

## **Association of Mental Health Librarians (AMHL)**

Annual Business Meeting

October 28th, 2007

Nathan Kline Institute

Orangeburg, NY

### **Executive Summary:**

- Options concerning the 2008 meeting venue were discussed and these included taking a hiatus and holding the meeting in conjunction with the IPS conference in Chicago.
- Discussion of these options for 2008 will continue on the listserv.
- Organizational options such as merging with other organizations were discussed, but no particular action was taken. Further discussion on the listserv is possible.
- The Treasurer's Report showed that AMHL is very healthy financially, with a liquid assets balance of about \$25,000 and with revenues equal to expenses for the 2007 conference just concluded.
- Discussion of the website centered on adding functionality to the website through use of web 2.0 technologies, and responsibility for the website passed from Mark Stover to Scott Hines. Experiments with new technologies and forms of communication will be tried while the website is also maintained in its present form.
- AMHL acknowledged the work of Lyn Dietrich through the years as a very active and valuable member of AMHL and awarded her Lifetime Membership in AMHL.
- No new business was brought to the floor.

### **Action Items:**

- Continue discussion of 2008 venue online.
- Initiate experiments in new communication technologies.

### **2007 Meeting Minutes**

Minutes taken by Scott Hines [shines@pgsp.edu](mailto:shines@pgsp.edu)

Minutes revised August 2008

AMHL President Gary McMillan called the meeting to order.

The minutes of this meeting will be posted on the website.

### **Next year's conference and meeting:**

The membership applauded Stuart Moss for a successful 2007 conference and Gary outlined several options for the venue for the 2008 AMHL Conference and Annual Meeting.

No one has stepped forward to host the meeting in 2008, but we still have several options.

One option is to take a hiatus. This has been done in the past, and would be a perfectly acceptable option.

Another possibility is to hold the AMHL meeting as part of the Institute on Psychiatric Services (IPS), which is the American Psychiatric Association's conference on public and community psychiatry.

The IPS conference for 2008 will be held in Chicago October 2-5 2008. The conference hotel is The Palmer House Hilton Hotel, 17 E Monroe St, Chicago, IL 60603 (at State & Monroe Sts).

Gary is coordinating the IPS conference, so he could arrange for session time slots to be reserved for AMHL programs. For example, 3 slots could be integrated into the IPS program that would be designed for AMHL member interests and might also be of interest to others, as information-related topics, as indicated in the medical literature. Consumer information would be an example of a possible topic. Rooms for AMHL-exclusive meetings could also be made available. He could also arrange for AMHL members to attend the conference at the rate for students, social workers, and other APA affiliates.

One AMHL member commented that holding the AMHL meeting at the IPS conference has many advantages and that the slightly higher cost of attendance would be worth it. The other, non-AMHL programs at IPS would be of great interest to AMHL members, for example.

Mark Stover asked how many would be interested in holding the 2008 meeting in conjunction with the IPS, and most members in attendance indicated that they would be interested.

We will open discussion of these options to the AMHL listserv (join the listserv using the link on the AMHL website on the About AMHL page).

In addition, Gary will do a survey using his online survey tool and report the results.

### **Organizational options:**

Discussion of other organizational options was also heard.

One member commented that the AMHL membership is about 50/50 primarily psychology-oriented librarians and primarily psychiatry-oriented librarians, with a slight majority of psychiatry librarians.

Another comment related that suggestions in the past had included merging AMHL with the MLA (Medical Library Association) Mental Health Special Interest Group, but that option might not fit the interests of some AMHL members and could be more expensive than current AMHL membership expenses.

Another option is for AMHL to become a subgroup of ALA or ACRL, possibly merging with the EBSS (Education and Behavioral Sciences Section), though that section might also fail to fit with many AMHL member interests.

Stuart also had contact with the NY Library Association (NYLA), and they had discussed the possibility of AMHL holding its meeting in conjunction with the NYLA's annual meeting.

Other merger possibilities include becoming a part of SALIS (Substance Abuse Librarians & Information Specialists) or NAHSL (North Atlantic Health Sciences Libraries, Inc., a regional MLA chapter representing Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island and Vermont).

The point was also made that remaining independent has many advantages, and as AMHL is very healthy both financially and in terms of membership, we shouldn't necessarily feel forced to merge with another organization.

### **Treasurer's Report:**

Arlene Krizanic, AMHL Treasurer, gave her report.

Previous balance in all of our accounts in November 2006 was \$26,482.79 and the current balance is \$25,111.77.

The revenues and expenses for the 2007 AMHL Conference look to be approximately equal, with revenues at \$8865 and expenses at approximately \$8550 so far, with some additional expenses to be added.

The balance in our liquid assets accounts has risen in recent years due mainly to lower expenses in recent years as well as generous donations from vendors.

The APA (American Psychiatric Association) covered several expenses for the 2006 conference, as it was held in conjunction with their annual business meeting, and NKI (Nathan Kline Institute) provided space and personnel for the 2007 meeting. APPI (American Psychiatric Publishing, Inc.) has also been very generous in their donations in recent years.

### **Website**

Gary opened a discussion of the AMHL website and other communication technologies.

Options for providing greater additional functionality along Web 2.0 lines were discussed, options that include a Wiki or a blog or tagging facilities like those available on del.icio.us or LibraryThing. Gary McMillan and Matt Kramer have actually created del.icio.us tags for AMHL.

We do have a listserv which is implemented as a Yahoo Group and is maintained by John Clark, with a link on the About AMHL page on the AMHL website.

It has been suggested that we put the membership list on the website behind a password, as vendors have actually paid for this list in the past and might be interested in paying for it again in the future if we do not make it publicly available.

Mark Stover has done an excellent job with the AMHL website in recent years but is ready to turn the job over to someone else at this time, and Scott Hines has volunteered to take over as webmaster.

We will run some experiments to try to add functionality to our website and other communication technologies while also maintaining the current website.

#### **Acknowledging Lyn Dietrich**

Gary acknowledged Lyn Dietrich for her many contributions as a longstanding member of AMHL. Among many other contributions, she was local arrangements chair and communications chair in previous years as well as being a tremendous source of information to AMHL members. Her contributions were applauded and she is now awarded Lifetime Membership in AMHL.

Lyn thanked Gary for the acknowledgement and commented that in her 45 years as a librarian, 25 of which were in mental health librarianship, she has loved being a part of AMHL and will happily continue to be involved in AMHL activities.

#### **New Business and adjournment**

No new business was introduced and Gary adjourned the meeting.