

**NEW CASTLE COUNTY
DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY SERVICES
LIBRARY ADVISORY BOARD (LAB)
ANNUAL REPORT CY 2011**

A. Members

The LAB consists of a chairperson and 12 members of which 6 members are representatives from various Friends groups. The Chair serves at the pleasure of the County Executive. The Chair and Members are appointed by the County Executive with the advice and consent of County Council. A list of members is attached.

B. Functions

The LAB shall advise the Department of Community Services by reviewing and making policy recommendations on such matters as local library needs; implementation of an effective library system; new and modified administrative policies; and other strategic planning and operational issues pertinent to the operation of the County's libraries.

C. Accomplishments

The Board met monthly except for July and August. Members actively engaged in their advisory role for 2011.

The Board established subcommittees to work with Department staff on the following initiatives:

- 4/6/11 – Joint LAB/CSB/Friends Meeting “Meet, Network, Communicate”
- 6/29/11 – Fundraising Workshop
- 9/14/11 – Revision of Bylaws approved
- 11/16/11 – Grant Writing Workshop

The Board exercised due diligence in reviewing Library Budget benchmarks based on designation of the library as a Community, Area, or Regional Library.

The Board reviewed plans for county-wide library fundraising initiatives for Annual Love Your Library Campaign.

The Board advocated with Council for equity in library services to all county residents, and participated in a comprehensive county-wide effort to support library services.

The Board participated in meetings for the Capital Projects for Bear Library, Claymont Library and the Southern Library.

The Board discussed programming in the libraries and county-wide programs.

Recommendations to fill existing Board vacancies were forwarded for consideration.

Board members attended the Delaware Library Association Annual Conference and the Delaware Library Legislative day.

D. Challenges

The LAB would like to ensure the County's commitment to libraries given current financial challenges. The LAB would also like to have a full complement of board members.

E. BYLAWS REVIEW

The LAB Board approved the revised bylaws at the September 14, 2011 meeting.