

July 20th, 2018

Dear PLSR Steering Committee Members:

On behalf of the Milwaukee County Federated Library System Board of Trustees, I would like to commend you and all those in the state library community that have put so much work into the PLSR project to this point. Your collaborative efforts that have resulted in the model frameworks under consideration are greatly appreciated by the board and member libraries throughout our system.

As a board we have reached out to our member libraries to gain insight into their thoughts regarding the model frameworks. On Wednesday, July 11th member library directors met in a special session to discuss the model frameworks together. Ultimately a motion was made and approved supporting the concept of voluntary collaboration and cooperation among other systems and regions, an idea that is consistent with both frameworks and has been part of the PLSR process from the very beginning. The directors further asked that model development be left open for discussion and asked the PLSR Steering Committee to seek more details and quantitative data to assess the frameworks.

The MCFLS Board stands with our member libraries on this issue and we have serious concerns with both models. We feel strongly that we do not have enough details or data to fully evaluate the model frameworks and their long term impact on libraries in our communities. We also feel more discussion regarding these frameworks needs to take place once the data is made known. So much trust for this process has been built over the past three years and it would be unfortunate if that was compromised in an attempt to reach conclusions that did not consider all the information. We urge the PLSR Steering Committee to extend the deadline for evaluation of these model frameworks to the end of the year to adequately assess them.

Please let us know if you have any questions or require further clarification of any information provided here. Our board thanks you again for your contributions throughout this process and looks forward to working with you to improve services to our libraries and communities.

Sincerely,



Paul Ziehler

President, MCFLS Board of Trustees