

Memo

To: Jennie Stapp, Stapp Librarian **To:** Montana State Library Commission

From: Tracy Cook, Lead Consulting & Learning Librarian

Date: March 30, 2021

Re: Updates to proposed public library standards

The Public Library Standards Task Force met on March 17, 2021 to discuss public comment received by State Library staff. The Task Force discussed the following items:

- Whether to remove the standard that required the library board and director to require equitable support when the library was compared to other departments. After discussing the concerns of the library community, the task force recommended removing that standard.
- Whether to change the standard about people with disabilities having access to the technology they need to language suggested by the library community. The Task Force liked most of the language proposed by librarians and recommended updating that standard to what you see on the current draft.
- Whether to add a standard about providing access to local and state government information. The task force wanted to focus on the outcomes that people receive when they have access to this information. They directed staff to create a standard that would be people centered and focused on outcomes.
- There were a few other questions posed by librarians that the task force addressed like the use of everyone and a question about the road map. Task force members liked the use of everyone and wanted to leave the road map, as is. The road map will not be appearing in administrative rules, is voluntary, and will probably need updating as libraries work on items within the road map.

The latest draft of the standards with changes shown can be found in your meeting packet. Staff propose using this draft during “Conversations with Commissioners” and future discussions with the library community.