



WORKSHOP STRAND #1

WORKSHOP A

Location: Salon D/E

Combatting Chronic Absenteeism: An Overview of School Health Data and Best Practices

Presented by: The Colorado Education Initiative

Workshop Summary: Research shows the connection between health and wellness and academic outcomes, specifically how addressing student health can have a positive impact on students who are chronically absent. This session will explore the connection between health and learning, and provide tangible examples and resources from Colorado in addressing the biggest health-related contributors to chronic absenteeism. Two distinct data collection efforts in Colorado will be highlighted: Colorado Healthy Schools Smart Source, a school-level tool that comprehensively assesses health policies and practices, and the Healthy Kids Colorado Survey (Colorado's version of YRBS), a student-level survey that assesses health attitudes, behaviors, and protective factors of students. Both efforts yield data at the local, regional, and state levels and can be used by schools, districts, state education agencies, and policy makers to inform efforts to combat chronic absenteeism.

Sectors addressed: *Education, Public Health*

WORKSHOP B

Location: Salon C

The Carrot Behind the Classroom Door: How Breakfast in the Classroom Positively Impacts Student Attendance

Presented by: Food Research and Action Center, NEA Healthy Futures, School Nutrition Foundation, and Share Our Strength

Workshop Summary: Students who eat breakfast do better in school, have better attendance, are less likely to be tardy, have fewer visits to the nurse's office, and fewer discipline referrals than students who do not eat breakfast at school. Nationally, only 11.7 million low-income children participate in the School Breakfast Program, while 21.5 million low-income children participate in the National School Lunch Program. By moving breakfast out of the cafeteria, into the classroom, and making it a part of the school day, schools can increase breakfast participation. This, in turn improves attendance, student achievement and the overall health and well-being of students. By the end of this session, participants will be able to explain the connection between breakfast and attendance, identify strategies for engaging multiple stakeholders on breakfast in the classroom, learn strategies to overcome common challenges associated with starting an alternative breakfast program, and develop an action plan.

Sectors addressed: *Education, Health, Justice, Early Learning, Nonprofit*



WORKSHOP C

Location: Pentagon 1

Health Matters in Preventing and Addressing Chronic Absenteeism: Oregon’s Cross-Sector Partnership

Presented by: *Oregon Health Authority-Public Health Division and Oregon Department of Education*

Workshop Summary: The Oregon Public Health Division has worked to partner with the Oregon Department of Education (ODE) to address chronic absenteeism. This interactive presentation will explore key steps that Oregon Public Health took to engage ODE and to consider the impact of public health strategies on chronic absenteeism. The presentation will feature data, tools and processes that have supported a health and education cross-sector partnership on chronic absenteeism. “Artifacts” from the partnership will be used to make the process come alive. Participants will be engaged to connect with each other to debrief their own chronic absenteeism partnership experiences.

Sectors addressed: *Education, Health, Nonprofit, Journalists, Early Learning*

WORKSHOP D

Location: Pentagon 2

Nurturing hope and resiliency: Trauma-Informed Approaches to Improving School Attendance in Public Housing

Presented by: *The San Francisco Foundation, The Mayor’s Office—City and County of San Francisco, The San Francisco Unified School District*

Ellie Rossiter, Director, The Partnership for HOPE SF, The San Francisco Foundation, HOPE SF’s resident centered approach to housing/Cross-sector collaborative/Data

Uzuri Pease-Greene, Community Builder, Bridge Housing (also a resident of HOPE SF), Resident leadership/Walking school bus/Trauma Informed Community Building

Teneh Weller, High Expectations Parental Service, a non-profit organization specializing in building effective relationships between parents and teachers, HOPE SF School Cohort, Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports

Workshop Summary: In San Francisco’s public housing developments, known as HOPE SF, 53% of students are chronically absent—compared to 7% citywide—because of challenges, such as poor health and housing, violence, inadequate food and clothing and more. The neighborhood schools experience high teacher turnover and struggle to gain trust of families. In response, public housing residents are leading change in their communities, while government, community organizations and philanthropy are breaking down the silos that previously existed between housing and schools. Learn how community-based education liaisons, resident-led walking school busses and parent advocates are improving student attendance by building trust and engaging families.

Sectors addressed: *Education, Public Housing, Mental Health, Community-based Organizations, Housing Developers, Community/Public Housing Residents*



WORKSHOP E

Location: Madison

Incorporating Positive Messaging Into Multi-Tiered Systems of Support

Presented by: *California Department of Education and the California Attorney General's Office*

Workshop Summary: We know that interventions and supports should be tailored to each student's (and their family's) circumstances—we also know that we should cultivate positive, warm, and supportive school environments for students and their families. But how? How do we deliver messaging that's—all at once—urgent, effective, honest, supportive, and non-judgmental? Through this workshop, participants will learn to incorporate recent messaging research from advertising experts into each level of a comprehensive, multi-tiered system of supports. We will flag some key points at which school staff and families are most likely to miscommunicate about chronic absence. The workshop will help participants develop strategies to avoid such miscommunication, and to develop lines of dialogue and trust between school staff and families.

Sectors addressed: *Education, Justice, Nonprofit*

WORKSHOP F

Location: Monroe

Developing Safe and Supportive Environments in the Nation's Schools

Presented by: *Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Division of Adolescent and School Health*

Workshop Summary: The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Division of Adolescent and School Health (CDC-DASH) works with 19 state and 17 large city education agencies to establish safe and supportive school environments for students and staff, educate decision makers on policy, and help schools implement policies. These agencies help districts and schools establish school environments characterized by supportive and caring relationships between adults and students and by the absence of discrimination, intimidation, taunting, harassment, and bullying. This approach involves implementing clear policies, procedures, and program activities designed to increase school connectedness and parent engagement and to prevent bullying and sexual harassment. This session will include examples of initiatives of CDC-DASH state education agency and local education agency partners.

Sectors addressed: *Education, Health, Adolescents, Nonprofits*

WORKSHOP G

Location: Van Buren

The ABC's of ISS - How Integrated Student Supports can increase Attendance, improve Behavior and strengthen Course performance to help keep students in school and on the path to graduation.

Presented by: *Communities In Schools*

Workshop Summary: The Communities In Schools model of Integrated Student Supports has been proven effective at empowering at-risk students remain in school and graduate on-time. We use Early Warning Indicators to identify students at greatest risk and work with them to understand and address the underlying causes of absenteeism. Among our case-managed students, 99% remained in school, 93% were promoted to the next grade and 78% met their attendance improvement goals. This session will utilize data from the



CIS network to look at some of our promising practices for decreasing chronic absenteeism and increasing daily attendance.

Sectors addressed: *Education, Health, Housing, Justice, Nonprofit*

WORKSHOP H

Location: Wilson

Building Community and School Collaborations to Improve Attendance

Presented by: *Greater Omaha Attendance and Learning Services (GOALS) Center*

Workshop Summary: In 2010 the State of Nebraska revised an existing attendance law which required all students missing more than 20 days of school to be referred to the County Attorney office. This new law created significant increases in such referrals and a need to create a preventative strategy to reduce the number of students being referred to the court for attendance-related concerns. Over the course of 12 months the Superintendents in a two-county area came together to develop a plan focused on prevention and early intervention strategies to address attendance concerns. The eleven (11) Public School Superintendents, in partnership with a current sitting Juvenile Court Judge as well as local agencies including Health and Human Services, Probation, Community based mental health programs, and other local community programs, developed a plan to improve attendance in the largest metropolitan area in Nebraska. This presentation will provide:

- An overview of the cross sector work to develop a prevention program focused on improving attendance for students in a large metropolitan area;
- Key components of the Superintendents Plan to Improve Attendance;
- Development of the Greater Omaha Attendance and Learning Services (GOALS) Center, which focuses on a prevention model;
- Evaluation process implemented to track progress and outcomes in student attendance.

Sectors addressed: *Education, Human Services, Nonprofit*

WORKSHOP I

Location: Harrison

Partner, Engage and Create Change: The Campaign for Grade-Level Reading Approach

Presented by: *Campaign for Grade-Level Reading, Baltimore Campaign for Grade-Level Reading, Family League of Baltimore, Baltimore Education Research Consortium, United Way of Southwestern Pennsylvania*

Workshop Summary: One focus area of the 200+ communities in the Campaign for Grade-Level Reading Network communities is school attendance. Campaign communities use a multi-faceted coalition approach to address the challenge of school attendance from kindergarten to third grade. Two communities—Pittsburgh, PA and Baltimore, MD—will share how they used a civic framework to engage the community in reducing chronic absence. Cross-sector civic coalitions—encompassing local government, the local intermediate unit, schools, community providers, the health sector, the department of human services, the



libraries, parents and more—with a joint goal and common message, have increased the number of children attending and benefiting from school. Learn how to leverage your community resources and attendance message to bring sectors together and ultimately create change.

Sectors addressed: *education, health, justice, research, nonprofit*

WORKSHOP J

Location: Jackson

Using the ParentCamp Model: Parents for Healthy Schools Working to Curb Chronic Absenteeism

Presented by: *The U.S. Department of Education and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention*

Workshop Summary: The U.S. Department of Education and the Center for Disease Control are teaming up to present the “unconference” ParentCamp model and CDC’s Parents for Healthy Schools resources as a strategy for facilitating conversations on student absences related to health concerns. The ParentCamp model helps districts and schools create welcoming, inviting cultures where parents, educators, school administrators, healthcare workers and others can come together on a level playing field to build relationships, create networks, and discuss issues that will benefit students and families. CDC’s Parents for Healthy Schools provides resources for engaging families in supporting healthy lifestyles for their children. These two sets of resources can be utilized either together or separately to build family, school and community partnerships to improve student attendance.

Sectors addressed: *Education, Health, Family and Community Engagement*

WORKSHOP K

Location: Crystal Ballroom

At-Risk to On-Track: Collaboratively Impacting Student Success

Presented by: *Tobi Kinsell, United Way of Greenville County; Jennifer Driscoll, Greenville County Schools; Teresa Stafford, United Way of Greenville County*

Workshop Summary: Interested in building an Early Warning and Response System (EWRS) from the ground up through cross-sector collaboration and best practices? We invite you to come learn about OnTrack Greenville, an initiative in Greenville, South Carolina to keep middle school students on track for high school graduation. Fueled by the Social Innovation Fund, this collaborative effort uses a sophisticated business intelligence solution to identify students at risk for not graduating on time by tracking student attendance, behavior, and grades. In order to get students back on track for graduation, teams of adults customize multi-tiered, evidence-based interventions provided by schools and non-profits, to address the root causes of chronic absenteeism, behavior issues, and failing grades. Participants will learn how to build a cross-sector EWRS, understand the advantages and challenges of utilizing a collective impact framework for EWRS, and participate in an EWRS Team simulation.

Sectors addressed: *Education, Health, Non-Profit*



WORKSHOP STRAND #2

WORKSHOP A

Location: Salon D/E

A Multi-Tiered Systemic Approach to Promote School Attendance and Address Problem Absenteeism

Presented by: *Patricia A. Graczyk, PhD – The University of Illinois at Chicago; Christopher A. Kearney, PhD – The University of Nevada, Las Vegas*

Workshop Summary: If students aren't attending school regularly they're unable to benefit from the academic and social opportunities available in school. A Multi-Tiered System of Supports is an appropriate framework for aligning intensity of supports to student needs. Within this framework data are used extensively and evidence-based practices are organized and delivered to promote a culture of attendance for all students, provide additional support to at-risk students, and implement the most intensive, individualized supports for students displaying chronic absenteeism. This presentation will provide an overview of a multi-tiered approach to promoting attendance and addressing problematic absenteeism. We will discuss key terms, delineate at-risk groups of students, share how to use data to inform strategic planning, and indicate evidence-based practices appropriate for each tier within a tiered framework. Because the reasons for problem absenteeism are often multi-faceted and extend beyond school walls, partnerships with families and cross-organizational collaborations are integral to this framework.

Sectors addressed: *Education, Health, Mental Health, Housing, Justice, Nonprofits*

WORKSHOP B

Location: Pentagon 1

Addressing Chronic Absenteeism in a Rural State

Presented by: *Maine Department of Education and Count ME In*

Workshop Summary: This presentation highlights how to impact state and local attendance practices and policies through grass root efforts. The Count ME In model was developed with Maine Department of Education and a consortium of 14 rural, suburban and urban school districts, 4 early childhood programs, their community partners and other state agencies. Together they addressed chronic absenteeism by creating a common framework as well as evaluation tools that track staff awareness and attendance data. In a time of limited resources and strong local control, this multi-tiered approach is data-driven and requires accountability. It resulted in statistically significant decrease in chronic absenteeism and increase in awareness statewide.

Sectors addressed: *Education, Mental Health, Behavioral Health, Nonprofit, Child Welfare, Early Learning*



WORKSHOP C

Location: Pentagon 2

Truancy, School Avoidance, and Substance Abuse: Their Impact on Chronic Absenteeism and Developing Effective and Legally Compliant Programs to Improve Student Achievement

Presented by: *Dr. Dorothy McMullen, Director of Special Services, Elizabeth Board of Education, NJ; Jessika Kleen, Partner at Machado Law Group*

Workshop Summary: The presentation will discuss practical methods for educators, including utilizing checklists and training staff on warning signs, to identify students in need. These methods also include the development of relationships with community based organizations and other government agencies, and offers practical, real-world advice on how to manage these relationships in situations of conflicting obligations and responsibilities. Additionally, the presentation will address the development of programs to address absenteeism, with tips and procedures to obtain stakeholder support.

Sectors addressed: *Education, Special educators*

WORKSHOP D

Location: Salon C

The Power of Data: Using Public Housing-Education Partnerships to Increase Attendance

Presented by: *Abra Warren-Lyons, Council of Large Public Housing Authorities (CLPHA); Karen DuBois-Walton, Elm City Communities, Housing Authority of New Haven*

Workshop Summary: Around the country, housing authorities and educators are initiating partnerships uniquely positioned to empower children and families with the resources they need to thrive in school and succeed as adults. This workshop will highlight the benefits of combining efforts and establishing data sharing, as well as present on the success of Elm City Communities, the Housing Authority of New Haven, in their partnerships with their school district and local schools to improve attendance rates and boost positive educational outcomes. This session explores why connecting education and housing is critical and how to initiate and strengthen partnerships to establish and implement a data sharing agreement to improve attendance.

Sectors addressed: *Housing Authorities, Nonprofit housing organizations, School/District Leaders, Principals, Afterschool/Summer Practitioners, Community Based Organizations, Policy Specialists, Early-learning programs*



WORKSHOP E

Location: Madison

Every Day Matters: The Albuquerque Story

Presented by: *Albuquerque Public Schools and Mission: Graduate*

Workshop Summary: This workshop explores strategies and tools that are being used to improve school attendance in the greater Albuquerque metro area. Mission: Graduate, a cradle-to-career education partnership, is working with Albuquerque Public Schools, New Mexico PBS, and many other partners to improve school attendance by employing a two-pronged strategy of raising awareness about the importance of going to school and providing customized support for schools and school districts in our community. Additionally, this workshop provides details about an innovative early intervention strategy that is being employed at Albuquerque Public Schools. The strategy is fundamentally supportive, not punitive, and it recognizes the multiple underlying causes of poor school attendance. Using a wellness approach, the initiative prioritizes early identification, intervention, and referral to school-based and community resources and programs.

Sectors addressed: *Education, Health, Nonprofit*

WORKSHOP F

Location: Monroe

Every Day Counts

Presented by: *Mississippi Department of Education*

Workshop Summary: The workshop will explore the development and implementation of processes utilized to transfer beliefs surrounding chronic absenteeism from reactive to proactive measures utilized in the state of Mississippi, along with the methods for dealing with Chronic Absenteeism that the Office of Compulsory School Attendance has implemented throughout our school districts. We will be sharing the successes and failures of our endeavors since 1982 when the Compulsory School Attendance Law was put into effect.

Sectors addressed: *School Administrators, Teachers, School Counselors, Social Workers, School Resource Officers, Community Service Providers and School Attendance/Truancy Officers*

WORKSHOP G

Location: Van Buren

Using 21st Century Data Tools and Success Mentors to Eliminate Chronic Absenteeism: New York City as a Case Study

Presented by: *NYCDOE Department of Education and New Visions for Public Schools*

Workshop Summary: This highly interactive session will discuss the chronic absenteeism challenge in New York City, explore its negative impact on young people's academic achievement, and will offer low cost and highly effective strategies to reduce chronic absenteeism that were developed through the New York City's *Every Student, Every Day Campaign* and the New York City Community Schools Initiative. Strategies will include how to create a Success Mentor Corps, initiate a low cost early warning system and hold a weekly attendance meeting to organize school and community around the problem of chronic absence. The



session will also discuss how to strategically engage families and City agencies in connecting chronically absent students to interagency resources and services. Participants will also take home a set of Starting Strong documents, links to helpful online data tools and a guide for How to Implement a Success Mentor Program.

Sectors addressed: *This session aims to reach Districts and educators that are in different stages of development around understanding and addressing chronic absenteeism. This workshop is appropriate for those who have just launched the Every Student, Every Day Campaign or are in the midst of the planning process.*

WORKSHOP H

Location: Wilson

Peeling the Onion of Chronic Absenteeism in the Early and Elementary Years: Understanding the Problems and Finding the Solutions

Presented by: *Advocates for Children of New Jersey, Paterson Education Fund, Paterson Public Schools and the Taub Foundation*

Workshop Summary: Chronic absenteeism is a silent problem that can diminish the academic success of students. When important social-emotional and cognitive skills are not developed by 3rd grade, it becomes difficult for students to catch up. National and state data indicate that young students—especially those living in poverty, and students of color—are at high risk of frequently missing school. Some states, school districts and communities are developing the “know how” to review absentee data to identify factors that are causing high rates of absenteeism and to build a culture that supports regular school attendance. Learn how New Jersey is addressing the issue through strong collaborations between advocates, communities, foundations, parents, and of course...schools. Participants will learn about key levers to improve student success and understand the roles each stakeholder can play to develop strong cross-sector approaches to improving student outcomes.

Sectors addressed: *Education, Early learning, Nonprofit, Health, Family engagement, Transportation, Public safety*

WORKSHOP I

Location: Harrison

Designing Innovative Solutions to Attendance Barriers with Students & Families

Presented by: *DC Equity Lab, Office of the Deputy Mayor for Education*

Workshop summary: The workshop will describe the planning and execution of a citywide Design Challenge. In Washington DC, the DC Equity Lab (a non-profit education incubator) is working with the District’s cross-agency Truancy Taskforce to help address issues and create solutions related to truancy and chronic absenteeism. The goal of the collaboration between the Truancy Taskforce and the Lab is engage District students and families directly to improve attendance. This collaboration entails introducing Taskforce members to design thinking, empathic interviewing, and problem statement definition, and then culminates in a day-long “design challenge” that engages both Taskforce members and the broader community, including educators, police officers, agency staff, families and students. At the design



challenge, stakeholders pitch attendance problems, recruit diverse teams, ideate and test solutions as a team, and present final solutions to a panel of judges.

Sectors addressed: *Education, Health, Housing, Justice*

WORKSHOP J

Location: Jackson

Supporting Regular School Attendance and Academic Success for Homeless Students

Presented by: *National Center for Homeless Education*

Workshop Summary: In this workshop, staff from the National Center for Homeless Education (the U.S. Department of Education's technical assistance center for the federal Education for Homeless Children and Youth Program) and Fairfax County Public Schools will explore data on chronic absenteeism among homeless students, educational rights and services available to these students under federal law, and strategies for supporting regular school attendance for these students. In addition, strategies for implementing effective local collaborations to support school attendance and success for homeless students will be highlighted.

Sectors addressed: *Education, Homeless service providers, Housing*



WORKSHOP STRAND #3

WORKSHOP A

Location: Crystal Ballroom

Addressing the Early Attendance Gap: Why It Matters, What Can We Do?

Presented by: *Attendance Works*

Workshop Summary: Chronic absence in the early grades is an overlooked challenge fueling the achievement gap especially among our most vulnerable populations of children and families. Attend this session to learn about what states and communities are learning about effectively making the case that chronic early absent matters, unpacking the causes of poor attendance among our youngest children and families and putting in place comprehensive approaches to improve attendance. Hear from colleagues from Arizona and Rhode Island as well as the Attendance Works team who will also share their latest tools and resources, including a forthcoming toolkit for launching an elementary success mentor initiative. Discuss how to use these ideas and resources in your own work.

Sectors addressed: *Cross-sector Education, Health, Housing, Justice, and Public partners*

WORKSHOP B

Location: Salon D/E

The Role of the Pediatric Clinician and School Absenteeism

Presented by: *Family League of Baltimore City and Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health*

Workshop summary: This workshop will explore specific ways in which pediatric clinicians can assist students and their families address health factors, school factors, and community factors related to chronic absenteeism. Opportunities for organizations working on chronic absenteeism to engage with the pediatric sector will be discussed. The workshop will also discuss creative ideas for data-sharing with the pediatric community.

Sectors addressed: *Education, Health, Nonprofit*

WORKSHOP C

Location: Salon C

Addressing Chronic Absenteeism by Integrating Public Health Practices in Schools

Presented by: *Center for School, Health and Education at the American Public Health Association & Center for Health and Health Care in Schools, Milken Institute School of Public Health at The George Washington University*

Workshop Summary: Exposure to adversity significantly impacts health and undermines learning, signaling that new efforts to support achievement and positive student outcomes must be employed. Utilizing a school-wide needs assessment that identifies risk behaviors and social factors that contribute to chronic absenteeism, implementing population-based interventions, and promoting coordination between education, health, and public health systems represent key elements to solutions that address the



underlying social and environmental conditions that contribute to chronic absenteeism. The presenters will describe the implementation of a unique approach that integrates public health and health care practices in k-12 education settings, and share an online resource that guides the development of sustainable prevention plans implemented by cross-sector partnerships, to support effective education policies and practices.

Sectors addressed: *Education, Health, Housing, Justice, Child Welfare, and Mental Health*

WORKSHOP D

Location: Madison

Attendance and Truancy Among Virginia Students: A 12 Module Training Series to Address Chronic Absenteeism in Virginia

Presented by:

John Eisenberg, Assistant Superintendent, Special Education and Student Services, Virginia Department of Education (VDOE)

Jo Ann Burkholder, Director, Office of Student Services, VDOE

Joseph Wharff, School Counseling Specialist, VDOE

Dr. Vivian Stith-Williams, School Social Work Specialist, VDOE

Workshop Summary: In response to the Call to Action from the USED and the Every Student, Every Day: A National Initiative to Address and Eliminate Chronic Absenteeism, the Virginia Department of Education, in collaboration with Attendance Works, created a 12 module series entitled ***Attendance and Truancy Among Virginia Students***. This training, which also includes a Participant/Facilitator Guide, can be viewed individually or in a group and will assist schools and divisions in looking at current practice and in looking at ways to improve future practice with the goal of addressing and eliminating chronic absenteeism, and ultimately boost student outcomes and success. A team from Virginia will introduce the series and provide background on Virginia's current efforts with attendance and truancy.

Sectors addressed: *Education, Parents, Health, Early learning, Community Partners, Homeless Students*

WORKSHOP E

Location: Monroe

Make Better Happen: Using Data to Keep Every Kid in School

Presented by: *Data Quality Campaign and City Year*

Workshop summary: State policy alone cannot keep kids on track to success, but it can—and must—create a framework for local action. Chronic absence is one critical measure that helps those closest to students dig into a variety of student issues—including bullying, transportation, health, and more. Join Data Quality Campaign and City Year to discuss the intersection of policy and intervention in putting chronic absence data to work.

Sectors addressed: *Education, Nonprofit*



WORKSHOP F

Location: Pentagon 1

Engaging Labor Partners to Eliminate Chronic Absenteeism

Presented by: *American Federation of Teachers*

Workshop Summary: Educators from Minneapolis and St. Paul, Minnesota will explain how evidence-based strategies to reduce chronic absenteeism have been integrated into a tiered support model, with a focus on American Indian students. Presenters will discuss the ways that school districts, unions, families, public agencies and community-based organizations have collaborated to achieve impact at all levels. They'll also share examples of the tools that institutionalize and sustain foundational relationships.

Sectors addressed: *Education, Labor, Health & Welfare, Justice, Early Childhood Education, Nonprofit/Community-based Organizations*

WORKSHOP G

Location: Van Buren

A Statewide Approach to Reducing Chronic Absence in Rural and Urban Communities

Presented by: *Arkansas Department of Education and Arkansas Campaign for Grade-Level Reading*

Workshop Summary: The Arkansas Department of Education and the Arkansas Campaign for Grade-Level Reading have partnered to make chronic absence data available to all schools and districts and provide professional development and coaching to districts that want to reduce their chronic absence rates. Both rural and urban schools in Arkansas have seen dramatic success in just a few years.

Sectors addressed: *Education, Health, Nonprofit*

WORKSHOP H

Location: Wilson

Developing Strong Attendance Habits at an Early Age

Presented by: *The Children's Aid Society National Center for Community Schools and Early Childhood Division*

Workshop Summary: Addressing attendance in the early childhood years has been proven to have a direct correlation to kindergarten readiness and, ultimately, 3rd grade reading level. Putting strategies in place to support families is key to making significant strides in building positive attendance habits. Through the use of family advocates and a focus on student and family level data, The Children's Aid Society Early Childhood Division is affecting change in this area. This workshop will illustrate the steps taken by CAS to ensure our young scholars are in school, ready to learn, and are prepared for Kindergarten and beyond. Among others, you will hear from a panel made up of a parent, a teacher and a family advocate from one of our early learning programs. (Continued next page)

Sectors addressed: *Early Learning, Head Start, Education, Nonprofit, Community Stakeholders, Parents*



WORKSHOP I

Location: Harrison

Together for Tomorrow: Top Down Leadership to Address Chronic Absenteeism in Harrisburg, PA—Superintendents and Communities Coming Together to Keep Kids in School

Presented by: *AASA, The School Superintendents Association*

Workshop Summary: This session will feature Dr. Sybil Knight-Burney, superintendent of Harrisburg School District in Harrisburg, PA, alongside Principal Travis Peck and Professor Don Murk. Dr. Knight-Burney will discuss the ways in which she has worked internally with school leaders and externally with community agencies to address chronic absenteeism through the “Together for Tomorrow” project. Workshop participants will have the opportunity to not only query the panelists about what worked and didn’t work, but also work on case studies created using examples from the work in Harrisburg. By the end of this session, attendees will:

1. Discuss how the Harrisburg School District used data to address chronic absenteeism
2. Plan which methods described in the session they can use in their own districts to address absenteeism
3. Describe how to establish partnerships with community organizations that will bring teachers, students, parents, and community members together through a shared vision.
4. Understand how to develop a partnership with a local college or university to improve attendance, behavior, student achievement, parent participation, and community engagement.

Target Audience: *Superintendents, Cross-sector Leaders, Nonprofit partners*

WORKSHOP J

Location: Pentagon 2

The Role of National Service in Combatting Chronic Absenteeism

Presented by: *The Corporation for National and Community Service*

Workshop Summary: The workshop will focus on the role national service can play in combatting absenteeism across the country. The Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS) is a federal agency that provides grants to organizations committed to strengthening communities through volunteering and helps more than 5 million Americans improve the lives of their fellow citizens through service. CNCS members are in one of every ten schools providing the people power and support services necessary to create the conditions for learning. The workshop will provide an overview of the various CNCS programs and funding streams and how communities and schools that want to focus on absenteeism can access CNCS resources. It will also highlight current work that CNCS grantees are doing to ensure kids stay in school and succeed. Grantees from a variety of organizations will share their strategies for reducing absenteeism and provide an in-depth look at the role national service can play in reducing absenteeism in school districts across the country.

Sectors addressed: *Education and Nonprofit sectors*



WORKSHOP K

Location: Jackson

Keeping Children In School and Out of the Juvenile Justice System

Presented by: *Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, U.S. Department of Justice, featuring Circuit Judge Patricia Moore from Pinellas County, Florida; Stoneleigh Fellow Kevin Bethel, M.S. from Philadelphia, PA; Truancy Diversion Program Coordinator DeNeese Parker, M.S. from Clark County, NV; Senior Policy Analyst Theresa Bohannon from the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges*

Workshop Summary: The introduction of the presentation will include the issue of school pathways to juvenile justice, exclusionary discipline procedures, policy and practice implications, and a brief overview of the *Keeping Kids in School and Out of Court* initiative. To engage the audience early in the presentation, presenters will have poll questions woven into the introduction and vignettes of students who were victims of exclusionary discipline policies. The remainder of the presentation will be a panel discussion, which will focus on three local jurisdictions (Pinellas County, Florida, Clark County, Nevada and Philadelphia, Pennsylvania) that were funded as part of the *Keeping Kids in School* initiative. There will be one representative (juvenile court judge, program coordinator and deputy commissioner from a local police department) from each jurisdiction who will present background information of their site and the interventions implemented. Each jurisdiction will provide real-world experience for building a collaborative team, challenges and successes, and initial outcomes to their current initiatives. The presentation will allow time for discussion with the audience about the successes and challenges of school-justice partnerships and how to best start this work.

Sectors addressed: *Education, Juvenile Justice*



WORKSHOP STRAND #4

WORKSHOP A

Location: Salon D/E

Promising Practices in Promoting Attendance: Collaborative Teams Make the Difference

Presented by: *Fairfax County Public Schools and Fairfax County Government (Virginia)*

Workshop Summary: Over the past year, Fairfax County, Virginia, has developed a strategic action plan to address chronic absenteeism across the 188,000 student school district. This presentation will focus on the process used to engage stakeholders from across the community and across sectors and get their commitment to addressing the issue. Overviews of the collective impact framework that guided the process and the best practices already in use in certain schools will provide a foundation for the development of the plan. The presenters will highlight different approaches to working with policy makers, school staff, community groups, and other key stakeholders. Workshop participants will have the opportunity to develop an outline for a process of implementing a collective impact approach to attendance in their own communities.

Sectors addressed: *Education, Health and Human Services, Business, Nonprofit, Early Care and Education, Family and Advocacy Organizations*

WORKSHOP B

Location: Salon C

Developing an Infrastructure to Address Absenteeism Among Children with Chronic Health Conditions: Missouri's Journey

Presented by: *Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America- St. Louis Chapter, Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services, and the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education*

Workshop Summary: The presentation will describe how Missouri stakeholders worked together to pass and implement legislation to improve management of chronic health conditions in the school setting, an underlying cause of unnecessary absences. Implementation requires coordinated strategies that use data, policy change, and professional development. Enhancing the role of the school nurse as care coordinator and parent/family collaborator is a foundational component of Missouri's work. The presentation will include Missouri's efforts to make stock rescue medications available in schools for students with asthma and examples of successes and barriers from work with targeted school districts.

Sectors addressed: *Education, Health, Nonprofit*



WORKSHOP C

Location: Pentagon 1

Community Schools: An Infrastructure to Reduce Chronic Absence

Presented by: *Family League of Baltimore City*

Workshop Summary: A community school is a place and set of strategic partnerships among a school and other community resources that promote student achievement. Participants will be given a brief overview of the Baltimore Community School model and how it has helped to reduced chronic absence. Participants will not only receive an overview of the model and its impact, but local leaders will talk specifically about implementation. In addition, participants will hear from three Community School Coordinators who will share specific strategies used to improve chronic absence at their schools.

Sectors addressed: *Education, Early Learning, Nonprofit, Intermediaries*

WORKSHOP D

Location: Madison

Pre-K: The Starting Line for Positive Attendance Patterns

Presented by:

Melissa Dahlin, Research Associate, Center on Enhancing Early Learning Outcomes (CEELO)

Jana Martella, Co-Project Director, CEELO

Danielle Ewen, Senior Policy Analyst, EducationCounsel

Michael Kratz, Research Associate, Urban Institute

Gina Adams, Senior Fellow, Urban Institute

Opening remarks: *Steven Hicks, Senior Policy Advisor, US Department of Education, Office of Early Learning, Office of Elementary and Secondary Education*

Workshop Summary: How can we support consistent attendance patterns from the start? Participation in pre-K is voluntary, yet attendance in a quality pre-K program is essential for strong school readiness skills. It also sets the tone for attendance patterns that persist in subsequent grades. This session will discuss root causes for absenteeism in pre-K and strategies to address them from a cross-sector state and local perspective, including the transition from pre-K to Kindergarten. Speakers will share findings and insights from a study that examined pre-K absenteeism in DC. Attendees will be engaged in exercises to support reflection and action.

Sectors addressed: *Education, Early learning*



WORKSHOP E

Location: Monroe

Using Data and Cross Organizational Collaboration to Decrease Chronic Absenteeism

Presented by: *Diplomas Now: Johns Hopkins Talent Development Secondary, City Year, and Communities in Schools*

Workshop Summary: Attending school regularly is critical to students' success. This workshop will focus on the cyclical routines that can be built into an early warning system's practice to plan, assess, and inform attendance interventions. Diplomas Now teams from a middle and a high school who have consistently improved student attendance rates will share their habits of practice. Participants will work with mock student-level attendance data, and in small groups discuss trends and develop a tiered response.

Sectors addressed: *Education, Nonprofit, Social Work, Policy*

WORKSHOP F

Location: Van Buren

A Community-Based Approach to Improving Student Attendance

Presented by: *Long Beach Unified School District (Dr. Erin M. Simon- Director of Student Support Services); City of Long Beach (Nikki Amick, MSW- Community Program Specialist); Student Support Services Solutions (Jennifer Gomeztrejo-Consultant)*

Workshop Summary: Truancy and chronic absenteeism are complex issues that have a wide-reaching impact on students, their families, school districts and communities as a whole. Long Beach is utilizing a community-based, collaborative approach to provide intensive guidance and coordinated community services to meet the needs of students with persistent school attendance problems. The Long Beach Unified School District has partnered with the City of Long Beach, the City Prosecutor's Office, Long Beach Police Department, Los Angeles County Probation Department, community-based organizations, and the faith-based community to launch a year-round attendance campaign designed to increase awareness about the nexus between school attendance and educational outcomes. Based on truancy and chronic absenteeism data as well as local crime data, one elementary school and three middle schools were identified for targeted intervention as well as additional school and community-based resources. This workshop will provide an overview of Long Beach's innovative approaches to combat chronic absenteeism.

Sectors addressed: *Education, Health, Justice, Early Learning, Nonprofit, Local Police Departments and Faith-based Organizations*

WORKSHOP G

Location: Pentagon 2

Equipping Families to Play Powerful Roles in their Children's Success

Presented by: *Flamboyant Foundation*

Workshop Summary: The workshop will include an interactive panel discussion, orienting the audience to the family engagement work that DCPS has been leading in Washington, D.C. in partnership with families and the Flamboyant Foundation. The audience will have the opportunity to learn about a recent Johns



Hopkins University study linking family engagement work with improved student attendance and academics; to understand DCPS' family engagement strategy; and to hear perspectives from a parent, teacher, principal, and district leader, who have actively engaged in deepening educator, family, and student relationships and success.

Sectors addressed: *Education*

WORKSHOP H

Location: Wilson

Connecticut: Every Student In School & Engaged! Building State-level Infrastructures and District-level Capacity to Improve Attendance

Presented by: *Connecticut State Department of Education*

Workshop Summary: Learn from Connecticut's team about the key elements for building a state-level infrastructure to reduce chronic absenteeism including:

- Educating and informing at the state and local level;
- Building and leveraging a longitudinal student level data system that addresses chronic absenteeism data;
- Soliciting and deploying state-level champions from all branches of government (executive, legislative, and judicial), partnering with statewide community based/cross-sector organizations and engaging Attendance Works;
- Supporting district-level infrastructures to build local capacity; and
- Showcasing "bright spots" of demonstrated success.

By implementing these strategies, Connecticut is moving the needle and seeing reductions in chronic absenteeism at the state and local levels. Upon completion of this workshop, participants will be positioned to customize and/or replicate strategies to improve statewide attendance efforts.

Sectors addressed: *Education, Health, Housing, Social services, Child protective services, Higher education, Juvenile justice, Early learning, Non-profit, Elected officials, Economic development, State budget office*

WORKSHOP I

Location: Harrison

Trauma-Informed Schools: Helping Students Learn and Develop

Presented by: *CAPT Maryann Robinson, PhD, RN is Branch Chief for the Emergency Mental Health and Traumatic Stress Services Branch of the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration's Center for Mental Health Services at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services*

Workshop Summary: Exposure to traumatic events is unfortunately frequent for children in our nation, with over two thirds experiencing at least one significant trauma by the age of 16. And many children



experience multiple types of trauma over extended periods of time. The impact of trauma is a significant contributor to reduced capacity to learn, and to be engaged in positive social activities. This session will assist educators and school administrators in understanding the role of trauma and its effect on children and learning. This presentation will provide information to identify:

1. How trauma and violence impact student performance and attendance.
2. Approaches that can be considered to recognize and address trauma in the school setting.
3. Federal efforts that are supporting the development of trauma-informed schools, including the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration's (SAMHSA) National Child Traumatic Stress Initiative grant program.

Sectors addressed: *Education, Health, Behavioral Health, social services*

WORKSHOP J

Location: Jackson

ED School Climate Surveys & School Climate Improvement Package Workshop with a Focus on Measuring and Addressing Cultural and Linguistic Competence in the Learning Environment

Presented by: *National Center on Safe Supportive Learning Environments & American Institutes for Research*

Workshop Summary: In March 2016, the U.S. Department of Education released the open-source [ED School Climate Surveys](#) and a [Quick Guide on Making School Climate Improvements](#) that will enable states, local school districts, and individual schools to collect and act on reliable, nationally-validated school climate data in real-time. These new free and locally-adaptable resources will support educators, administrators, and school system leaders to understand and create environments where every child can be successful. This presentation will include an overview of the surveys and quick guide as well as a moderated discussion about how these resources can improve the measurement and improvement of cultural and linguistic competence within learning environments.

Sectors addressed: *Education, Physical and Mental Health, Juvenile Justice*

WORKSHOP K

Location: Crystal Ballroom

A Deep Dive into Implementing Success Mentors to Support Chronically Absent Students

Presented by: *U.S. Department of Education*

Workshop Summary: As a part of the *Every Student, Every Day* initiative, the U.S. Department of Education and the MBK Task Force launched the MBK Success Mentors Initiative, the nation's first-ever effort to scale an evidence-based mentor model to reach and support our highest-risk students, using existing resources already linked to our schools to reduce chronic absenteeism and drive success in school and in life for our youth. This presentation will include practical guidance on how any local school district can reliably implement the Success Mentor Model to help support chronically absent students succeed in school and in life.

Sectors addressed: Education, Health, Housing, Justice, Mentoring