Memo

To: Network Advisory Council

From: Jennie Stapp, Tracy Cook, Cara Orban

Date: March 8, 2022

Re: **Core Services Program Committees**

A subcommittee of the Network Advisory Council met with Montana Library Staff program managers on January 26, 2022, to discuss the roles of various program committees and how they fit into the Montana Library Network core services structure. After some discussion, the subcommittee organized the committees list into three main types of program committees:

- Functional: Montana Shared Catalog Content Management Committee, MontanaLibrary2Go Selection Committee
- Executive: MontanaLibrary2Go and MSC Executive Committees
- Memberships: courier, MontanaLibrary2Go, MSC, and MSC sharing groups, and Big Sky Country Digital Network Executive Committee (however, BSCDN is a multi-state group)

It was agreed that the "functional" committees, which are focused on specific platforms, are essential to their respective programs as they currently exist.

After discussing the tasks assigned to the executive committees, the subcommittee agreed that the MSC and MontanaLibrary2Go executive committees could be dissolved as had been originally planned because they are advisory to the memberships, which serve as the governing boards for their respective programs. Montana State Library staff have the communication tools to work directly with the membership to gather input and to request action on budget and other consortium-level decisions. However, a transition plan should be developed for ensuring that the consortia feel adequately supported and that the roles previously expected of the executive committee could be fulfilled in other ways. For example, the transition plan should include opportunities for library members to gather with one another and with MSL staff to share ideas and expertise with one another and to share questions, concerns, and ideas with staff.

As for the membership groups, the subcommittee agreed that they were not core services committees and are outside the scope of this discussion at this time.

Overall, it is important to continue to communicate the reasons behind these organizational and advisory changes and how they are intended to make the work of volunteer committees more meaningful, efficient, and relevant to the ongoing planning and maintenance of the core services. It is also important to reiterate that the programs themselves are not being changed or dissolved.

Additional work is needed to clarify the relationships between existing and future functional committees and the core services committees.

The subcommittee asks the full Network Advisory Council to accept a recommendation to create transition plans for the executive committees and to dissolve them once the plans have been fulfilled to their respective memberships' satisfaction.