



## Oakland Literacy Coalition General Meeting Recap October 21, 2015

### Meeting Materials:

All meeting materials, including the agenda, OLC and Oakland Reads 2020 presentation slides and the slides from the Oakland Fund For Children & Youth and OUSD guest presentations are available on the OLC website: <http://tinyurl.com/oct21meeting>

### Oakland Literacy Coalition Strategy Presentation & Discussion

Since 2008, the OLC has been bringing together Oakland's literacy service providers and supporters to learn, collaborate, and seek greater coordinated impact together. Our mission is to increase the capacity of literacy providers to improve early learning outcomes in order to ensure that all Oakland children are reading proficiently by the end of third grade.

During the October 2015 General Meeting we took some time to reflect on the work we've undertaken together as a coalition and chart a path forward that builds on strengths and opportunities within the network and community. Follow the link ( ) to download the presentation slides. In response to member input and guidance, the charge for the coalition going forward will be to provide:

- Robust continuous learning opportunities
- Member directed collaboration and partnership
- Community centered campaigns and advocacy

The diagram below outlines the full set of OLC activities and more detailed descriptions and plans for future work follow in the sections below.



## OLC Activities:

### Continuous Learning

The literacy coalition organizes professional development and peer learning opportunities to connect members with experts and best practices and harness expertise within the network. The OLC currently provides professional development opportunities for literacy program staff and volunteers through its General Meetings, the Literacy Trainers Peer Learning Community, and the Volunteer Training Series.

Based on member feedback, the OLC is planning three new learning programs, outlined below. Participants at last week's meeting shared input to further inform program objectives, audiences, and implementation.

### Proposed Activities



### Speaker Series

Host talks with field and community experts and thought leaders while engaging broader audiences to learn and think critically about how our community supports literacy. Themes from the feedback at the October meeting on the Speaker Series include:

- The effects of childhood trauma
- Evidence-based literacy practices
- Social justice and community needs
- Can help the OLC reach new audiences, including teachers and families

### OUSD Dialogues

Facilitate conversations with OUSD leaders and leaders of literacy service providers to support two-way learning and identify opportunities for deeper alignment and coordination. Key issues for discussion identified at the meeting include:

- Data sharing
- Family engagement
- School site coordination
- Supporting teachers

### Peer Learning Roundtables

Convene staff in similar roles across different organizations (e.g. volunteer coordinators, site managers) for roundtable conversations to share resources, problem solve together, identify areas of shared interest and further learning. Themes from the feedback at the October meeting include:

- Opportunity to tackle common/shared problems
- Increase alignment and sharing of best practices
- Peers can include program location (East vs. West Oakland), program time of year, and job description

**Next Steps:** The OLC is hosting a Coro Fellow for six-weeks starting in November to develop an implementation plan for the OLC's continuous learning programs in 2016, building on feedback that members have provided to-date. The Coro Fellow will also be convening a committee of OLC members to support with more in-depth planning for the speaker series to ensure that it is relevant,

accessible, and engages new audiences. Please follow this link (<http://tinyurl.com/olcsignup>) to let us know if you would be interested in joining the committee to help plan the speaker series and we'll follow up with more details!

## Information Hub

The OLC provides the following tools to share relevant information within the network and across the community:

- **Maps** of third grade reading achievement and preschool, elementary schools, and community centers served by OLC member organizations ([www.oaklandliteracycoalition.org/member-directory/maps](http://www.oaklandliteracycoalition.org/member-directory/maps))
- **Member Directory** of participating member organizations ([www.oaklandliteracycoalition.org/partners/profiles](http://www.oaklandliteracycoalition.org/partners/profiles))
- **Volunteer Opportunities Guide** searchable by the students served, volunteer times, and required commitment ([www.oaklandliteracycoalition.org/volunteer/opportunities](http://www.oaklandliteracycoalition.org/volunteer/opportunities))
- **Community Voices Blog** to shine a light on bright spots in the efforts to support literacy across our city ([www.oaklandreads.org/blog](http://www.oaklandreads.org/blog))
- **Latest & Greatest from the OLC Email Newsletters** - please share the link with others in your organization who would like to be added to the listserv ([www.tfaforms.com/384428](http://www.tfaforms.com/384428))
- **Oakland Literacy Coalition** website ([www.oaklandliteracycoalition.org](http://www.oaklandliteracycoalition.org))
- **Oakland Reads 2020** website ([www.oaklandreads.org](http://www.oaklandreads.org))

**Next Steps:** Please review your organization's information on the maps, member directory, and volunteer guide and contact Christina Johnson at [christina@oaklandliteracycoalition.org](mailto:christina@oaklandliteracycoalition.org) if you would like to add or modify your organization's information.

## Coalition Building

Through coalition building, the OLC seeks to support strong partnerships and facilitate alignment and coordination of literacy services. We do this through:

- Facilitating networking opportunities
- Broadening the membership of the coalition, with a particular focus on further engaging community-based and parent-focused organizations
- Representing the shared interests and goals of coalition members externally
- Serving as a go-between for OLC members and larger systems and agencies

**Next Steps:** The OLC is launching a Networking Committee to bring back the Happy Hours and come up with creative activities to help spark new conversations and connections at OLC meetings. A great opportunity for a line staff or volunteer coordinator interested in getting more involved with the OLC! Please follow this link (<http://tinyurl.com/olcsignup>) to sign up!

## Oakland Reads 2020:

### Awareness Building & Advocacy | Community Engagement & Support

To build awareness of the importance of early literacy, rally the community, and connect children and family with resources, the Oakland Literacy Coalition spearheads the Oakland Reads 2020 third grade reading campaign.



Following the Annual Network Convening in July, participants were asked to complete a survey about Oakland Reads 2020 and our primary activities. At the October OLC meeting, staff shared results from the participant survey and feedback regarding the

campaign strengths and priorities. Taking the learning from this feedback and subsequent outreach and research, Oakland Reads 2020 has honed its strategy to focus on a campaign-oriented approach.

Our primary focus is to “inform, engage, and connect” our communities around early literacy. By focusing our efforts in these three areas, Oakland Reads 2020 will capitalize on its greatest strengths by building a deeper community awareness and engagement campaign, and focus our resources on the areas we are most effective.

We are hopeful having seen the Oakland landscape grow to include many exciting cross sector tables focused on early learning and Oakland Reads pillar areas, including school readiness and summer learning. Although still imbued with the principles of collective impact, our work is pivoting away from the role as a backbone organization to focus instead on our deepest areas of impact for Oakland Reads 2020 and the Literacy Coalition. The campaign will continue to convene and connect stakeholders while we work with other existing collaboratives to ensure a sustained and widespread focus on third grade reading in our community.

## New Ways to Get Involved in the OLC!

### Speaker Series Committee

The OLC is designing a Speaker Series to connect members with best practices in the field and engage with new audiences and stakeholders in the community. Starting next week, the coalition will be working with a Coro Fellow to create an implementation plan for the Speaker Series and several other exciting new continuous learning programs that the coalition is designing in response to member feedback and interest. The Coro Fellow will also be convening a committee of coalition members to support with the design and outreach for the Speaker Series. Follow this link (<http://tinyurl.com/olcsignup>) to sign up.

### Networking Committee

Are you interested in improving and expanding networking opportunities at OLC meetings or in other informal spaces? We invite you to join the Networking Committee to help bring back the coalition Happy Hours and design activities to spark new conversations and connections at coalition convenings. This committee will have a limited commitment but a big impact by building excitement about gatherings and creativity to our meetings and interactions. A great opportunity for a line staff or volunteer coordinator interested in getting more involved with the OLC! Follow this link (<http://tinyurl.com/olcsignup>) to sign up.

### Literacy Trainers Peer Learning Community (PLC)

The Literacy Trainers PLC provides peer learning and professional development opportunities for staff from literacy organizations who train volunteers, staff, or AmeriCorps members on literacy instruction techniques and practices or whose organizations have a formal literacy training/capacity building component to their programming. In addition to presentations from outside speakers, members may be asked to share challenges faced in their work to troubleshoot with peers.

Unlike the OLC General Meetings, this is a continuous learning opportunity where topics may span more than one meeting, therefore group members are asked to commit to regular attendance to build strong collaboration. Members will determine frequency of meetings for the coming year. Past meetings were held roughly once per quarter.

If you are interested in participating, please follow the link below. Existing members are kindly asked to complete this form to ensure we have accurate information for all participants. Follow the link (<http://tinyurl.com/olctrainers>) to sign up!

## Guest Presentations at the October OLC Meeting

### OFCY New Strategic Plan and Grant Cycle

The Oakland Fund for Children and Youth (OFCY) has adopted a new, three-year strategic plan. Mike Wetzel, OFCY Program Planner, joined us on the 21st to present an overview of the new plan and highlight various strategies well positioned to support literacy. Please visit the OLC website (<http://tinyurl.com/oct21meeting>) to download the presentation slides in anticipation of the Request for Proposals, planned for release in mid-November. To learn more, visit [www.ofcy.org](http://www.ofcy.org).

### Balanced Literacy in OUSD Elementary Schools

To support all Oakland Unified School District (OUSD) students to become independent readers and writers, the district has adopted a Balanced Approach to Literacy. This approach weaves together various instructional components, including direct instruction, guided and independent practice, and formative assessment.

Julie Bennett, OUSD's K-5 Language and Literacy Coordinator, and Nancy Lai, OUSD's TK-12 Language and Literacy Manager joined us last meeting to share an update on the curricula and assessments that the district has adopted as part of its Balanced Approach to Literacy. Julie can be reached at [julia.bennett@ousd.k12.ca.us](mailto:julia.bennett@ousd.k12.ca.us) and Nancy can be reached at [nancy.lai@ousd.k12.ca.us](mailto:nancy.lai@ousd.k12.ca.us).

For more information please follow the links below:

- Presentation slides with information about curricula and assessments can be downloaded from the OLC website: <http://tinyurl.com/oct21meeting>
- OUSD's Balanced Approach to Literacy website where you can find the implementation guide and sign up for newsletter updates: <http://tinyurl.com/OUSDBallit>