

SESSION NAME Public Housing as a Platform for 24/7/365

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WHAT'S WORKING?

- *Sarasota HA*: early childhood/literacy-on site early Head Start, afterschool homework club, BRE, attendance & school support team, summer learning
- NAHRO MOU sharing information, represent 3,300 PHAs, working closely with CLPHA and PHADA (other national "houser" orgs)
- Book Harvest synergistic ways to start this work to turn PHAs into hotbeds of literacy. Want every bedside table to have a book on it
- Age of Learning online platform to support early school success. Offered at no cost to PHAs (250 so far); offers 800 digital books
- *Fresno HA*: mayor brought school Supt. and housing together to address low academic achievement levels. Packard \$: day care provider training
- *Bringing School Home*: stable housing base; truly C2C program. Turned learning centers into classrooms. Parent-driven and child-focused program
- *CLPHA*: helping to create partnerships across PHAs and other organizations. OST is important, early learning space, Do some secondary education work.

WHAT'S NEEDED

- Bring in partners – library, resident councils and some of the civic groups interested in summer programming to provide programs
- Provide child care providers with needed curriculum so kids are ready for school
- Support housing organizations with Cradle to Career initiatives
- Support scholarship programs at housing authorities
- Need to tear down silos between HUD, ED, AG-need holistic approach
- Data: who's collecting data, how it's being shared; there's a lot of relationship building that goes with that
- Housing organizations need to reach out/work with education support partners (funders and others); non-housing folks need to partner with housing authorities
- Need to share the stories of the good work that is happening with HAs

WHAT'S CHALLENGING?

- Ensuring all partners have the same philosophy when addressing literacy
- Making sure that literacy is a priority for the housing authority from top down
- Those outside the housing world must recognize the strategic partnerships that housing organizations can provide to reach vulnerable families.
- Need to work together to figure out the best way to bring housing and non-housing partners together in partnership to serve families
- Data sharing is a huge part of this work; it's not a quick process
- Legal questions around data sharing: parents need to sign waivers – don't know if too many PHAs are doing really good work b/c of the legal questions
- Staff start their day in the classroom with the children – highest form of data collecting. PHA also attend teacher meetings.
- Increase in federal regs, decrease in funding, you have to rely on partners
- Making wi-fi accessible to low-income families

KEY TAKEAWAYS, INSIGHTS & NEXT STEPS

- If you get to the kids, you can get to the parents. Go to where the families are; show respect and consistency and you will make inroads, more kids will respond and the numbers will grow.
- Online platforms like ABCMouse provide safe community space for children, structured after school program in computer center
- Place best practices on an online platform accessible to housing authorities, CLPHA's Housing Is online clearinghouse can be a repository for info
- Public financing is important; so is foundation support
- "It's possible but not probable that the housing piece is not important. Can they do it without us? Hopefully - I think we can do it better"
- S435 by Sen. Collins/Heinrich-two generational economic empowerment act of 2016 to break cycle of multigenerational poverty should be supported