long-term person has been difficult
- Sonoma County – Contract update
- Discussed the Position Allocation Table and specifically the duties of Outreach/Liaison librarian

Willits Library Branch Report – Nicole Bird

- Appreciation of being fully staffed and staff itself
- A Youth Services Librarian on board is a boon
- When Laytonville opens, Willits Branch will be providing the staffing

- Shared programs/activities/interactive displays centering around: National Hobby month, New Year's Resolutions, Martin Luther Jr., Black History Month, Valentine's Day, Facebook videos, passive programs, Take and Make activities; Theme of Attain Sustainability 2022, composting, garden and Seed Library.
- Building needs – looking forward to the 'refresh' of paint and carpets
- Wiring for CENIC happened
- Community Outreach and collaborative efforts – County Museum, Resource Conservation District, Friends of the Willits Library

Report Out: A-87

- County Librarian's report covered all the salient points; other members of the committee commented on positive nature of meeting and the improved transparency between departments

Report Out: Mendocino County Library Initiative Group - Michael Schaeffer

- Intent for the Citizens' Initiative for the Nov. 22 ballot was filed
- Outlined next steps of the Citizens' committee which includes some LAB members: Petition Committee, Coordinators, L. Zimmermann reaching out to Friends' groups, signature gatherers' training, and Frequently Asked Questions document

R. Towle moved to disband the LAB Ad-hoc Committee to Renew Measure A

J. Marcell 2nd, motion carried unanimously

2022 Calendar:

LAB meeting will continue bimonthly on the third Wednesday of the month at 1:00. Each meeting will feature a branch of the library: Jan. 19, Willits Branch; March 16, Ukiah Branch; May 18, Round Valley, July 20, Fort Bragg Branch; September 21, Point Arena; November 16, (tentatively) Book Mobile, Laytonville Branch and Out Reach Program

Unfinished Business:

Membership: District 3 vacancy was discussed, possibilities brainstormed. All other seats filled for this year.

Updates from Working Groups to improve the library

- Districts 1 & 2 – Ukiah – Next steps being taken are building analysis for the possibility of a second story.
District 3 - Willits, Laytonville and Round Valley – Previously discussed in meeting
- District 4 - Fort Bragg – Next steps: Merging lot into existing site and rezoning
- District 5 – Port Arena– Working with city to address water flooding issue
- Bookmobile – No report; will be important to start planning for vehicle replacement

New Business:

Brown Act and Ethics Trainings on January 28th

Reminder that all LAB members must attend every 2 years – Link for registration to complete via Zoom was provided

Selection of Officers:

L. Riddle moved to select Lynn Zimmerman and Carolyn Schneider as co-chairs to be reassessed in July and Olga O'Neill as Recording Secretary

M. Schaeffer 2nd, motion carried unanimously

Next Meeting LAB Scheduled for March 16, 2022 via Zoom featuring Ukiah Branch Library.

Meeting adjourned at 2:52 P.M.

LIBRARY DIRECTOR'S REPORT FOR ADVISORY BOARD

2022.03.16

- Deb attended a Future Thought webinar regarding the future of Libraries that was held virtually with most panelists participating from Sacramento in January. The future of libraries isn't big beautiful buildings, but sharing space, hiring incredible staff, and doing community-related programming and outreach.
- Barb has worked hard on the USDA Grant for Laytonville and turned in all documentation requested. It was decided that they will consider funding the opening day collection. We're waiting to hear from the grant liaison to find out when he submits it on our behalf and when we may know about the award.
- The Library was awarded a Book-to-Action grant of \$6000, which will provide for materials and programs at all branches featuring *Braiding Sweetgrass* by Robin Wall Kimmerer.
- CSA partnered with Public Health to make COVID test kits available at the branches in February. Willits, Round Valley, and Coast Community had no problems with patrons exhibiting inappropriate behavior. Ukiah branch staff and Fort Bragg branch staff requested that staff of Public Health oversee the distribution. The process worked smoothly and was quite helpful to local communities, with Round Valley requesting an extra carton of kits to distribute.
- Darcie Antle, Acting CEO, read from the Library's portion of the CEO Report in early February at a BOS meeting and said she plans to choose sections randomly going forward in order to highlight what the departments are doing.
- The final report of the study paid for by NorthNet to determine what factors can and should be used to determine every County Library's portion of CLSA funds is currently being written and will be voted on at the next meeting. Judging from the discussion so far, it looks about a 50/50 chance that the formula will be altered, but I don't expect a big reduction in the amount we will have to pay for delivery charges. This past year the cost was \$67,000.
- Every branch has ordered at least one conservative leaning NEW book for their shelves in preparation to answer objections to the new tax initiatives that the library is "too liberal to support."
- Building Inspector Davey Bowles, with the City of Willits, met me at that branch to provide an assessment of their level of ADA compliance. He said we could just adjust the tension on the public restroom door closers, so we wrote a facilities order request for that and they completed it the next week.
- We're taking a close look at the County's plans for Ukiah, Willits, and Fort Bragg branch ADA compliance with the branch managers in the coming month to determine priorities

based on patron and staff input and we're doubling down on efforts to bring branches up to compliance, especially with fixes that don't cost a lot.

- The General Services Agency has contracted with an architectural firm to conduct the space needs assessment in order to determine if all County staff have the space they are supposed to be allotted to work according to their job titles. Branch Managers attended a webinar and filled out an online questionnaire regarding the number of employees at their sites. LibAdmin. is filling out other portions of the survey that is due at the end of the month. I will keep you apprised as I learn more, but suspect the result will be that the County needs a lot more buildings/ space to house its workers adequately.
- Fort Bragg, Ukiah, and Willits were successful in whittling down their collections by 5% over the past year. Round Valley made some progress and Coast Community made hardly any, but Mellisa Hannum is a strong proponent of weeding, so I have no fear that soon that branch will have shelf space with nice looking books soon.
- Some budget cuts are forthcoming this year since we are paying so much more to our Library Assistants and the County is charging us more for the employees of other departments who do work for us. Barb and I will likely be contacting those of you who are interested in advising us what you think the public would be most comfortable doing without. We have not renewed subscriptions to some online newspapers because branch managers told us that they aren't heavily used. Most likely we will have to let go of either Kanopy or Hoopla, etc. We are interested to know what you think the community would prefer: reducing staff or collections.
- Staff and Friends plan to work together on Friday the 18th to remove excess books from the basement of the Ukiah branch in an ongoing effort to follow the Safety Officer's directions and decrease the chance of fire. We'll be taking several vehicles full of discarded and unwanted materials to the dump. If anyone has any leads on storage units or other locations fairly close to the Ukiah branch where the FOL can store books for sale, please let me, Melissa Carr, or Michele Savoy know.
- The BOS passed a resolution allowing the CSA Director and designees to accept donations for the benefit of the library so we're adding County donation boxes to all the branches except Willits, who wants to continue to use their old one. The donations can only be used for the Library and will not go into the general fund.
- Willits branch manager Nicole Bird has accepted a position with Sonoma County and her last day with the County will be March 19th. We are recruiting for a replacement.
- Barb looked up some statistics that show where Mendocino County stands in relation to the other public libraries in California as regards staffing per population served. We are close to the middle, showing that we are average and not overstaffed at our branches.

Meet the new Coast Community librarian Mellisa Hannum

By Bryan Cebulski
news@mendonoma.com

Mellisa Hannum joined Coast Community Library in Point Arena as its new librarian in December. The ICO spoke with her last week about her background and future plans for the local branch.

While continuing to adhere to pandemic restrictions and allowing for a grace period to get a handle on the new job, Hannum said this year is all about "building the scaffolding" for future programming. She hopes to improve and expand services at the library to meet community needs.

"I really do want to know how the library can best serve the community," Hannum said. "As a public library, that's what we're here for."

To start this process, Hannum sent out a survey to patrons to ask what they expect from the library and said she has been keeping track of her interactions with patrons.

Point Arena's new librarian grew up in Yuba City, the seat of Sutter County in the Sacramento Valley. She has volunteered in libraries since the seventh grade, she said.

Hannum got her first bachelors degree in elementary education from Humboldt State University in Arcata in 1999, then got a second degree in journalism in 2005. She worked as a freelance journalist for about 10 years.

When working a job in marketing for a food co-op, Hannum felt that she had done all she could in that position and decided to turn her library volunteerism into a career, at which point she found employment at the Nevada County Community Library.

"I started as a 'Library Assistant 1,' which is the basic circulation desk position, then worked my way up from there," Hannum said. She had also served on the board of the Friends of the Ne-

20/20 Hindsight

Following general newspaper practice, the Independent Coast Observer in this space corrects factual errors that appear in its news columns. Errors may be reported to the ICO Editor at 707-884-3501 ext. 16, or editor@mendonoma.com.



The Coast Community Library's new librarian Mellisa Hannum. Bryan Cebulski photo.

vada County Libraries.

Hannum worked in the Nevada County library system for five years before being hired by Mendocino County. She started at Coast Community on Dec. 26, 2021, and in the ensuing two months has found the local community welcoming and supportive. She spent two weeks overlapping with outgoing librarian Julia Larke to learn the ropes. She is also finishing up her masters degree in library and information science at San José State University.

Two key difficulties in finding workers for small communities on the coast are whether they can adjust to the rural environment and the limited resources available here. By all appearances, these are no obstacles for Hannum. For one, the Coast Community Library is not even the smallest library she's worked in. She worked at an even smaller library: Bear River Library in Grass Valley, a joint use library shared between the Nevada County library system and Bear River High School.

As for the environment, Hannum said she hopes to stay in Point Arena long term, explaining how hard it was to move inland after so many years in Arcata and how nice it is to be back by the ocean.

Another key difficulty in recruiting workers in the area is finding a place to live. Hannum said she has found temporary housing but is still seeking a permanent residence.

With regards to programming, Hannum introduced "Tech Help Tuesdays" for patrons to come in to troubleshoot

devices, emails, internet and ask other questions about digital technology, as well as for staff to educate patrons about the digital services that the library has to offer.

She re-introduced a virtual story time for children, which shifted to an in-person event

See *The Librarian...*
Continued on Page 20

Mendonoma Health Alliance offers free COVID testing weekdays

By J. Stephen McLaughlin
news@mendonoma.com

Free COVID-19 testing is now offered Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. by the Mendonoma Health Alliance at its current location, next to the North Gualala Water Company, 38938 Cypress Way, Gualala.

Later this month, the MHA will move into new quarters downtown in Sundstrom Center, in the space previously occupied by the former Gualala Community Pharmacy, and will continue the testing services there.

In addition to in-office rapid testing, at-home tests are provided to people who test positive, individuals who have been exposed or in close contact, and people who have symptoms, Executive Director Micheline White said.

Mendonoma Health Alliance was established in 2016 by Redwood Coast Medical Services,

Commercial crab violations on the rise this season

Wildlife officers from the California Department of Fish and Wildlife Marine Enforcement Division have noticed an uptick in the number of commercial Dungeness crab cases in North Coast waters since Dec. 2021, according to Capt. Patrick Foy of CDFW Law Enforcement.

Since December 9, 2021, there have been five cases out of Crescent City and two out of Eureka of undersize crabs by commercial crab fishermen. "The most common violation during this period has been commercial harvest of undersized crabs," Foy said.

Commercial Dungeness crab fishermen are expected to measure their entire catch and keep only crabs that are equal to or greater than 6 ¼ inches, slightly more than the required 5 ¾ inch width required of recreational crabbers. No more than 1% of the catch can be undersized.

In all seven cases, ci-

tations were written, the loads were seized and the proceeds from the sales of the crab were directed to the Wildlife Preservation Fund until the cases can be adjudicated in court. "Collectively in the seven cases, there were 575 undersized crab discovered during inspections in the past few months," Foy explained.

"The illegal loads seized have ranged from 8% to 24% undersized, making them gross violations of the 1% undersized Dungeness crab allowance," he added. "During the investigations, wildlife officers discovered evidence that some boat crews had attempted to avoid wildlife officers at the dock and had possibly dumped a load of short crabs. One of the cited violators had been recently warned by wildlife officers for possession of short crabs."

A slightly different type of Dungeness crab violation also occurred in December 2021 involving

an anonymous tip that a commercial passenger fishing vessel would be using 120 recreational traps in addition to their commercial traps to fish for commercial Dungeness crab outside of San Francisco Bay. In total, 8,322 pounds of crab were seized from that vessel.

"Wildlife officers hope word will spread through the commercial crab fishing industry that Dungeness crab violations will result in citations and possible permit suspensions or revocations," said David Bess, CDFW Deputy Director and Chief of the Law Enforcement Division. "California's commercial crab fishing industry has historically been a viable commercial fishery that contributes much to California dinner tables and the economy. The majority of commercial crab fishermen remain compliant. Our end goal is to simply reduce the violations of a few to zero."

Civic Meetings...

A public service feature of the Independent Coast Observer

Note regarding COVID-19 shutdowns

Many of these scheduled events and meetings may be canceled, modified or rescheduled due to the ongoing COVID-19 emergency. Please check with the individual agency in advance to confirm, if planning to attend.

Thursday, March 3

Coastal Seniors van to Santa Rosa. Call 707-412-0201. Mendocino County Planning Comm., Ukiah. 9 a.m. www.mendocinocounty.org/government/planning-building-services/meeting-agendas/planning-commission Gualala Municipal Advisory Council, 6 p.m. gualalamac.org.

Friday, March 4

Food distribution. Starcross Food Pantry drive-through pickup, 34500 Annapolis Rd., Annapolis. 2 to 4 p.m. Phone 707-886-1919.

Saturday, March 5

Sunday, March 6

Monday, March 7

Coastal Seniors Lunch pick-up and delivery, Veterans Memorial Building, Point Arena, 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Call ahead of time: 707 882-2137.

Tuesday, March 8

Sonoma County Supervisors, 8:30 a.m., <https://sonoma-county.legistar.com/Calendar.aspx>

Coastal Seniors Lunch pick-up and delivery, Veterans Memorial Building, Point Arena, 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Call ahead of time: 707 882-2137.

Wednesday, March 9

Coastal Seniors Lunch pick-up and delivery, Veterans Memorial Building, Point Arena, 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Call ahead of time: 707 882-2137.

Thursday, March 10


Coastal Seniors van to Santa Rosa. Call 707-412-0201. Mendocino County Planning Comm., Ukiah. 9 a.m. www.mendocinocounty.org/government/planning-building-services/meeting-agendas/planning-commission Gualala Municipal Advisory Council, 6 p.m. gualalamac.org.

Friday, March 11

Food distribution. Starcross Food Pantry drive-through pickup, 34500 Annapolis Rd., Annapolis. 2 to 4 p.m. Phone 707-886-1919.

Saturday, March 12

Sunday, March 13

 On-coming traffic?
Check your brights!

**The Librarian...
from Page 4**

at Point Arena Park Wednesday. These events are planned to be held every Wednesday at 10:30 a.m. in the park, or online if the weather does not permit.

Hannum hopes to partner with the city, the school district and other local organizations like Action Network to put together future programs.

One idea she is pursuing is a "lunches at the library" program in to provide anyone under age 18 with free lunches during the summer. She worked on such a program in Nevada County, she said.

Hannum also activated the Coast Community Library's Instagram account, which can be found at @coast_community_library, to complement the library's Facebook account.

The library also intends to open up an "on call" position soon to support the library's two employees on an as-needed basis.

**Arrest...
from Page 1**

nity as well and ask for your forgiveness."

The court gave Mase a year's probation — ending July 23, 2022 — fined her \$530, and ordered her to complete a six-month DUI course, on top of other requirements to keep her driver's license.

Mase reported the arrest to her direct supervisor, then-Health Services Director Barbie Robinson as well as the county's then-county counsel Bruce Goldstein. None of the supervisors said they knew of the incident until the Press Democrat article was published.

Chair Supervisor James Gore recommended that the board "review this issue of who knew what when" in closed session.

County Counsel Robert Pittman said Mase was not obligated to report her arrest and misdemeanor conviction to county officials since it "did not occur during work hours, did not occur on County property, and did not involve a

County vehicle," per an email to the Press Democrat.

The issue was made worse when it was revealed Mase had not disclosed a prior offense in 2014. She had been arrested in San Diego on suspicion of driving under the influence on May 20, 2014, a misdemeanor offense that had been dismissed and expunged in 2016: Not only that, but Mase told Supervisor Lynda Hopkins that the 2014 arrest was not alcohol related but "distracted driving."

The Press Democrat reported that Mase was arrested at 3:12 a.m. on suspicion of driving under the influence of alcohol and driving under the influence of alcohol with a blood alcohol level above 0.08%.

Mase joined an interview Hopkins held with the Press Democrat to address this revelation.

"Been a journalist for nearly 40 years," Press Democrat journalist John D'Anna said. "Never once had an embattled public official ask to join an interview with another official to apologize for misleading

that official."

The Tuesday meeting began with an apology from Mase.

"I regret that I was not more forthcoming ... These things never completely go away and in hindsight, it would have been better if I had been honest," Mase said of not disclosing the 2014 arrest. "But I want to assure you that I have done all that is required and more to address these situations and it will not happen again."

"Rebuilding trust" was the key takeaway for both Mase and the supervisors.

The supervisors agreed that the incidents did not affect Mase's work as the county's public health officer and supported her continuing to hold the post, though all criticized her behavior.

"My faith in you continues to this day," Supervisor Susan Gorin said. "... This experience will inform us all, but does not interfere with the job you have been performing with us, for us, in protecting our public health."

Supervisor Chris

Coursey meanwhile took Mase to task for calling her driving under the influence "a mistake" rather than "a choice."

"[Drunk driving] is a choice, and it's always the wrong choice," Coursey said. "Dr. Mase made the wrong choice. She's lucky she was stopped by police before something worse happened."

That said, even this criticism from the board was tempered with a sense that there are more pressing issues at hand.

"This is not a small matter, but it's far from the biggest or most urgent matter all of us have in front of us," Coursey concluded. "We all have more important work to do and I'm ready to move on to that work."

The public, meanwhile, was divided: About two-thirds of those who spoke supported Mase in her role as public health officer — while still condemning her actions — and another third seriously questioned both her public and private judgment, many calling for her resignation.

"You are going to hear from people who love you and people who want to villainize you," Gore said ahead of the public comment period.

The board held a 30 minute public comment period with speakers allowed one minute each. Many members of the public spoke beyond their allotted time, so only 22 people spoke altogether: Five in person and 17 online.

"You have a problem, please get help," one person said.

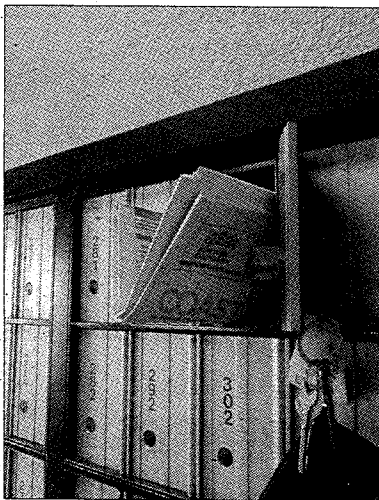
Among the speakers were county leaders Stephen Herrington, the county schools superintendent, and Alegria de la Cruz, the county's office of equity director, who both voiced support for Mase's public health work.

Immediately after this session, Mase presented this week's COVID-19 update to the supervisors.

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Mendocino County libraries eliminate overdue fees

By Mendo Voice Staff  | January 4, 2022



Ukiah branch of the Mendocino County Public Library/Photo by D Brooksher

MENDOCINO Co., 1/4/22 — Mendocino County libraries will no longer be charging overdue fees, following a national shift in library polices to ensure that all patroons can access library services equitably. The change was approved by the county supervisors in late 2021. The change does not entirely eliminate all costs to patrons, and replacement cost charges will still be incurred for items that are returned damaged or not returned at all.

Here's the announcement from Mendocino County:

The Mendocino County Public Library will no longer charge late fines on books and other circulating materials, eliminating a barrier to access and ensuring that all Mendocino County residents have free, equitable, and open access to knowledge and opportunity.

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(<https://www.comfirstcu.org/loans/credit-cards/>)

The Mendocino County Library joins other large and small public library systems across the country to turn the page on late fines. This change is a part of a national institutional movement, guided by the recommendations of the American Library Association, to increase free public access to library services. Existing fines for overdue items will be forgiven to ensure that everyone can start the New Year fine free! Fees for lost or damaged items will remain on the user's account.

“I'm so happy that we were able to get approval from the Board of Supervisors to change this policy. We expect community usage as well as good will to increase without the stigma of debt hanging over those who need our services the most,” stated Deb Fader Samson,

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(<https://motosportsofukiah.com/>)

Going fine free does not mean that patrons will not have to bring library materials back to the library. Items will still have due dates and materials will still need to be returned. Please remember that library materials can be renewed up to two times, if there are no other people waiting to check out the item. However, if an item is not returned, or is returned damaged, patrons will still be charged replacement costs.

The Mendocino County Library felt it was imperative to create an environment that feels welcoming rather than punitive for all our borrowers. Studies in libraries that have eliminated fines show that there has been no impact on return rates and in fact, the elimination of fines increases the use of library materials.

For more information, please visit www.mendolibrary.org or contact the Mendocino County Cultural Services Agency at 234-2873.

LIBRARY BUDGET FY 2022/2023 - IN PROGRESS

OBJECT	ACCOUNT DESCRIPTION	FY 21/22 Projected	FY 22/23 Estimate	Notes
821500	SALES & USE TAX	-2,311,200	-2,311,200	Measure A funds
824100	INTEREST	-14,395	-15,000	
826370	LIBRARY SERVICES	-10,000	-15,000	Fee revenue and Sonoma Bookmobile stops
827600	OTHER SALES	-3,531	-4,000	Photocopy/earbud fees
827707	DONATION	-1,000	-1,200	Donations
827801	GRANT REVENUE	-4,903	0	FINRA GRANT
827802	OPERATING TRANSFER IN	-1,407,423	-1,407,423	Property Tax from Assembly Bill 3027 in 1992
Total Revenue		-3,752,452	-3,753,823	
861011	REGULAR EMPLOYEES	1,623,859	1,755,052	Will receive salary projection
861012	EXTRA HELP	35,000	20,000	from Auditor's Office
861013	OVERTIME REG EMP	25,000	10,000	
861021	CO CONT TO RETIREMENT	538,879	565,823	
861022	CO CONT TO OASDI	90,408	94,928	
861023	CO CONT TO OASDI-MEDIC	22,391	23,511	
861024	CO CONT TO RET INCREMEN	75,986	79,785	
861030	CO CONT TO EMPLOYEE INS	245,653	257,936	
861031	CO CONT UNEMPLOYMENT	30,495	5,770	
861035	CO CONT WORKERS COMPE	63,767	66,955	
Total Salaries & Benefits		2,751,438	2,879,760	
862060	COMMUNICATIONS	60,000	60,000	Phone and data lines
862062	COUNTY-WIDE MICROWAV	6,769	6,770	Billed by County
862090	HOUSEHOLD EXPENSE	120,000	107,000	County Janitorial & garbage
862101	INSURANCE-GENERAL	41,675	42,000	
862120	MAINTENANCE-EQUIPME	10,000	10,000	Maintenance (Bookmobile & Outreach)
862130	MAINT-STRC IMPR & GRN	60,528	65,000	Building & grounds maintenance
862150	MEMBERSHIPS	8,500	8,500	CLA, ALA, ARSL
862170	OFFICE EXPENSE	35,000	38,000	Office supplies, copier lease, COVID supplies
862185	MEDICAL & DENTAL SVCS	850	1,000	Pre-employment physicals, screenings
862187	EDUCATION & TRAINING	2,300	3,000	Staff education
862189	PROF & SPEC SVCS-OTHR	226,000	295,000	All contracts: Custodial, Sonoma, Delivery, IS support, Security guard, NeoGov
862190	PUBL & LEGAL NOTICES	180	500	Classified ads for job postings
862194	A-87 COSTS	249,399	318,081	Same as FY 2022 before refunds
862210	RNTS & LEASES BLD GRD	41,701	42,953	Round Valley, Laytonville MOU
862230	INFO TECH EQUIP	115,825	87,000	Enterprise billing, new PCs & tech, software
862239	SPEC DEPT EXP	204,500	150,000	Library collection materials and databases
862250	TRNSPRTATION & TRAVEL	11,762	15,000	Bookmobile gas, staff mileage
862253	TRAVEL & TRSP OUT OF CO	0	1,000	Travel expenses conferences/trainings
862260	UTILITIES	75,000	97,500	Water, sewer, electricity, gas (30% increase)
Total Services & Supplies		1,269,990	1,348,304	
864370	EQUIPMENT	47,529	0	
865802	OPERATING TRANSFER OUT	48,013	0	
Revenue Total		-3,752,452	-3,753,823	
Expense Total		4,116,970	4,228,063	
Budgeted Use of Reserves		364,518	474,240	
Reserves	2,132,804	1,768,286	1,403,769	

Highlighted=Waiting for figures from other Depts.



Women's History Month display at Ukiah Branch

Children's Programs:

We paused class visits due to Omicron for about a month, but resumed in late February. Many schools were excited to return, & Sam has been busy hosting 2-3 class visits per week from several local schools. Halia, one of the beloved doggy storytime therapy dogs has been coming in bi-weekly & sitting with littles practicing their reading skills. Outdoor Storytime continues to meet at the gazebo in Todd Grove Park. Sam has also been doing a few outreach events outdoors to assist CSA Admin, & will have an outreach table at the

Día de los Niños event hosted by Al Punto on May 1st.

“Find the Tiger” has been a fun & popular in-branch program for children & families to help bring in the Lunar New Year – everyone who finds the tiger receives a free DIY tiger bookmark template & tiger sticker. Jenny, Library Assistant & Resident Origami Expert has been busy making themed origami take & make kits. Over 200 patrons took home Valentine’s Day origami kits in February, and Mother’s Day Flower Dish origami kits will be available for pick up after April 15th.

Staff Kudos

Library Aware recently contacted Lily Rojo, Library Technician to request permission to use the brochures she created as "examples of great work by libraries to show during consultations, demos, conference presentations, blogs, and webinars." Her designs will also be showcased in the next issue of Library Aware News. Feel free to drop by the branch to pick up a print brochure to stay updated about MCL’s current digital resources.

Seed Library

775 seed library packets were checked out in February.

Take & Make Kits

Yarn Bowl Take & Make kits for kids went out in January, and Yarn Bracelet Kits are now available. Microgreens Take & Make kits were available in February, and Paint Pen Boxes for Teens & Adults are now available to usher in springtime.

Adult Events

First Friday Art Walk resumed on March 4th with live Celtic harp music by Suni Robin, a Friends of the Library book-sale, and Fairy Jar Take & Make to-go kits available on a first come, first served basis. Our current exhibit features visually stunning vistas depicting the natural world around us by Volkhard Sturzbecher, titled “Into the Wild.”

Read any good books lately, & can't wait to talk about them? Amble & Ramble, a Walking Any-Book Book Club meets every 2nd Wednesday of each month during lunchtime (1-2 pm) at the gazebo in Todd Grove Park.

The Social Justice Book Club read *The Vanishing Half* by Brit Bennett in March. We will discuss *Pleasure Activism* by adrienne maree brown in April.

New Teen Librarian!

We are thrilled to welcome Amy Chenaille, our new Tween & Teen Services Librarian to the Ukiah branch! Amy just moved back to CA from Virginia, and is already connecting with teens.



**Public Health Department
of Mendocino County**

Healthy People, Healthy Communities

Andy Coren, MD,
County Health Officer



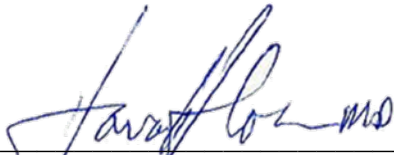
**Recommendations for Safely Holding Public Meetings
from the Mendocino County Public Health Officer**

March 9, 2022

Each local governmental body is authorized to determine whether to hold public meetings in person, online (teleconferencing by electronic means, through either audio or video, or both), or via a combination of methods. The following are my recommendations as the County Health Officer, to minimize the risk of COVID-19 transmission during a public meeting.

1. I continue to strongly recommend online public meetings (i.e., teleconferencing meetings) to the extent possible, as these meetings present the lowest risk of transmission of SARS CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19. This recommendation is made due to the current community prevalence rates. While the winter surge has declined and the availability of hospital beds has improved, the County continues to be an area, defined by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), with "High Community Transmission" risk. In addition, rates remain high with the Omicron variant of COVID-19 being the predominant variant, the impact of which on the spread of COVID-19 has shown to dramatically increase the transmission of COVID-19. Additionally, I make this recommendation based on the unique characteristics of public governmental meetings (such as the increased mixing associated with bringing people together from across the community, the need to enable those who are immunocompromised or unvaccinated to be able to safely continue to fully participate in such governmental meetings, and the challenges with fully ascertaining and ensuring compliance with vaccination and other safety recommendations at such meetings), and the continued increased safety protection that physical/social distancing provides as one means by which to reduce the risk of COVID-19 transmission.
2. If a local agency determines to hold in-person meetings, offering the opportunity to attend via a call-in option or an internet-based service option is recommended, when possible to give those at higher risk of and/or higher concern about COVID-19 an alternative to participating in person.
3. A written safety protocol should be developed and followed. This protocol need not be pre-approved by the Health Officer/County Public Health. It is strongly recommended that any safety protocol require the following:

- a. social distancing, i.e., six feet of separation between attendees and seating arrangements should allow for staff and members of the public to easily maintain at least six-foot distance from one another at all practicable times;
- b. face masks for all attendees;
- c. upgraded ventilation systems and/or opening door(s) and window(s) if available for improved optimum ventilation;
- d. attendees should be screened for COVID-19 symptoms;
- e. voluntary sign-in sheets with names and contact information to assist in contact tracing in the event any cases might be linked to that public meeting; and
- f. it is recommended that local agencies consider limiting in-person attendance to those attendees (1) who have current COVID-19 vaccination status (received all boosters for which they are eligible) or (2) who have proof of negative COVID-19 antigen test within the last 48 hours prior to the meeting or are within 90 days of recent COVID-19 infection.



Dr. Howard A. Coren, M.D.,
Mendocino County Health Officer

Dated: March 9, 2022