

NICE Team Meeting Notes

Tuesday, January 16, 2024 | 9:00 am - 11:00 am

ATTENDEES: Tammie Blomberg (Rib Lake), Alexander Johnson (MCPL), Jackee Johnson (NWLS), Sara Kelmann (Eagle River), Laurie Ollhoff (Merrill), Molly Lank-Jones (Hayward), Rachel Metzler (WVLS), Peggy O'Connell (Minocqua), Gina Rae (NWLS), Katelyn Sabelko (MCPL), Kelly Wiisanen (Superior), Katie Zimmermann (WVLS)

ABSENT: Teresa Schmidt (Mercer), Sue Heskin (Superior),

PROJECT MANAGERS: Melody Clark (WiLS) Melissa McLimans (WiLS)

Meeting started at: 9:04 am

Meeting Agenda

1. Formula and Budget Workgroup Update

The full workgroup has met twice, and a subgroup, made up of system ILS staff and directors, met on January 11th. The subgroup has a simplified budget and two funding scenarios to share with the larger workgroup. Project managers have a poll out to schedule a final workgroup meeting in February. Depending on the date of that meeting, there may be an update for the NICE Team at the February meeting.

2. Delivery Workgroup Update

The Delivery Workgroup met on January 8th to review additional information that was gathered. That included information from the current delivery vendor, Waltco, obtaining feedback from systems, additional information on volume changes from SHARE and other recent mergers (Monarch Library System), information on current ILLs between the two systems, as well as a comparison of current holds and holdings within each system. During that meeting the group finalized their recommendations and then filled out the rubric together. The recommendation was sent out to the NICE Team last week for review.

There were no questions regarding the Delivery Workgroup's recommendation and the group was comfortable with the recommendation. The leadership team will share it with membership by the end of the week.

3. Collaborative Decision-making Workgroup Update

This workgroup met on December 20th and reviewed the current decision-making structures of both systems as well as structures that other ILS consortia employ.

The group came to a potential recommendation: Decisions will start with the system, and if they need feedback or decisions made, they go to an advisory group of representatives. The group then would provide feedback to the systems to make a decision or a recommendation to the two consortia to vote upon. Those recommendations would only be if a potential decision would fundamentally change how patrons access materials or how libraries do business. If a decision does not come to a consensus by the two consortia, the topic shall go back to the advisory group to revisit.

The advisory group shall consist of two system staff, two resource library representatives, and three individuals from each system representing small and medium-sized libraries. The group members shall also be regionally represented, ensuring all areas of the systems are represented. Representatives of the group will be required to obtain feedback from the members they represent.

This group is meeting once more to discuss and potentially finalize the recommendation on January 23rd.

4. ILS Recommendation

It was shared that Innovative has provided deeply discounted pricing for a NWLS standalone renewal. This pricing could affect the ILS workgroup decision, specifically since the decision was a close choice.

NWLS shared that they have been continuing an individual ILS exploration process. They asked vendors for new pricing. The RFI pricing from Innovative is offering a significant discount from what they are currently paying. Their current contract ends in 2025. They also offered NWLS the ability to act on this now if they agree to renew in 2025, either on their own or with WVLS.

The price is a little more than half of what they are paying now. They felt this was significant enough to bring to the group.

Members of the team indicated that they would support bringing this update to the ILS workgroup for consideration.

J. Johnson and K. Zimmermann will develop a write-up for the workgroup to give them the information and then schedule a meeting to discuss. Any changes to the recommendation will be brought back to the NICE Team.

5. Standing Item: Communication

It was asked if any communication needs or questions have come up, and what is the status of the replies.

There have been a couple of items regarding the recommendations - one related to delivery, which came in before the recommendation was made. The other was regarding the ILS recommendation, which can be brought back to the reconvened ILS Workgroup.

The NICE Team has not been contacted with questions regarding the process or recommendations.

The next meeting of the NICE Team is February 20, 2024 at 9:00 am.

The meeting ended at 9:35 am.