



City of Arts & Innovation

Board of Library Trustees

TO: BOARD OF LIBRARY TRUSTEES

DATE: MARCH 25, 2019

FROM: RIVERSIDE PUBLIC LIBRARY

**SUBJECT: MENTAL HEALTH INITIATIVE OF THE CALIFORNIA STATE LIBRARY -
UPDATE**

ISSUE:

Receive and file an update on the Mental Health Initiative of the California State Library.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Board of Library Trustees receive and file an update on the Mental Health Initiative of the California State Library.

BACKGROUND:

On December 5, 2018, library staff applied for an opportunity to participate in the Mental Health Initiative #1: Training Opportunities for library staff. The purpose of this opportunity is to acquire staff training on how to handle customers experiencing mental health issues at the Library. The Southern California Library Cooperative, the fiscal agent for this project, will pay trainers directly, therefore no funds will pass through the Library. The amount of the funds granted has not been disclosed by the California State Library at this time.

On December 14, 2018, library staff applied for an opportunity to participate in the Mental Health Initiative #2: Library Partnerships and Targeted Programming for Community Members. The purpose of this opportunity is for staff to provide programs to the Riverside community that are related to mental health issues and to identify partners to provide these programs. Program related costs will be paid directly by the Southern California Library Cooperative, therefore no funds will pass through the Library. The amount of the funds granted has not been disclosed by the California State Library at this time.

The California State Library is leading the Mental Health Initiative. Funding for these opportunities is provided through the California State Library, supported in whole or in part by the U.S. Institute of Library Services under the provisions of the Library Services and Technology Act, administered in California by the State Librarian.

According to the most recent Health Interview Survey, approximately nine (9) percent of all adults in California are experiencing mental health issues to the point of it impacting their work and social life. As part of the Mental Health Initiative, the California State Library's goal is to use libraries across the state to develop the creation of safe spaces for mental health knowledge and access to resources. (California State Library Retrieved from <http://www.library.ca.gov/services/to-libraries/mental-health-initiative/> accessed Jan. 13, 2019).

DISCUSSION:

Mental Health Initiative #1 – Library Staff Training Opportunities

On December 10, 2018, the Riverside Public Library's request to participate in the Mental Health Initiative: Training Opportunities was approved by the California State Library. Riverside Public Library staff will have an opportunity to receive training on mental health topics. It has yet to be determined by the California State Library if the trainings will be in person or online. Funds will be provided directly by the Southern California Library Cooperative to those offering the trainings and possibly to attendees for their travel costs. At this time, the amount of funding has not been disclosed by the California State Library.

To participate, the Riverside Public Library will agree to:

1. Utilize this opportunity to train both part-time and full-time staff to better serve populations and patrons suffering from mental illness
2. Ensure a minimum of ten library staff attend at least one training aimed at enhancing knowledge and awareness of basic mental health issues by June 30, 2019
3. Work efficiently with Mental Health Initiative staff to provide information and insight into the needs of library staff
4. Ensure each staff member is given fair and equal opportunity to take part and access this training. Ensure each staff member is granted the time and space to grow and learn more about mental health issues
5. Participating staff members will complete pre- and post- outcome surveys by June 30, 2019

This initiative would provide library staff with an understanding of the fundamental types of mental health issues and illnesses and to confidently approach someone with obvious mental health signs and feel comfortable offering assistance.

Mental Health Initiative #2 – Library Partnerships and Targeted Programming

On December 19, 2018, the Riverside Public Library's request to participate in the Mental Health Initiative: Library Partnerships and Targeted Programming for Community Members was approved by the California State Library. Riverside Public library staff will work with the California State Library to conduct an environmental scan of local agencies that provide mental health services and use a logic model to create a plan of service to meet identified needs. The Library will then partner with an agency and provide programs to the community. Funds will be paid

directly by the Southern California Library Cooperative to agencies that partner with the Riverside Public Library, therefore no funds will pass through the Riverside Public Library. The amount of funds granted has not been disclosed by the California State Library at this time.

To participate, the Riverside Public Library will agree to:

1. Utilize this opportunity to develop partnerships with local resources to better serve populations and patrons suffering from mental illness
2. Provide at least one mental health program for the public aimed at enhancing knowledge and awareness of basic mental health issues by June 30, 2019
3. Work efficiently with Mental Health Initiative staff to provide information and insight into the needs of library staff and community members
4. Ensure participating staff members and willing community members/partners will complete an outcomes survey by June 30, 2019

FISCAL IMPACT:

There is no fiscal impact associated with this grant. The amount of the funds granted has not been disclosed by the California State Library at this time. The value of the two (2) initiatives is dependent on the payment directly to the trainers, travel costs if required, and payment directly to community partner or agency through the Southern California Library Cooperative.

Prepared by: Erin Christmas, Library Director
Certified as to
availability of funds: Edward Enriquez, Chief Financial Officer/City Treasurer
Approved by: Lea Deesing, Assistant City Manager

Attachments:

1. Letter of Acceptance for Staff Training Opportunities
2. Letter of Acceptance for Targeted Programming for Community Members