



Learning Begins at Home: How Housing Agencies Can Support Attendance and Engagement in School

A GLR Learning Tuesdays
Peer Exchange Learning Conversation

June 13, 2022 | 12:30–2 pm ET/9:30–12 am PT

Presenter Bios

MODERATOR



Hedy Chang
Executive Director and President
Attendance Works
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Hedy Nai-Lin Chang is the founder and Executive Director of Attendance Works, a national and state level initiative aimed at advancing student success by addressing chronic absence. A skilled presenter, facilitator, researcher and writer, she co-authored the seminal report, Present, Engaged and Accounted For: The Critical Importance of Addressing Chronic Absence in the Early Grades, as well as numerous other articles about student attendance. Deeply committed to promoting two-generation solutions to achieving a more just and equitable society, Hedy has spent more than three decades working in the fields of family support, family economic success, education and child development. She served as a senior program officer at the Evelyn and Walter Haas Jr. Fund and as co-director of California Tomorrow, a nonprofit committed to drawing strength from cultural, linguistic and racial diversity. In February 2013, Hedy was named by the White House as a Champion of Change for her commitment to furthering African American Education. Extraordinaire

OPENING COMMENTS



Erica Vaughan
Consultant
Campaign for Grade-Level Reading

Erica Vaughan is a consultant, researcher and educator based in Boulder, Colorado. She specializes in providing intersectional research, program management, curriculum design, and instructional expertise where education meets housing, technology, health, and community, and believes that effectively translating research to innovative practice in schools and organizations is critical for change. Currently a consultant for the Campaign for Grade-Level reading at the nexus of public housing and education, Erica's professional experience also includes serving as a researcher, project manager and consultant for Bringing School Home, a nonprofit organization operating at the intersection of housing and education in and beyond Boulder. She currently leads the Boulder County Workforce Learning Lab, leveraging wraparound community partnerships and human-centered teaching to serve clients of all ages and abilities working toward their high school equivalency diplomas as a step toward employment and shifted life trajectories. She has served as a curriculum specialist, Social and Emotional Learning advisor, Teach for

America member, and researcher, among other professional roles. Every position shares the common thread of poverty pattern disruption through education systems and related partnerships. Erica holds a Bachelors in Religious Studies from Pomona College, a teaching credential from California State University Hayward, and a Master of Arts in Education from Stanford University.

PRESENTERS



Mary Helen Caggianelli
Senior Manager, Resident Empowerment
Fresno Housing
Twitter: @FresnoHousing

Mary Helen Caggianelli is a Senior Manager for Resident Services at Fresno Housing. Ms. Caggianelli has been working with the agency 19 years and has been instrumental in working with various community organizations (public and private sector) to develop programs and secure funding through federal and foundation grants for Resident Empowerment programs that focus on Education, Health and Wellness, and Workforce Development. She currently oversees the resident empowerment team that offers site-based services at over 40 affordable housing developments.



Maria Casey
Associate Director
Attendance Works
Twitter: @attendancesworks | Facebook: @AttendanceCounts

Maria Casey's career has reached across several areas, including public education, community-based public health, youth development, employment and training programs for under-represented groups, and non-profit organization management and development. From 2013 to 2017 Maria worked with the Alameda County Office of Education (ACOE) as a professional expert. During the last two years of that tenure she was Executive Director of the Student Wellness/California Healthy Kids and After School Resource Centers Department. Prior to joining ACOE, Maria was Executive Director of Partnership for the Public's Health, a center of the Public Health Institute and a program office for several major initiatives of the California Endowment and Kaiser Permanente. Maria has also served as President and CEO of the Urban Strategies Council and the National Community Building Support Center, an arm of the Council. She is well known for her work building community partnerships, engaging and building multi-sector leadership for change, and designing and implementing programs aimed at improving opportunities for our most vulnerable children and families.



William O. Russell, III
President & CEO
Sarasota Housing Authority
Twitter: @HousingSarasota | Facebook: @SarasotaHousing

William Russell has served as the President & CEO of the Sarasota Housing Authority (SHA) for the past 18 years. Under his leadership, SHA has

completed seven redevelopment deals and has two more under construction. SHA is also recognized as an industry leader in efforts to promote early childhood literacy and grade level reading.

His career in affordable housing also includes serving in various capacities with the City of New York and the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) in Washington, D.C., where he was Deputy Assistant Secretary. William is a Leadership Florida (Class XXXII) and Leadership Sarasota alum, past president of the Florida Association of Housing and Redevelopment Officials (FAHRO) and currently chairs the joint city/county affordable housing advisory committee.



Jennifer Thomas
Assistant Director of Strategic Initiatives
Housing Authority of the City of Los Angeles

Jennifer Thomas has over twenty years of management experience in the field of community and economic development. Currently, she is the Assistant Director for HACLA and oversees its Strategic Initiatives Unit which includes management of strategic partnerships & contracts, workforce development, digital equity initiatives and other resident relations programs.

She was previously the Development and External Affairs Officer at the Local Initiatives Support Corporation (LISC), where she raised capital for the Los Angeles office and established new business development opportunities in South Los Angeles and East Los Angeles. She also led the launch of the *Building Sustainable Communities Initiative* for the LA Office and often represented the company at various ground breakings, conferences, policy forums and an array of speaking engagements. Prior to that, she was the Program Director for the Ross Minority Program in Real Estate at the University of Southern California's (USC) Lusk Center for Real Estate where she oversaw program operations, fundraising, student recruitment, board stewardship and donor development. She was responsible for the strategic expansion of the program in San Francisco via a partnership with the Bay Area Council which expanded the USC brand and visibility across the State of CA. In this role, she managed the endowment established to expand program operations.

Thomas has also worked in other cities on HOPE VI public housing redevelopments and has done consulting work with non-profit organizations. She has been on the Adjunct faculty staff for Southern New Hampshire University's graduate school of Business where she taught the Masters Thesis series in Community and Economic Development. She is currently an Adjunct Professor at the University of Southern California where she teaches Housing and Community Development in the School of Urban Planning and Spatial Analysis and has done so for over a decade.

Thomas has an extensive background in community and economic development ranging from affordable housing development, commercial corridor development, community and regional planning, coalition building, non-profit management and social services program design, policy and evaluation. Throughout her professional career, she has been committed to low-income communities-its transformation, its assets and its potential to be viable places for people to live, be educated and to thrive. She has a personal passion for community development and is involved in civic engagement activities in her community. She received her Bachelor of Science degree from Southern University and A & M College and received her Masters Degree from the University of Pittsburgh where she was a HUD Cuomo Fellow.