

September 23, 2015

## **Report on relocation of the Dane County Library Service**

The location of DCLS came into question in December 2014, when Human Services informed the County and the Library Board President that they needed to reclaim the space occupied by the Library for new employees who were being hired by DHS through a federal grant. DHS and then-County Administrator Travis Myren made their case for moving DCLS at the January Library Board meeting. The DHS timeline was to have DCLS out of the Job Center by April or July of 2015, which was not feasible. A general search commenced to find space that might work for the Library Service so that DHS could ultimately reclaim the space.

Since that time no feasible space has been identified. Several things have changed since the DHS presentation to the Library Board in January:

1. The DHS Division Head at the Job Center unexpectedly and tragically passed away, leaving DHS to shift their energies and priorities;
2. Travis Myren, County Administrator, left for a new job and Carlos Pabellon became the interim Administrator;
3. Due to the unique role and needs of DCLS, it was determined that the new bookmobile be a diesel engine and not a compressed natural gas engine; and
4. DCLS rent to DHS for our home at the Job Center was increased \$24,000 for 2016 for the express purpose of giving DHS flexibility to rent space for additional staff if necessary.

I have visited several locations that have been proposed as a possible DCLS home. Two of those visits were in September and both begged the question of whether DCLS would rent or purchase space. I met this week with Carlos Pabellon regarding the urgency of relocation, properties for consideration, and determine whether leasing or purchase was preferred. We reviewed the history of what had transpired since January. Carlos assured me of two things: 1) moving the Library Service was in no way urgent, and 2) the Library Service will only move if and when we find a suitable location to house our collection and vehicles. He stated that, while the County would consider leasing a space, our unique requirements may make it necessary to purchase a property and modify it to meet our needs.

I will continue to examine this issue to see if there is a better long-term option for us than the Job Center; however, in the meantime, we will continue to call 1819 Aberg Avenue home.