

BadgerLink Advisory Group -November 2021

Meeting Summary

BadgerLink Advisory Group Members Present:

Duong Duong, Hmong American Peace Academy
Shahara Falk-LeFay, Marathon County Public Library, Athens Branch
Karen L Howell, Clear Lake School District
Kay Koepsel-Benning, Elmbrook Schools
Renee Laird-Adelon, Milwaukee Public Schools
Zander Miller, Kenosha Public Library
Julie Pohlman, University of Wisconsin System Administration
Katie Roberts, Wisconsin Technical College System
Julie Schultz, Menominee Indian Tribe of Wisconsin

Not Present:

Julia Waggoner, Northland College

DPI Staff Present:

Martha Berninger
Jen Champoux
Ben Miller
Elizabeth Neuman

The November 2021 BadgerLink Advisory Group meeting was held virtually, with the majority of members in attendance. The meeting's theme of transitions was woven throughout the reflections and discussions of the group.

DPI & Library Services Team Update

DPI staff presented updates including the status of the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) plan and evaluation process, and a review of BadgerLink funding. DPI staff also shared the Library Services Team's continual work on a team mission statement, as well as team and division staffing updates.

This was the final meeting for half of the advisory group, and outgoing members were thanked and applauded for their participation over the last two years. Plans for upcoming recruitment of five new members were shared.

DPI staff also shared updates since the spring meeting, specifically changes to the BadgerLink website's home and training pages, and the Newspaper Request for Proposal process.

Group Check-in

Members shared their current BadgerLink usage as compared to the start of the pandemic. NoveList and TeachingBooks continue to be heavily used, and with the return of in-person learning and research-based assignments, traditional resources like Britannica, EBSCO, and LearningExpress Library are picking back up. The public libraries are also seeing a return of patrons and use of newspaper resources such as Archive of Wisconsin Newspapers. More than one group members' role in their institution had changed, so their view of BadgerLink usage had understandably changed as well.

BadgerLink Advisory Group Goals Discussion

After a brief break, members were paired for small group discussions on the advisory group's goals. [The Participation Handbook](#) states:

The BadgerLink Advisory Group seeks to improve the ability of all Wisconsin residents to access and effectively use high-quality, licensed resources provided by BadgerLink, expand program visibility, and build stronger relationships between the program and stakeholders. By gathering the diverse opinions and expertise of Wisconsin's learner communities, the BadgerLink team will develop strategies to adapt and grow the program as needs evolve.

The advisory group will provide a platform and space for members to grow professionally in their field, and the opportunity to provide feedback and advice on topics ranging from:

- Better representing the content needs of the Wisconsin community
- Offering better user experience at the BadgerLink website
- Fulfilling effective training needs of BadgerLink users
- Introducing BadgerLink to new and diverse audiences

All members were provided thirty minutes to review and discuss the same prompts about the fulfillment of these goals, after which the full group had a broader discussion of expectations and goal setting for the future.

Finally, members were encouraged to reflect and share any final questions they had about BadgerLink.

Next Steps

DPI staff will review the goals discussion, and make adjustments and improvements as necessary. The recruitment process will begin, with applications accepted until December 10 and new members announced by January 18, 2022. Members were asked to share the recruitment notice widely with their colleagues and community.