Good morning everyone. This is April Mazza. I just want to welcome you to the webinar and we'll get started in just a few seconds. Gonna let everyone, um, join in and get adjusted. Okay. That a lot of people joining us today. All right. Good morning. Once again, I'm April Mazza, Consultant at the Massachusetts Library System and I'm here air quotes there. Hi everybody. And we'd like to welcome you to summer planning. Uh, I felt like this needed like a subtitle, like summer planning. What in the world are we doing? Um, but I felt like it was probably better not to write that out. Just a few, a few house. We know what we're doing. We got it. A few housekeeping items before we get started. You are all muted. Um, this is just so that we don't have any interference noise. Uh, but this way you can also have a snap or sneeze or um, chat with your cat or your, your child, yell at your cat or your child.

Um, and we won't, we won't be able to hear you then. So that's a good thing. But we, that doesn't mean we don't want to hear from you. So we do have a question box in the control panel. Um, that's for tech questions. If you have any, if you're having any kind of trouble, let us know. Um, also if you have any questions for us as we go along. So definitely as we're going along, if something comes up you're wondering about or you have a comment, um, you want shared with us and the rest of the group, let us know. And then our coworker Michelle Eberly, she's going to be helping us out with the questions today and the tech help. Um, just a couple things. If you are feeling like you're not hearing things, wow. I know this is kind of, um, might be pointless to say this out loud, but some of the things we've found that help are making sure that your sound is up.

I know it sounds silly, but a lot of times it's just making sure the sound settings are correct, that your headphones are connected and also close any open browser windows. Sometimes that can just slow things down. This webinar is being recorded. In about a day, you will receive an email with a link to the recording and any other followup materials that we'll have, including a certificate of attendance. All right. So I think we should go ahead and get started. Um, before you move on, Christie, I just wanted to tell people Christie's the driver of the slides today, but I just wanted to let people know kind of the expectation for today. I know our description was probably pretty brief and vague on purpose. Um, but that's because really not here to tell you what to do. I mean, we don't usually do that with summer anyway. Um, but also, you know, like you, we don't really know, you know, we just don't know what things will be like, um, in a few weeks and it's definitely gonna make it hard to plan, but we want to give you things to think about so that you can plan as much as possible and so that you're not feeling, you know, really overwhelmed or under-prepared, stressed out, those kinds of things.

So we want to try to help as much

possible. Just a reminder that none of us have been here before. This is all new for everybody. And, um, we are here, we April and myself and the other consultants, um, to help you, uh, edit any step of the way and um, again with no, no requirement or, or saying what you need to do, but hopefully giving you ideas and helping you ask questions and think about all the different possibilities. So absolutely.

Well, well couple more things, um, because we also really do believe that you can do still do something fun and engaging that helps connect your community, you know, with each other but also you with them but also keeping it safe and simple. So that's kind of the theme of the day. Safe and simple. And I also want to remind people that we are going to have a virtual brainstorming, a check-in this Thursday from 11 to 12 using zoom. Um, and if you're aware of some of the issues with zoom, I am going to be setting up a password and sending that info out to everyone who's registered today and on mass yak. So I'm going to talk about more on that later, but I just kind of want to have that reminder now. All right, so let's talk about goals. If you've ever been to one of my summer workshops or with me and Christie, um, you know, I'm really into goals when it comes to summer library programs.

So this year it's going to be really might be really different. You know, it really does depend on your usual goals and your community. Um, but for some of us it might be really, really different from previous years and that's okay. So I really want people to look at these questions and think about these and build your goals around your community needs. So what are you usually trying to do with your summer library program? I know with me and in the community that I worked in for a long time, it really was about fun and relaxation. It was a community that had a lot of resources, a lot of enrichment for families. So I felt like my role was to really just encourage kids to have fun, to um, read and enjoy reading. But it might be really different for your community. So thinking about what you usually do and, and definitely thinking about that achievement gap, right?

So that's sort of where summer library programs were born from, to address the achievement gap that happens in the summer between when school is on break and what our libraries can do to support children and teens. And right now they're going to be on the longest break they've ever had. And that gap, um, it would be really detrimental to be honest. So thinking about that, what you can do, uh, what that's gonna look like in your community and what you can do to be supportive and thinking about what your community needs right now. And it could be different for different ages and stages of life, right? Because we are now doing summer programs for, um, all ages, adults and teens and not just children. So, um, you know, kind of thinking about what people need, um, at different ages that they have now or that they're at now, and then what might your community need in the future.

So we're definitely, um, thinking about things like unemployment, which is, um, you know, kind of a bummer thing to think about but it's happening. Um, it's gonna happen in our libraries. It's going to happen in our communities and um, you know what that might not translate necessarily to your summer program, but your whole library is going to be working towards these things to help the whole community and thinking about how your summer program fits into that. Um, and being, you know, sort of sensitive to what whole family needs. Um, while there they may be going through some tough times. All right, next slide. I do want to mention that we've created a Google drive that has these slides in it and um, a couple of other things that we're going to share. So all the slides will be in there. So if you want to look at those questions again or anything else we're talking about that will be there.

And I do want to just give a few examples in the collaborative summer library program manual, they have a page on goal setting and some sample goals. And I think a lot of them can translate into any kind of program that you might have. Um, so because we were not really sure, um, you know, what things will be like by the time summer rolls around, um, we can still have goals that uh, could sort of fit any type of program. So these are just a few that I picked, but there were many more, uh, just empowering people of all ages to have a positive attitude about books and reading. I feel like that can ask absolutely be done virtually if we have to foster cooperation between community groups. Chrissy is going to talk about partnerships more later, but I think the summer more than ever, this is going to be important to do.

And that could be your main goal and you know, anything and everything else that happens, uh, just sort of happens. But, but maybe you're really wanting to focus on these partnerships, creating positive publicity for your library and promoting library services and resources. Obviously that might mean you know, your digital resources. But both of these, I feel like people are already doing, you know, people have been so responsive with virtual programming, um, reaching out through social media, doing sort of whatever you can to help your communities during this time is huge positive publicity for your library. All right, so there's some other things to consider besides your goals and we keep hearing about the new normal. So if you wouldn't mind, they, Christie, this is such a funny phrase but I hear it a lot. And what it means to me is things like, um, you know, our libraries might not open 100% at first, right?

We might have some slow reopenings. Um, there might be some reduced hours, there may be other businesses that um, you know, in our towns that open slowly as well. Uh, there might be limitations on how many people can be in spaces and um, things that people need to do to protect themselves. Like you might have to wear, um, gloves when handing out some things. So just started thinking about this new normal might be really different and it might affect your program. Um, schools might stay close through the end of the year. Um, your library may be closed through may or, or longer. And like I said, people might not want to gather in large spaces right now or handle public materials. And part of that is to avoid a second wave, which some of you may have heard about. Um, so we might have, you know, these might be things that people Institute themselves for their own selves or it might be things that we hear about from the state that we're going to have to do it.

This is Michelle. Can I just do a sound check in the chat box if they could, if they still have their sound, just cause we had a couple people lose their sound attendees could just write in as they still have sound. Oh, awesome. Okay. Everyone's okay. Sorry to interrupt. Okay. Oh no, that's it's back. Okay. Okay. Yeah, we definitely wanna make sure people can hear and yeah, I feel like since we're all probably at home where maybe internet wifi isn't great, that might happen a lot. Um, Oh yeah, my phone rang. Okay. Uh, so the next one is, um, kind of reopening and recovery. So reopening to me, you know, it's, it's not going to be just like turning on the lights and Hey, we're open. Um, it's going to take some time and planning and you might start off slow. Like I said, you might have limited hours.

Um, there might be a limit to the number of people that can be in, um, group spaces. Uh, so just sort of thinking about what, what that might look like for you and trying to do a summer program at the same time. So kind of going back to safe and simple, right, that, you know, you might not be able to do something like a big kickoff. Um, and, and that's OK. Uh, you can think about your virtual programming. Oh, that's okay. Um, no virtual programming make at home crafts and other activities, offsite programs. Um, and then you can revise some of your things. So the, on the last slide, there was a book bingo. That's an example from New Hampshire. It's in the CSL P online manual, but I love this idea that's stuck in my castle. Bingo as like, I might, I might make a version on Canva, but it's all stuff that you can do.

I'm not at the library. Um, and you know, again, just kind of keeping people engaged and having fun. So thinking about things that you can do like that. And then, okay, now we can have our marathoner cause it's a marathon, not a sprint. Um, you know, we just can't sustain sort of this virtual world every day, all day. Um, it's overwhelming to you and it will be overwhelming to your patrons. So you want to kind of pace things out, um, to make it doable. So take it slow, keep it simple. And I really do mean this. Anything you offer is going to be appreciated by your community. They're just going to be so glad to have you back and doing the best that you can. All right, next slide. Then she goes. Um, okay. Some other things to think about. Can you, you know, and this is just sort of thinking creatively here, but you also want to do what works for your community and your goals.

Um, so, you know, would it be helpful to start earlier in the year and, and maybe just do something like really early summer and then not worry about the rest of the summer or start something later. Maybe take a break in the early, uh, summer because you've already been doing gobs of virtual programming. Maybe start later and go into the fall. Um, you could shorten your program. So I know some people do like six to eight weeks on maybe, you know, read a four weeks is going to be the best that you can do or the safest thing you can do. I'm offering a fall reading program. Now this one I thought, you know, my obviously wouldn't address an achievement gap for students, but it could work for an adult summer reading program. And I know a lot of people do that. So that might help also like kind of space things out and um, work with different staffing models and we want to think about how we can be inclusive and accommodating. So, especially considering that not everyone will have internet access or devices at home or even right now, cause I do think my audio might be going in and out. I have a like a little red red bar on my control panel. Um, you know, wifi might be, um, overloaded. So not everyone's going to be able to do, uh, the virtual things that we want them to be able to do. And I know Chris going to talk more about that later, but again, just to kinda, Oh yeah, go ahead.

Oh, just that, this could be a pause for questions if people had questions other than audio, which we, I'm so sorry. We won't talk about the, uh, internet issues a little bit more. Oh, sorry. There's one comment that they love the bingo idea and please make and share it. Okay. Yes, yes it is in the CLP manual, but, um, I, I was sort of thinking, cause I am a fan of Canva thinking of making it colorful, um, and using some of the same ideas. So I'll definitely make and sure that, um, but yeah, any other questions or comments we would love. And, um, before I hand it over to Christie, I wanted to talk again about, you know, the community needs and recognizing that um, some of you might be new to your community, right? So now is the time that you could take to learn from your coworkers, um, different community organizations in schools, um, looking at demographics from your town to, to do that, to get to know your community.

If you're a library, has a strategic plan and you haven't looked at it lately. Uh, revisiting that and, and thinking about the goals and objectives in that plan. So kind of get, you know, whether it's new for you or it's been a while, getting to know your community is something that um, I think it would be a great remote activity to do right now. And um, you can also allow yourself to not provide exactly the same level of program you normally do. I know summer can be really fun cause we make it big. We go all out. Um, it's a party. We have special programs and um, events, but it just might not be possible this year. And like I said, most communities are going to be happy with what you do. They're not going to expect, uh, the same as you've always done. All right.

Okay. There we go. Okay. So, um, one of the things that I think that we all want to consider too is, um, motivating kids and not, and I have kids here, but, um, anybody to read, um, when we can't get in touch in person. Um, I think in general that we as librarians have done a really good job of this over the years, especially if you've been doing online programs in the past, um, or you have a really strong social media press presence. There are lots of different ways that you can use what you have now in order to motivate your community to continue to read. So online programs and software, I know a number of people are using bean stack or getting going with that or using Google forms, um, or other ways to um, help people track their reading, um, online and virtually, um, there. And you know, incentives are away, you know, gift certificates or um, other, they're virtual incentives like badging programs, um, community goals.

Um, you know, having everybody work together to, I think it might be Sudbury is doing a program where they're working together to raise money for a community organization. Um, and then obviously virtual Brooke book clubs, you know, doing, using zoom or other, uh, software programs to get together, discuss books. These are, I'm not going to spend a ton of time on these because these are things that we've already been talking about there. They're basically virtual extensions of what we've always been doing, um, to motivate and keep our populations reading. The thing I want to point out and talk about though is that things are a little different and you might be here. So on a scale of one to 10, how focused are you banana? This is basically where I am with reading right now. And, um, and I, I'm sure that there are probably a couple of you who also feel the same way that it is.

It's really hard to focus on reading. It's hard to focus on work, um, for kids who are doing online schooling. It may be difficult to do that. I have a family of readers. Um, picture on the previous screen was my six year old. Um, and my 10 year old also loves to read. Um, both of them. It's been very difficult for them to sit down and, and read, sustain. So, um, this slide here and this can, the joke is mostly to remind you that it's okay for things not to look the same, um, that you might not be actually working really hard on having a reading program over the summer, um, because some of your population just might not be able to sit and read. They might be looking for other things. Um, especially for your community members who might be big extroverts and sitting either, they may be big readers, but because they're at home all day every day, um, they want to do more, um, do different things and not, not, um, sit and read.

So this is an opportunity to branch out, try different things. Um, and you know, I think many people were doing different types of summer learning programs before. Um, if you hadn't ever ventured into that space, the, the learning aspect versus just versus reading, I shouldn't say just reading versus summer reading program. Um, now might be the time to do that. Um, and there are a lot of different activities, um, that are op opportunities here. Um, some of these have come up in our mass yak chats when we've been talking about different ways to engage your community, um, throughout this quarantine period. Um, but there are also really great summer activities, so like scavenger hunts in your neighborhood. Um, my kids and I did a nature scavenger hunt, um, that we printed out and we had to find, you know, a flat rock and we had to find something that was weight.

Um, we had to find a, a number on an address. Um, so there you could do that, that's specific to your community or you could point your patrons in the direction of something that's more general. A story walks. Um, you know, if you haven't done one before, now is a really great time to do that, especially if you have a trail near you. Um, and you would just, with reminders for people to stay socially as distant, if we're still in that realm or if we're not, that's a really great way of easing people back into a library programming, um, craft tutorials, um, online if that's, if we're continuing to be online or even paper ones. Um, put printing out, uh, how to's plus, uh, supplies. I'm gonna talk a lot about that a little bit more later. Um, random acts of kindness. Um, you know, just encouraging or challenging people to go and do nice things for each other.

The, um, we had a community chalk drawing, um, event a couple of weeks ago where everybody went out and wrote messages in sidewalk talk on the ground. That could be something that's directed and, and, um, you know, inspired by the library. Um, or you could have people read, talk, write about their favorite books or make book recommendations on the sidewalk. Uh, and so as people are going for walks, they can read those. Um, so, you know, variety of, of challenges like art or video submissions, uh, recipe exchanges, people, tons of people are cooking more and baking more than usual. Um, especially if, if you notice that there is no flour on the shelves in the store, um, you do a cookie recipe exchange. Um, and then community science products. I um, [inaudible] the website is called citizen science. Um, I actually specifically used community science, um, since um, some the, I I want to make sure that people know that you don't have to be a citizen of the country in order to participate in it.

Um, but the, there pro science projects where people in the community can help gather data. Um, so for example, there's one on fireflies and counting fireflies every night in the evenings during the summer. Um, so it could be a nice sustained community experience to for everybody to work on a particular science project. And, um, we have a link to that in our Google form, um, Google document. And so here also is a reminder that if you have ideas for summer learning activities, um, please feel free to put them into the Google drive, um, document a after this webinar because we do want everybody to be able to share them together. So April did mention this and um, as we were having some challenges with internet, um, it's a good reminder that, um, we need to plan for equity of access. Um, it's not just about the digital divide, although that is a big issue right now, especially when everything has gone online.

But even if ever you have access to the internet, that doesn't necessarily mean it's going to be stable or consistent. Um, so, you know, my family, we are now all four of us online all day, every day, which means that some meetings just don't work or, you know, we can't stream live videos, uh, uh, on, you know, we can't watch Instagram live. It doesn't work. So think about how you can allow for summer participation without internet access. What can you do to allow your community to interact with the library that doesn't require high bandwidth? Um, you know, or that if it's something, if it is something online that it's not a live streaming program because those do take up larger amounts of bandwidth and other, um, programs. And how can you reach families that don't have social media? I do know that, you know, so many people are on social media these days, but there's still plenty of our populations who are not, um, either they don't have access or they don't feel comfortable with it or right now they're taking a break for, uh, for their own personal mental health needs. So what are ways that you can reach out to them without using social media? Um, this is a picture from Amesbury, so if Margie is

Chrissy, sorry, I was, you know what? I was just going to interrupt because um, someone did mention exploring things that you could send in the mail and it looks like you're doing that. Um, I also want to let people know, um, that I've been following on. Also, there's a message board where people started talking about summer and that's a, that is definitely an option. You know, what you could send out in the mail either to promote, um, during, at the end. So, go ahead. Sorry. Yeah, no, no, no, don't be sorry. Um, so yeah, actually

I see if some libraries already are able to send a mass mailings out to cardholders or to community members. Um, some aren't. I know that, um, in our community, uh, we are already slotted to send something out to all the, um, electric bill, um, subscribers, electric community members. I can't even think of the word right now, uh, customers, um, in August, which doesn't really help with a summer learning program, but it is an opportunity to connect with our community. So if you have ways of doing that, that's a really good thing to think about right now. Um, but you can also, you know, think beyond that from not just a promotion aspect but also a programmatic aspect. So this, this picture here is from Amesbury. Um, and it was a postcard exchange that, um, Margie Walker did. Um, that was international, really great time to do something like that.

Um, really fun. And while you don't have people coming into the library to, to see the bulletin board, if you have a window, you could, um, display things on the window. Um, the, uh, library in Texas, Bethany, Texas is using postcards this summer for their registration. They're leaving though, um, postcards that have instructions on them. Um, and, and fill out information, um, at critical service areas like grocery stores and pharmacies. Or you can have them at the post office or any, you know, a doctor's office or somewhere that you think that you're gonna get a lot of patrons showing up. Um, or you can have a, have people mail them in or you can have them just be in a box that they put, um, their cards in and pick up the cards every week. Um, and you know, you can even do just an old school pen pal matching program within your community.

You know, if people want to send letters to each other, um, or kids want to write to each other. There are lots of different ways to utilize some of our old school snail Neal, um, uh, options. So the other thing, um, I love is the idea of doing home challenges. Um, this image here is from San Mateo County, California. It's actually from a couple of years ago. And so some of these challenges that are on the screen are not things we can do right now, but maybe they will be over the summer. Um, but it's similar to kind of the bingo idea, um, or a calendar with ideas for each and every day, but just giving people ideas of things that they can do together, um, out and about. But the other thing that you can do is create kits to leave at critical service points. Um, and that, you know, like put together a packet of craft ideas or a kit on, you know, a, a book to read, um, and give a link to the digital book.

Um, and then activities for our family to do with together or worksheets for middle and high schoolers with different challenges. You can have them do kind of a mini iron chef thing that's completely like low key, low tech. Um, give them a list of ingredients and then tell them to go and try to make something with it. Um, and then reward digital badges or, or, um, even old school ribbons for who did the best program. Um, another idea that came from of from our national youth services group was a learn a skill, teach a skill challenge. So coming up with different, um, things for people to learn how to do, like how to, you know, build, uh, a Pinewood car or something. I'm just pulling that one out. But you know, there, how did you, um, uh, arrange flowers and then teach it to different people or how to, um, build a really great tower with Popsicle sticks and then teach it.

Uh, so it's not just doing that skill but then also, um, pulling other people in their family into it. And we already talked about calendars have been bingo sheets. I think that now is a really great time to do, be able to do things like that. Old school mentioned that a little bit with, with um, the male, but now's a great time to see if you have a local radio station. Um, if we're thinking about ways to connect with our community without always relying on internet, the radio is a perfect way to do that. Um, that this image here is from, um, the Homer, um, public library in Alaska. Um, and this is current. They are moving their story time to the local radio station. Um, and so that anybody can listen to story time even if they don't have consistent and reliable internet access or cell service.

Um, but there are lots of different things that you could do. You could have it be, you know, it's radio is like the original podcast, right? So you could have a radio show for the library or you could do book recommendations. You could, um, talk about, um, what people have. People talk about what they're reading. Um, there are lots of different ways to do this and I bet, um, for anybody who has a local radio station still or a college radio station, um, nearby, they may be interested and open to that. And then down at the bottom, um, this is actually an image from a couple of years ago. I'm from Boston. Um, it's the, uh, one city one story program and if you aren't familiar with it, um, one of the things that I love is that it's a short story that's printed and ready to go. So it's not, I'm telling people to go out and find a particular book, but rather that the story is printed.

And so this is an idea that you could adapt for yourself without it being a big production. Um, you know, you could ask, uh, kids in the community to write a short story, um, and get their permission to print it and then print it on, um, on just, you know, copy paper and have it available in different areas around town. Um, you know, you could have, if you have a trail nearby, you could put copies of it at a Trailhead so that people have that and take it with them, um, or you can even send it in the mail. Um, so it's a way to connect with people at give stories, um, but also to highlight some of the people in your community. Um, just a fun way to be, um, back to the paper world with summer. Okay. Any at that point. And we can go, we'll go back for a second.

Any questions? Yeah. Oh, I, I w I've been looking at the questions too and I just want to mention, um, cause Laura mentioned a local cable station.

Oh yes, yes, absolutely. Also, um, yeah, if you have a local cable station, um, they, they probably would love to partner with you if especially even if you haven't already partnered with them before. Thank you.

Okay. And I see that there is some concern about, um, the virus on like mailed or drop dropped off materials. And so, you know, Christie and I are not the experts in this area. Um, but we do know that the information also sort of changes. So at the beginning of this, I think that was less of a concern and as we learn more about the virus, you know, I think people do want to take precautions. Um, and, and so this is really where it does get difficult because I'm also seeing in the question area, you know, about this real um, and strong concern about lack of internet. Um, and also people, you know, someone else mentioned that some patients are really stuck inside, really can't go outside for a variety of reasons, including, um, you know, there's crime in the neighborhood of or other safety concerns, um, or just even physical ability.

Uh, so we, it really is hard. We're like stuck in a really hard place. Um, as far as the mail goes, I mean, I do think there are resources out there. Uh, there was just, uh, a webinar from the CDC and, um, that information is on our, our big Kovac guide. Um, I think, you know, you can use best practices for your self and then there could be ways that you could share that with your community. Even if it's like on the envelope, might say like, make sure you wash your hands after this. And I know some people are like leaving their mail for a few days before they touch it. So, you know, again, like I said, it's hard because I don't have like those hard and fast rules. I just know what I do in my home. Um, you know, and I can tell people like what they might want to do, but, um, that, that would be a hard one to like, you can't make people not touch things.

I got a mail, a letter, uh, just this week from a friend that, um, the back of it said, uh, no saliva was used in the ceiling of this envelope, which made me laugh so hard, but it also was kind of, uh, uh, like, Oh yeah, you know, we're taking things into consideration when mailing. So you could do something like that too. It's like a note or just like, um, I, I think that that's where when we're thinking about paper products, um, it's also, uh, a comfort level of, of where your patrons are, um, how immunocompromise they may be, how comfortable they are with any materials coming into their house. Um, but I wouldn't say that, uh, the possibility of concern would be a thing, a reason to not do something completely. So, um, you know, just think about your own comfort level and then, um, and then take precautions.

And I'm going to try to find that webinar and put the link in the chat box just so people have it. But someone else asked about their kickoff event, um, is going to be on June 24th and they're hesitating about moving it. I know you can't read the future, but should I move it again? You know, I would have a lot of trouble saying what to do in that case. But what I am seeing is that other things are being canceled or postponed for the summer. So like sadly, Christie and I were supposed to with another coworker supposed to go to a learning event. I'm in Maine and that was in June, right at the beginning of June. And um, we learned that just got canceled. And I think part of it is it's, you know, it may be that our libraries are open and again, like business are open by then, but it just might be that people don't want to be in a large space. Right.

I April and I have talked about this and so some of you listening may also found this to be true, but like even just watching TV shows that were filmed in a year ago, um, I keep having this like momentary, like, Oh my gosh, look at all those people in that space. And so even if everything is open and we've given, you know, the green light to go ahead, you may find that people are not comfortable yet. It's going to take some time. We are all going to be dealing with a level of trauma after this that is going to impact what we do in libraries and what we do as professionals.

Yeah. And it really is making us, I know at least for me, I should say use I statements [inaudible] me, you know, rethink like, um, you know, my past behavior and I think of myself as a pretty hygienic person. But you know, whenever, like my husband, I go for a walk and I touch a pole or something, he's like, what are you doing? Or he'll go to like pick up litter. I'm like, what are you doing? Um, so we're kind of like, you know, I don't want to be the kind of person that never picks up litter again, but maybe what I do is bring gloves with me when I go for a walk. Um, you know, it's just kind of, that's this new normal that I think I keep. I think that to me is what new normal means. Like try to apply that. Um, and, and again, just going back to like, we're going to try to just do the best we can and try to reach as many people as we can in this sort of this weird spot we're stuck in where we can't rely completely on, you know, the virtual resources as, as they are and far reaching that they are.

We can't rely on them at 100%, but we also know that we have to be safe and realistic with what we can deliver a non virtually too. Um, and asked about the manual being available to everyone. Um, the manual is available to all libraries. Uh, I can't give out the password publicly, um, because that has to do with the licensing and things like that. So if you are in need of the password and the instructions to get the CSL P manual, um, please just email me. Even if I get a hundred emails, I don't mind that that's the way that, um, we'll have to do it. You can also email Kristy if you don't want to. And our emails will be at the end that as she's got the password to, um, so our emails will be at the end of the presentation. So on. I also want to just point out that a couple people are at [inaudible]

Um, so thank you you guys, even if you are a [inaudible], someone else asked about the message board. So this is, I'm also the American, sorry, the association for library services to children. Um, I believe you may have to be a member to, to see the message board. So I'll share that information also in our, um, in our Google drive. There's also a couple other resources I'm going to talk about where you might get some good ideas sort of outside of 'em. And I will also say that mass yak, you guys are already amazing at what you do and sharing resources and um, with a little bit less volume than the national level. So, um, if you are at [inaudible], then maybe just stick with mass yak for now because you might not be ready for the influx of information that's coming from the national list serves.

I know I'm not, yeah, what I'll say to that, like right now, a lot of the focus there is on, uh, like a summer reading software. Right? And we've kind of covered it, been there, done this in here. And um, you know, this would be something like individual libraries are exploring purchasing. Um, and I will take the moment just to say now that actually what I'm hearing is if you don't already have an online program and you're thinking of purchasing one, you may need to act fast because I think not to scare anyone, but they're getting kind of there. A lot of people are turning to that, a lot of libraries, um, and so they just might hit their capacity. Um, so if you're kinda on the fence, you might want to have to make a decision sooner rather than later. But again, you know, lots of libraries and Massachusetts use Google forms, you know, there's, and then there's still a lot that you can do without that.

So I don't want people to like feel like, Oh my gosh, I have to buy something right away. I mean these programs can be very expensive and again, they might not reach all of your community. Um, but it's just something that we kind of heard from other state people. But I will share also the link to the OSC a message board. I'm just not sure if you have to be a member to see it, but a lot of these ideas came from these other places. Believe us, we, Christie and I definitely needed help. Um, and we are hoping you'll contribute as well. And in fact actually, um, Galen mentioned, I hope I pronounced that right, that people could take a picture of a shorter posted poem. Um, and I do love like if you are able to do some virtual stuff and I think, you know, we definitely should keep thinking about that.

Absolutely. Um, posting pictures and engaging with your community on social media is such a great way, one to stay connected, but it's also going to help you promote and publicize your library. And you know, when this is sort of all who I want to say all over, but when this, you know, sorta when we start to move back into reopening and things like that, you know, we are thinking about how, how do we, um, communicate to stakeholders, the, you know, how we did stay on top of things and we were relevant and we were helping our communities. And I think, you know, looking at things like social media engagement is really going to be important for us. So keep up the great work. Um, there are a few more questions, but I'm gonna um, I'm gonna move on a little bit and then, and then we'll take some at the end cause I think we're actually almost through without slides.

Yeah. Um, so I want to talk about incentives a little bit, um, because that's, you know, usually something that is part of our traditional summer program. And I know people might be wondering, how do I handle this? Um, so if you do do something with prizes, you have a physical prize. Um, you could, uh, think about extending the pickup time. So, you know, maybe, maybe, usually you have a, a deadline towards the end of the summer, maybe beginning of September. Um, maybe you can extend that a little bit. Maybe, you know, maybe it just won't be that important to have a really hard and fast deadline. You know, maybe it's going to be sometime in October or something like that. And then we do, did think about kinda can you mail something and maybe it's a certificate this year, um, our coupon, um, you could also think about e-gift cards, you know, that could be emailed to winners.

You could do like raffle, cause I know that can get expensive. Not everyone's going to be able to afford, um, a gift card for every participant. But you know, if you do something like a raffle, this B, you know, especially great for I think, um, teen and adult programs and focusing on local businesses. So if you have the budget to buy gift cards, right, we're all trying to think of ways to help our local business to stay afloat. And I know that this is one way is to buy gift certificates. Um, even if for yourself, which I'm definitely gonna do at my hair salon. Um, and, but we, you know, if you have the budget to purchase incentives, um, this would a great way to help out your local businesses. Usually they're the ones helping us out, right? They're donating to us. Um, but what a great opportunity to kind of do a little turn around with that if you can.

Um, and then thinking about just sort of different alternatives. Um, so Christie had mentioned, I think it was Sudbury that does like a community project, so you could do reading for a charity, um, you know, reading and other activities could add up to points and then those transfer to a donation. Um, when we used to do this at my library would do something like an animal adoption, like through the world wildlife Federation or heifer. Um, but you could again focus on a local group that, um, you know, maybe could use some extra help this summer. Um, I also thought about digital badges. So I do know some of you use an online program and it might have like challenges and badges built in. But you can also make them in Canva. I did this last night, um, I made these little badges and you could email those. This is probably be, again, more appropriate for like teen and adults who are going to have email and social media accounts.

Um, you know, I just thought like you could email these kinds of badges for different activities and then people would post them on their social media accounts. I have to say, I know I would like if I got something like this from the library, um, or like I was looking at adulting badges, that just kinda cracked me up cause they're like, um, you know, like I made a phone call today. It's very relevant. Yeah, exactly. Like I made my own coffee. You just feel really proud of yourself, but they're kind of fun to share. I gave my husband a haircut. Yeah. You just heard the two badges. I think that, I mean, was it a good haircut? He's, do you look so, okay, I'm gonna make you a badge in canvas. Um, so, you know, just trying to think of something fun to do. And actually, uh, PLA public library association has a webinar.

I think it's next week. I'm gonna admit I'm one of those people, I don't know what day it is anymore. Um, and I'm attending, it's about digital. Uh, I think it's digital. It's about badges in summer library programs. And I will report back cause that was a paid for webinar. Um, so anything I learned from there, I'm absolutely going to share with you all. Um, Oh and I did want to mention one other thing about redone bead. Cause I know a lot of people do that and people may have questions that they're asking in the question box right now. And I know a lot of times with that program people do trading like you might trade up. So we're saying like maybe don't do that this year. Maybe it's like whatever B do you end up with? You get to keep that one, but you can still, you know, keep earning more.

Um, maybe you earn them all at the end, you know, maybe there's a way to keep track, um, on paper and then they come in at the end to get the whole thing. Um, I know it's not quite as fun as coming in each time, but just trying to again think alternatively, um, and, and have only the staff handled the beads with gloves so that you don't have lots of, I mean, and that kind of, I kind of feel like it's probably good practice anyway than having lots of hands. And even though I'll be honest, I love touching a big thing of beads. There's something so satisfying about it. Um, but maybe that's just a change we'll have to make. All right. Excellent. Okay. What's next for, Oh, sorry. I know you get to talk, you get a partnership, you get a partnership, everybody gets partnership.

So yes, partnerships. Um, and you know, we already doing are doing partnerships. Um, in general, you know, libraries are great about that. Um, but I think now especially is important for us to, to think about what organizations are, are out there and what they're doing. Um, because everybody I feel is trying to help, you know, which is fabulous, but it's gets to a point where there's so much stuff out there that it's actually almost too much. Um, it's really hard to kind of keep track of all the stuff. I mean, if you think about just from a, um, you know, virtual story time perspective or like draw with the illustrator perspective, like there are probably like five or six different illustrators who are doing programs at the same time every single day. So, um, you want to make sure that your partnerships kind of help you, um, find that sweet spot in your community of where, um, there is a gap in information needs or in, in programmatic needs or even just kind of connection needs and go for that.

And so that make partners with the organizations that are already doing things that are a great way and that you may be able to help either like spread the word or give them additional information or resources. Um, because you don't want to recreate the wheel. Especially right now. I mean, April talked about it, this being a marathon and you know, you don't want to overtax yourself and try to do everything and be everything to everyone because we just can't. Um, so think about what organizations are in your community, what they're doing, um, and go where your patrons are. So he know some ideas out there. Um, food banks and meal programs. Um, you know, many of schools right now or other organizations are doing meals every day. I know in our community, um, there it's for anybody. It doesn't, it's not just for students, um, that they're doing food delivery every day for lunch.

Um, that could be a place where if you, if they allow for like a little, um, bookmark or a half sheet, um, and give people some ideas for, um, activities they can do with their family or, um, you know, a poem a day, um, type of thing. Um, especially during April right now, but you know, we're talking about summer, but, um, you know, they're there. Those are organizations, um, your schools. Um, now that, uh, Dessie has instituted it, phase two, so for public schools, this is the second phase in a three phase process of pulling up online schooling. Um, there probably a lot of schools in your area that don't have, um, librarians in them or are feeling a little kind of, um, taxed on how to help their students get access to, um, books, um, and or also are really worried about that achievement gap over the summer.

And so you can partner with them, um, as we get closer to June. Um, and actually so that good aside, um, the, to let you all know if you haven't heard about it yet, um, MSLA um, has launched a virtual school librarian site. It's actually hosted in our guides and we'll put that link in our resource guide. Um, and it's, uh, so students and teachers and parents can go there and ask questions to school librarians. Um, but it also could be a great place for you to refer people, um, as well. Um, but especially for schools that don't have school librarians. Um, so you could work with those schools and beat B that will not be their librarian. Sorry. That's a really dangerous, slippery slope and has nothing to do with summer. So pretend strike that. Can we go back and edit? Um, I'll edit it out of the recording, the big, long bleep.

But there are lots of different organizations in your Community, Parks and Recreation Departments that are usually doing programming or camps. Why MCA boys and girls club, the Health Department. Um, so, you know, especially as organizations are trying to reach people within the community, there's lots of great places to um, to work with and think of that. That could be your goal as April mentioned. That could be your, your biggest goal for this summer is to start some new partnerships, um, and have this be kind of a benefit that comes out of the weirdness of the last few months. Okay.

Do we want to do what? Yeah, there are some questions I wanted to, um, not that I wasn't listening to you, but I'm seeing pop up. Um, and um, someone did ask about a training session regarding virtual book tracking ideas. And someone else asked about using Google forms. So what I'm going to put out there is, um, anyone who would love to help us with that, um, please contact me and Christie and maybe we could set up another webinar on that. We are just not, we don't, um, we don't do that, so we don't know what, um, I would love to learn more about that. So if you are doing something, uh, you know, maybe you're already doing something virtually, um, especially if you were using something free, um, you would definitely love to hear about that. And just like with, um, if people don't know about the, sorry, the streaming story time webinar that we're doing this Friday, um, you know, that was basically like we were getting lots of 'em. Thank you. I'll let those, uh, I can put those links in the chat box to, um, uh, like I said that, you know, lots of people are asking questions about that. We're doing our best to answer, you know, I've never done a streaming story time, so we ask people who were to help us out with that. So same here. We'd love.

Yeah. Also, if you are doing something or have a plan that you think is gonna work really well and you're excited to share, we have the capability to put together short webinars with our members. So if you're interested, um, let us know. Um, because we do want everybody to be able to share those ideas out.

Yeah. Um, and um, Rachel wants to know how do you explain to your boss you're at banana.

Maybe show that up. Yeah. Show them that, that image. April and I've talked about this with our boss and um, one of the other consultants. Um, and we're hoping that part of our messaging as an organization, as we talk to various levels of administration, um, is that we can continue to keep that in. The message is, okay, this is a long process. Everybody's at a different level of focus ability and you don't have to do everything. Take it slow. Because I think that there is this tendency among all of us librarians, administrators, uh, town officials that be like, okay, well we need to do everything or look at what this community is doing. We should do that too. Or they are, this other one is doing this. And, um, I think that's setting everybody up for burnout. And so we're going to do what we can as an organization, um, and as consultants and definitely you can direct them to us too and you can say, Hey look, we, I went to this webinar and they said, it's okay. People are not focusing all the time. I am at banana. Um, and, you know, hopefully they'll understand. Um, and if not, you can reach out to us individually and we can help you. Um, cause that's, that's our job. We're consultants where your librarians and, um, we're happy to, to assist wherever we can. Yeah. And I feel like a lot of people are at banana. They just don't know it yet. And actually that brings up a great suggestion. I wish I [inaudible] I had

thought of this, um, since this is a crazy time anyway, what do you think about using a model with no prizes at all? Have any libraries done this successfully in the past? So again, I w you know, we'd love to hear about that. Um, this, uh, second bullet point is about the collaborative Google doc that, um, I started, uh, we, we were collecting, you know, different program ideas and things like that and, um, it felt like it fit in best to put specifics like in a doc and have an, have you all, um, put your ideas there too. So if people have, um, done this, I, I think this would be a great place to share that info. And I do think this, that would be perfectly fine to me. I can't imagine, you know, anyone who complains about that. Um, you could just ignore, um, and maybe this is something you want to try in the future anyway. And so this would be like the perfect time.

And I will say, I mean, I'm sure with the number of people who are logged in today is that there are significant number of parents who are experiencing what I'm experiencing, which is just overload, um, that, you know, I, I don't, I can't even keep up with all the stuff that's out there. And so I'm just happy to see the faces of our librarians and connect with them. Um, and so I think that you'll find that with your community there, the expectations are going to be different. Um, that if even if you have a community that always was into like the, the prizes and the incentives and stuff, it, it's going to be different. Um, and that's okay. And so, um, don't try to, to, to push yourself so hard to match what you've done in the past. Um, because I do think that, um, families are going to be grateful for whatever it is that exists. Right. That's my job now making the way, sorry.

Um, so the, if you go to the next slide, um, I think we kinda covered those things and I'll, I'll share those out on mass yak too. But I want to point out a few resources that are also, um, added to the guide and see, uh, we have Celeste Bruno from the MPLC with us today. And, um, if we can, um, have her chat a little bit about what they've got going there. There's a handout in the control panel, um, I'm sorry to bring that up earlier, but it's called MPLC summer reading challenge. And, um, that's something that you can still participate in. Again, no matter what your program looks like right now. Um, and, uh, again, those things are on the, the guide. Um, let me see if I can unmute less safe.

Hi, April. Hi Chris. Yeah, I'm so glad. Hi. Can you hear me okay? Yes. Okay. I'm so glad you guys put this together. Um, I think it's really helpful. It's, you know, you've got some good tips and you know, in thinking about what you're saying, especially, you know, when you guys were talking about community goals and incentives, um, partners, I think the summer reading challenge kinda checks all those boxes. And, um, so it was something that we started working on before, uh, everything changed, uh, which, you know, literally it was like overnight wasn't it? Um, and so, you know, we're, we're going to get the information out to people, but it's basically pretty simple. And you know, if, if is Christine and April are saying, you know, um, you know, if you're struggling to, to try to put something together for your community because everything is so up in the air, this might be a good solution for you cause it's super easy.

Um, it doesn't require you to do a whole heck of a lot. Um, and you know, basically it's, um, it's a challenge that Christina April helped us put together with our partners from the Boston Bruins and, um, first lady of the Commonwealth, Lauren Baker. And it's super easy. And here it is in a nutshell. Right? So you set your own goal, you know, whatever your community wants to track. And you know, um, I think it was April who said that, uh, Sudbury is doing a, um, sort of a fundraising goal. Anything that your community wants to track, um, you register with us. We're just there with the MBOC. Um, and then, you know, right now we have, it's during the month of July, but you know what, we can change that. It can be sort of during any summer month, right? Because we don't know what this is gonna look like. Um, you know, you sort of track your goal and, um, at the end of it, uh, there's Boston Bruins prizes, which are super fun.

Um, they're in game experiences. They're, um, uh, you know, signed gear. So if your libraries, you know, met the goal, you go into a raffle for that and we send you out the prize. Um, and the other piece of it is, um, a visit from the first lady of the Commonwealth. Um, we'd like to collect some of those great summer success stories. And again, they don't have to be, um, from obviously this year. They can be from other years and we'll get you the site to do that, but that's all you gotta do. Um, and we have a really fun visual poster, but we also have social media that we've created for it, so that it's just a super easy way for your residents. Even if they cannot come into your library, they can participate, um, and, uh, and be part of this sort of statewide challenge.

And at the end of the summer, you know, at the end of our reading challenge, we'll sort of tally up all the amazing things that we were able to do. You know, I really liked hearing Christine April, talk about the fact that we're going to want to be able to say to legislators and funders, you know, we really kept it going. We really kept, uh, you know, the service going and being able to sort of tally this up at the end of the summer and say, here's what we were able to do with our summer reading program. We, you know, um, whatever breaks out into what libraries tracked. So we're excited for that. Um, and it's a really nice way to show off, um, how, you know, the work that libraries are doing, uh, even over the summer, even over a super challenging summer. So, um, we will get that info out to you. Um, and I do just want to also mention, I know some libraries, I think there were about 40 libraries that, um, or have the bean stack, um, from the MPLC.

And, um, so that's a great way to use tracking, but as, um, Christine and April mentioned, there's other ways to do it too. So, um, so yeah, so that's what's happening. And you know, I do want to, I know Christine and April, uh, worked with us to create the, the summer posters. We have those orders and I guess we're sort of wondering from you all, um, you know, our printer can print them. Um, but we're wondering from you all if it's something you think you're going to need, um, and if you think you're gonna need it, do you have a way to, um, you know, actually receive a shipment? So there's kind of a question from us on that. Um, and then just wanting to touch bases on the, you know, the, the summertime for us is a lot with the blades doing visits and we got some great applications from the libraries and, um, really appreciate that because it's, I mean, we get so excited about doing it in the summer, you know, it's going to be a different kind of summer.

Uh, you know, and what we heard back from the Bruins is that they're keeping it as flexible as possible. And if we are, you know, able to do something, we will do something. At the very least, we'll have the, um, the typical summer Bruins prizes. We'll, we'll draw that raffle in may at like we usually do and let you guys know, um, if you're, uh, if you're, uh, a winner of one of those prizes. Uh, but in terms of the blades visits, um, we just don't know. And, um, it may be that we're able to do something in the fall. Uh, but you know, we got an email from our partners at the Bruin saying they're 100% behind the summer program and anything they can do, they will do. Um, so there's where we are with it.

Hope that's helpful.

Yes. Thank you. So last, thank you so much. We can follow up with some of those questions. Um, on mass yak too. I'm asking about, you know, set up, um, a form or something to find out about libraries that are open for shipping. But we did see a couple in the chat of saying that they are available to receive shipments. Um, and some aren't.

Well that would be great. And you know, because we also have all the Bruins materials that we developed and you know, we're sort of thinking, you know, maybe we push those to the fall, but again, you know, it, it sort of just depends on what libraries are thinking that they need. Everything's, you know, been developed. It's all there. Um, and you know, maybe it's just we put the order out and you know, if you can use it now, you use it now. If you can use it later, you use it later. Um, so, but we'll work with Christie and April on that and we'll send all the information for the, um, for the Mrs the, the Baker and blades reading challenge. We'll send all that out as well so that people have that. And if you have any questions about that, um, you know, you can certainly get in touch.

So, yeah. Thanks. Um, yeah, and we did put, we put the flyer, it's in the control panel under handouts and it's also on our, in our Google doc. So, and I know people, um, it's a lot. It's a little after 11 and we said we'd go to 11. So if you have to go, um, please feel free to um, leave the webinar. Uh, we did capture the question so it record, it saves them for us and um, we can share any great comments that come up and um, we'll email for any unanswered questions that we didn't get to. Um, but um, you know, you might seen that our little puppy there that you got this. So you know, we know it won't be easy. Um, it might be really hard to come up with a completely new program based on the library being closed. Um, anytime that might happen would be difficult.

Um, added on is the stress and uncertainty about pandemic. That's what we're going through guys. So take time for self care, allow yourself some breaks. And I really do think together we can help each other and come up with some simple, creative, fun ways to provide for our communities. Even if you just grab, you know, three or four ideas from the Google doc and Christie's showing that, um, folder right now, you know, take, take two or three ideas and, and make that, you know, sort of your fun summer thing. Um, you're already doing such a great, um, service and you all really hit the ground running during such a difficult time that I really do think that we got this. And um, and then here's our all our email info. So if you want to reach out to us and Celeste, um, about any summer things. As I mentioned, we've got the CSLB password. Um, if you have any trouble, um, you know, with the recording of the webinar or a question that didn't get answered, please do reach out to us and thank you so much. Yes, thank you. And um, don't forget Thursday at 11:00 AM we're going to have our chat and we'll actually have our faces. I wore my summer reading shirt today, but then April said we weren't doing videos, so I will wear it again on Thursday. Um, and we look forward to seeing you all then. So thank you so much for coming. Thanks and bye everyone. Thanks. Alasta Michelle for your hat.

Hi.