



Beyond Bricks & Mortar: How Housing Agencies Can Promote Showing Up to School

A GLR Learning Tuesdays Webinar
Co-sponsored by Attendance Works

October 18, 2022 | 3–4:30 pm ET/12–1:30 pm PT

Presenter Bios

MODERATOR



Hedy Chang
Executive Director and President
Attendance Works
@attendanceworks | @AttendanceCounts

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.

PRESENTERS



Maria Casey
Associate Director
Attendance Works
@attendanceworks | @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.



Dawn Gerundo

Community Development & Engagement Director, Education Valley of the Sun United Way, Arizona @myvsuw

Dawn Gerundo received Bachelors of Liberal Studies in Early Childhood Education and Business Management from Charter Oaks State College. She has 34 years of experience working in education and has been working as a Community Impact Director for Valley of the Sun United Way (VSUW). She is a strong advocate for education, with a passion for early childhood. Dawn is involved in working on breaking the cycle of poverty for children and families in Maricopa County. Her professional interests focus on school readiness, early literacy, and community/family engagement. Her current projects include facilitating Read On Avondale, serving on the executive committee for Read On Phoenix and leading early grade and school readiness initiatives for VSUW. She oversees all the VSUW funding partnerships through grants and contracts for children. In addition, she serves as an advisory board member for Catholic Charities Westside Head Start program and has served on the Arizona State Board of Education K-3 Literacy Ad Hoc.



Emily Mancini-Fitch

**Resident Services Manager
Portland Housing Authority, Maine**

Portland Housing Authority's Resident Services Manager, Emily Mancini-Fitch, has managed youth and educational programs in public housing for 12 years. Formerly a two-term AmeriCorps State and National member at the Portland Housing Authority Sagamore Village Education Center, Emily has worked to build and strengthen programming focused on youth development, leadership development, education access, service learning, and community building. Emily has developed cross-sector partnerships to increase accessibility to educational programming for low-income students of all ages. Under her leadership, the scope, scale, and quality of educational programming has expanded with teams of educators, mentors, and youth leaders serving family housing communities around the city. Additionally, the PHA Scholarship program expanded to include non-traditional students, trade schools, received outside investments, and has disbursed \$148,000 to 81 recipients in the last decade.

Emily works with the local schools to increase opportunities for extended and summer learning as well as food access during summer break. They also work together to troubleshoot barriers to parent engagement and equitable access to resources for low-income families. In Summer of 2022 they offered paid internships to teens, provided one-on-one tutoring to elementary youth, and fed hundreds of children in public housing communities. Through the partnership with one elementary school, they were able to ensure 100% attendance for Parent Teacher Conferences in Spring of 2022.

DISCUSSANT



Angie Garcia-Nguyen
Deputy Executive Director
Santa Clara County Housing Authority
@SCC_HousingAuth

Deputy Executive Director Angie Garcia-Nguyen joined SCCHA in 2022, bringing 25 years of experience in the nonprofit/public sector. Over the last 12 years, Nguyen served in several leadership capacities within Fresno Housing and most recently served as Chief Program Officer to ensure agency alignment of efforts, policies, and partnerships with local and national best practices that promote quality housing, engaged residents, and vibrant communities. Nguyen engages in the community and at the national level and looks forward to ensuring SCCHA is influential at the partnership table. She serves on the national NAHRO Housing Committee where she serves as Chair of the Housing Choice Voucher Subcommittee. Nguyen is a Latina born and raised in Stockton, CA to immigrant parents. As a first-generation college student, she attended Fresno State where she received a bachelor's and Master's degrees in Criminology and bachelor's degree in Chicano Studies. She and her husband are loving dog parents.