

## **Q1 FY25 Library CARES Mandatory Meeting**

The Q1 FY25 Library CARES Mandatory Meeting covered several key points. The quarter one reporting form is due by January 3, with instructions to use the most recent version. Funding distributions were made before Thanksgiving, and any issues should be reported promptly. The library evaluation survey will be available from January 1, focusing on unique participants and demographic data. Molly Hofer from the University of Illinois Extension discussed the Wits Workout program, highlighting its development, evidence-based status, and expansion to 23 states. The program aims to enhance intellectual engagement and socialization, with ongoing research and grant applications to further evaluate its effectiveness.

### **Transcript**

<https://otter.ai/u/E-WexIDRAm6JTpdMVwM5eZmg-HI?view=transcript>

### **Action Items**

- [ ] Submit quarter 1 reporting documents by January 3
- [ ] Send photos of aging services display by January 31
- [ ] Reach out to AgeOptions representative to schedule presentation
- [ ] Implement wits workout program or other University of Illinois Extension courses

### **Outline**

#### **Introduction and Meeting Objectives**

- Speaker 1 introduces the meeting, welcoming attendees and mentioning the presence of colleagues Eric Cho, Emma Kidder, and Maria Owens.
- Emma Kidder is highlighted for her role in advocacy and public policy, emphasizing her importance in fundraising efforts.
- Maria Owens is introduced as the coordinator for the Aging Disability Resource Network, with a focus on integrating library and network programs.
- The meeting objectives include administrative issues, library evaluation survey, AgeOptions presentation requirement, Wits Workout, partner web page, and share and tells.

#### **Administrative Updates and Reporting**

- Speaker 1 emphasizes the importance of timely reporting, with the quarter one reporting form due by January 3.
- Funding distributions were made before Thanksgiving, and attendees are reminded to check with their business offices if they haven't received funds.
- The quarterly meetings are scheduled for March 18, and at least one staff member from each library must attend.

- Speaker 1 requests submissions of success stories and photos, highlighting the importance of qualitative data in advocacy efforts.

### **Unique Participants and Reporting Forms**

- The Illinois Department on Aging requires tracking the unique count of individuals reached each fiscal year by service.
- Speaker 1 explains the process of identifying new participants for each program, providing examples to clarify the reporting process.
- The reporting form includes columns for total participants and new participants, with formulas for calculating totals.
- Attendees are encouraged to submit reports in Excel format and to include success stories and photos.

### **Library Program Evaluation Survey**

- The new library program evaluation survey will be available starting January 1, both online and in paper format.
- The survey will be conducted over a six-month period, focusing on who is being reached and collecting demographic data.
- Attendees are encouraged to strongly encourage patrons to fill out the survey, though it is not mandatory.
- The survey will help in securing additional funding and ensuring the program reaches the intended audience.

### **AgeOptions Presentation Requirement**

- Libraries are required to offer at least one AgeOptions presentation, with AgeOptions representatives reaching out to those who have not yet submitted a survey.
- The second core requirement is to create and maintain a display with aging network materials, due by January 31.
- Speaker 1 thanks those who have already filled out the survey and mentions that AgeOptions representatives are aware of the planning timeline for libraries.
- The importance of promoting the display and the survey is emphasized for accurate data collection.

### **Introduction to Molly Hofer and Wits Workout**

- Molly Hofer from the University of Illinois Extension is introduced, highlighting her background in gerontology and her role in developing the Wits Workout program.
- Molly explains the history and development of the Wits Workout program, which focuses on brain health and intellectual engagement.

- The program was developed with support from AgeOptions and has been evaluated in a randomized control trial, showing positive results in self-efficacy.
- Molly discusses the expansion of Wits Workout nationally and the ongoing efforts to make it available in Spanish and other languages.

### **Wits Workout Program Details**

- The Wits Workout program is designed for community settings, aiming to increase intellectual engagement and socialization.
- The program has been well-received and is available in 23 states, largely through word of mouth.
- Molly highlights the importance of the program's evidence-based approach and ongoing research to evaluate its effectiveness.
- The program is offered through the University of Illinois Extension, with training and materials available for a fee.

### **Conclusion and Q&A**

- Speaker 1 opens the floor for questions, but there are no immediate questions from the attendees.
- Molly Hofer concludes her presentation, reiterating the importance of the Wits Workout program and its potential for community impact.
- The meeting continues with a focus on the partner web page and share and tell sessions, emphasizing collaboration and information sharing among library partners.
- Attendees are encouraged to reach out with any further questions or concerns, and the meeting concludes with a reminder of the next quarterly meeting date.