**TO:** PLA Board of Directors

**RE:** Family Engagement

**DATE:** March 6, 2019

**ACTION REQUESTED/INFORMATION/REPORT:**

Action Requested

**ACTION REQUESTED BY:**

Clara Bohrer and Kathleen Reif, co-chairs, Family Engagement Task Force

**DRAFTS OF MOTIONS:**

1. The PLA Board of Directors hereby approves the PLA Family Engagment Task Force to continue for another two-year term, from July 2019 to June 2021, with reappointments and new appointments to occur in the spring of 2019 by incoming President Ramiro Salazar.

**BACKGROUND**

The PLA Family Engagement Task Force is co-chaired by Clara Bohrer, chair of the PLA advisory committee to our IMLS early literacy research grant, and Kathleen Reif, past chair of the Every Child Ready to Read (ECRR) committee. The Task Force has met at every Annual Conference and Midwinter Meeting since June 2015 and convened many times by conference call.

**RECENT ACTIVITY**

Information on recent activity of the Task Force is included in its spring 2019 committee report (included separately). Over its four-year tenure, the Task Force has been very productive:

* producing *Public Libraries: A Vital Space* (August 2016) and *Ideabook: Libraries for Families* (December 2016)
* developing the Libraries Transform Family Engagement toolkit
* presenting 7 live educational programs and 2 webinars for librarians at PLA and ALA events from 2016-2018
* speaking to non-librarian audiences 9 times at conferences of the National Center for Families Learning, the National Head Start Association, the Institute for Educational Leadership, and the New England Museum Association
* developing extensive plans for additional products and resources, including assessment tools, standardized presentations, publications exploring the family engagement framework and 5 R’s, and more

**RECOMMENDATIONS FOR BOARD ACTION**

Task Force co-chairs and members believe there is substantial work needed to continue to promote family engagement to public librarians. We’ve outlined an ambitious program of publications and education, which will both educate the field and generate revenue for PLA. Although plans to engage external consultants to develop these tools stalled in 2018, they are moving ahead in 2019. Therefore, we are recommending the PLA Board of Directors approve the Task Force to continue for another two-year term.