

Library director job attracts 22 interested candidates

Hopefuls have 10 days to apply for spot

By Hannah Weikel

Freeman Staff

WAUKESHA — While the window to apply to be the Waukesha Public Library's next director is soon closing, the search firm that's gathering candidates has already received 22 applications from around the nation and expects several more before time is up.

Most applicants hail from Wisconsin or Illinois, but others come from places like New Mexico, Oregon, Minnesota, Florida and Michigan. The firm, Bradbury Miller Associates, has reached out to about 20 other prospective candidates, mostly in Northern Illinois and Southeastern Wisconsin. The job posting will close on Aug. 6.

"We have a good strong pool so far, but as these things typically go, some of the best candidates come in the last week," said Dan Bradbury, general manager of Bradbury Miller.

From there, the firm will weight the candidates based on how well they meet minimum experience qualifications for the job and fit the library's mission to provide "a welcoming and dynamic environment where citizens of all ages can find the inspiration, ideas, and information to reach their full potential," according to Bradbury and the job posting on the library's website.

Waukesha's Library Board will then rank the applicants based on how they are weighted by the firm and other qualifications. The pool will be boiled down to six to eight candidates who will be interviewed over Skype, said District 11 Alderman Erik Helgestad, a member of the Library Board.

Helgestad said he's looking for candidates who have a strong history of budgeting abilities and have an interest in being active in the community.

"Activities at the library go on almost every day of the week," he said. "We would like to continue to grow that."

The new director would also have to handle persistent issues with the outdoor book drop and sorting system that has had on and off issues since its installation. This problem has been resting on Interim Director John Klima's shoulders since Former Library Director Grant Lynch stepped down this spring.

Helgestad said the book drop project is cumbersome and complicated, but the vendor, a Germany-based group, did a recent software update on the system that has helped.

Klima was not available for comment on Tuesday.

Helgestad said the final step in the search is to interview two or three finalists, parts of which may be open to the public, and vote in a new director.

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Public library promotes Playaway audio collection, Launchpads

WAUKESHA—While audiobook apps have become increasingly popular over the past few years, the Waukesha Public Library, 321 Wisconsin Ave., has been offering audiobook devices for the public for more than 10 years. Today, the library will welcome a representative from Playaway to teach the public about audio devices.

“Often times, people aren’t really familiar with Playaways,” said Kerry Pinkner, children’s services manager. The Playaway representative will be present from 1:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. to provide tutorials, highlight the different features of the Playaway and talk about new content. Guests that come early will receive a free pair of earbuds and audio cables.

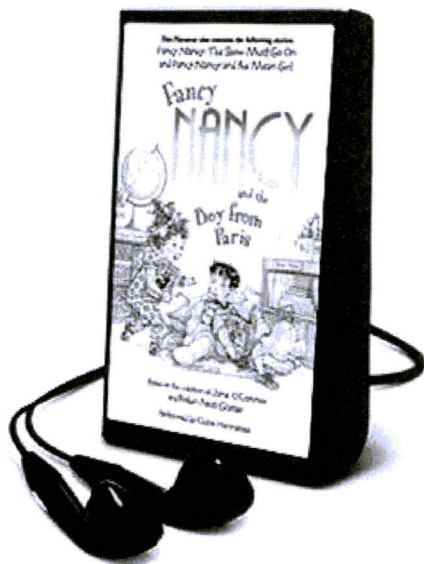
“The families that like Playaways really like them for a variety of reasons,” said Pinkner.

The device comes loaded with either a book or an entire series. The speed can be adjusted so children can read along with their favorite books. Elderly citizens or people on the go can also benefit from using a Playaway. Some audio books that are not available on apps can still be found on the device.

“I like to use them myself just because I like to walk around from room to room and exercise sometimes,” said Pinkner.

The library also offers Launchpads loaded with educational apps for kids. One Playaway per library card can be checked out at a time. Pinkner says they are very popular and almost always in use. The tablets can be used without WiFi and are specifically made to be circulated from one person to the next.

— Freeman Staff



A Playaway device comes pre-loaded with an entire book and can be adjusted to different speeds.

Submitted photo

Libraries join battle against overdoses

Libraries

Directors receive Narcan training

HALEY HANSEN

MILWAUKEE JOURNAL SENTINEL

PEWAUKEE - Health officials in Waukesha County are increasing awareness of the opioid epidemic in a wide range of settings: college campuses, weekly recovery groups, community events. But that awareness outreach also includes a few unexpected places.

Libraries.

Library directors from across the county met Friday at the Pewaukee Public Library to learn more about the epidemic and a common overdose antidote, naloxone.

Working with library directors isn't a response to an

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Lee Clay, an education specialist with Health and Human Services of Waukesha County, demonstrates for Waukesha County librarians how to administer Narcan. For more photos, go to jsonline.com/news.

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Libraries join battle against overdoses

Libraries

uptick in overdoses in county libraries, said John Kettler, mental health and substance abuse supervisor for Waukesha County Health and Human Services. Libraries attract a wide range of the public and are just one of several places the county can use to muster awareness.

The county has already hosted a few public training sessions where people learn the symptoms of an overdose and receive a free sample of naloxone, more commonly known by its brand name Narcan.

"It doesn't take long, and it's an opportunity to save lives," Kettler said.

A small number of library systems in large cities nationwide have begun training staff to administer Narcan in response to the opioid epidemic. In 2006, two people in Waukesha County died from a heroin overdose. In 2015, 20 people died from the drug. Kettler said he'd like to see library directors bring Narcan training or information sessions to staff and library patrons. Narcan training also could be offered to people who often work with drug users, such as homeless shelters or social service centers. Hotels or gas stations also could have their employees learn to administer the antidote.

Health education specialist Lee Clay gave library directors a demonstration Friday on how to use Narcan. She said training more people to use the antidote and identify symptoms of overdoses is just a small piece of responding to the opioid epidemic, but it's an immediate and relatively easy step to get more people involved.

"This is something we can do to save lives now," she said.

Clay said having Narcan on hand is similar to having access to a EpiPen to treat a severe allergic reaction or a defibrillator. Narcan is another way to be prepared for emergencies.

Administering the drug is simple. Narcan often comes in a nasal-spray form, so Clay demonstrated how to tilt a person's head back to spray the antidote up the nostrils. Clay also advised doing rescue breathing before and after giving a person Narcan. "One click, one dose. That's it," she said. "That's how easy it is."

Kathy Klager, a library director for Sussex, said she doesn't plan to make Narcan training a requirement for her staff, who are already trained in CPR. But she said she'd like to have her library host a public information

"We have not had an overdose in or around MPL branches or Central Library," she wrote. "Additionally, we have very good response times by fire and police when we do call for service due to a medical or other issue."

Narcan has no negative side effects if it's accidentally administered to someone who isn't overdosing. Two doses of the antidote in nasal spray form cost \$75 under public-interest pricing.

Librarians trained around U.S.

Addressing the opioid epidemic through libraries isn't unique to Waukesha County. A few libraries across the country have already trained their staff to use Narcan. An overdose death in a library in downtown Denver prompted the city's library system to start offering the training, said Chris Henning, community relations director for Denver Public Library.

Libraries attract people with a variety of backgrounds. It's not surprising that the opioid epidemic has spilled into libraries, he said. "Anything that happens out in society is going to find its way through our doors," he said. Since January, there have been 14 overdoses in Denver libraries, Henning said.

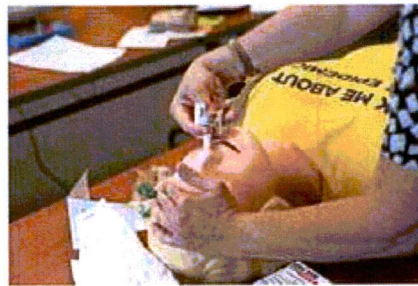
"Librarians never thought this would be something they'd have to deal with," he said. Almost all staff members at a handful of libraries in Philadelphia are trained to administer the drug, said Marion Parkinson, a library supervisor for the Free Library of Philadelphia. In four libraries Parkinson oversees at least one person has overdosed in the last two years. One library had four overdoses in roughly one month in 2016. "We looked at another summer coming, and we couldn't do it again," she said. Parkinson offered Narcan training to her employees in late February. One employee has used Narcan on eight people since then, though all of those overdoses happened in a park outside the library. Drugs have always had a grip on the community she works in, Parkinson said. First it was heroin. Then it was crack. Now it's a little bit of everything, she said. Preparing for overdoses is part of the library's responsibility to serve its patrons, she said. The last thing she wants is for children at the library to see someone die from an overdose.

"We're constantly looking at the needs of the community," she said. "These are the needs. This is what we're working with."

session about Narcan and opioid addiction in the near future.

“There are a lot of people who could benefit,” she said. “The information component is really important.”

Milwaukee Public Library spokeswoman Eileen Force Cahill said in an email that the library has been in consultation with Milwaukee health and police and fire officials and are not currently planning on training staff in administering Narcan.



Lee Clay demonstrates administering Narcan on a dummy during training.

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