TO: PLA Board of Directors  
FROM: Kathleen M. Hughes, Editor, Public Libraries Magazine/Manager, PLA Publications (khughes@ala.org)  
RE: Social Worker Task Force  
DATE: June 4, 2019

**ACTION REQUESTED/INFORMATION/REPORT: Report**

**ACTION REQUESTED BY: N/A**

**DRAFT OF MOTION**: N/A

**OVERVIEW**

PLA Social Worker Task Force Mission Statement:

To develop and recommend a strategic and coordinated approach for PLA related to how public libraries address the social service needs of customers. The task force will identify best practices and will consider resources to be developed that will allow PLA to offer guidance and technical support to libraries. Task force activities include but are not limited to: recommendations for training and ways to engage library staff on the topic; identification of model programs in order to generate and share best practices; consideration of how social work methods can be integrated into libraries and PLA's educational programming; identifying ways PLA might influence social work services within public libraries; and helping libraries serve diverse communities.

**KEY CURRENT ACTIVITIES**

As their mission statement indicates, the Social Worker Task Force is committed to providing the most comprehensive, social worker-informed knowledge and training possible. They are working on book ideas, planning programming at ALA and PLA Conferences, writing articles, hosting forums, and more. Toward their goal of ensuring that librarians have the best information related to social services, over the past year the group has:

* [Developed and written a regular column posted on Public Libraries Online](http://publiclibrariesonline.org/category/news-opinion/social-workers-in-public-libraries/)
* Developed a statement on [Trauma-Informed Care](http://www.ala.org/pla/sites/ala.org.pla/files/content/tools/Public-Library-Social-Work_Overview-of-Trauma-Informed-Care_FINAL.pdf)
* Organized and attended showings of the Emilio Estevez movie, “The Public” and Ryan Dowd book events at their libraries to offer social-work informed, vetted, and tested information on serving persons experiencing homelessness. Several members of the task force were also able to meet with Estevez and share the information directly.
* Recorded two podcasts -- [Social Workers at the DC Public Library](https://soundcloud.com/publiclibrariesonline/fyi-36-social-workers-dc-public-library) and [Social Workers in Public Libraries - Homelessness](https://soundcloud.com/publiclibrariesonline/fyi-031-social-workers-in-public-libraries).
* Developed a book proposal for ALA. *The book proposal is currently being reworked as another publisher is releasing a book very soon which covers much of the material the SWTF were going to use.*
* Began work on creating a training program for PLA Continuing Education.
* Created and submitted two program proposals for PLA 2020.
* Developed a [Social Work Member Interest Group](https://connect.ala.org/pla/communities/community-home?CommunityKey=5c2df085-e960-4608-87e7-fc132b3a43d9) on ALA Connect.
* Created monthly [Social Work in Public Libraries Virtual Forums](http://www.ala.org/pla/education/onlinelearning/socialworkforums), during which the group take turns presenting information fielding questions from public librarians.
* Have organized and/or are speaking at 3 events during the 2019 ALA Annual Conference:
  + - [Librarians and Social Workers: Partnerships that Work for Connecting People in Need (Preconference)](http://www.ala.org/pla/education/conferences/alaannual/19preconference)
    - [Meet-up](https://www.eventscribe.com/2019/ALA-Annual/fsPopup.asp?Mode=presInfo&PresentationID=565142&query=social%20work%20interest%20group) with Social Work Member Interest Group.
    - Sunday, June 23, 1-2 – 1 hour program – [Social Workers in Public Libraries: Lessons Learned](https://www.eventscribe.com/2019/ALA-Annual/fsPopup.asp?Mode=presInfo&PresentationID=539514&query=lessons%20learned)

In the upcoming year, the group plans to continue much of the work already in progress including writing a regular column, offering monthly forums, tending to the Social Work member interest group, developing conference programming, and considering partnership ideas. Their plan is to complete the ALA book and the PLA training program by the end of FY 2020. In addition, the SWTF will work with PLA’s marketing and communications team on promoting its messaging and work.