



Community Schools Fundamentals Conference 2012 December 5-6, 2012

National Center for Community Schools
The Interchurch Center | 475 Riverside Drive, New York City

Agenda At A Glance

Wednesday, December 5

7:30 - 9:00 AM	Registration & Breakfast	<i>Sockman Lounge</i>
9:00 - 9:15 AM	Opening	<i>Chapel</i>
9:15 - 10:45 AM	Plenary Presentation – Community Schools: A Strategy, Not a Program	<i>Chapel</i>
10:45 - 11:00 AM	Transition Break	
11:00 AM - 12:30 PM	Concurrent Workshops I – Comprehensiveness	<i>Breakout Rooms</i>
12:30 - 1:30 PM	Lunch & Networking	
1:45 - 3:15 PM	Concurrent Workshops II – Collaboration	<i>Breakout Rooms</i>
3:15 - 3:30 PM	Transition Break	
3:30 - 5:00 PM	Concurrent Workshops III – Coherence	<i>Breakout Rooms</i>
5:15 - 6:15 PM	Book Signing (Optional)	<i>Suite 1220</i>

Thursday, December 6

8:00 - 8:45 AM	Breakfast & Networking	<i>TIC Café</i>
9:00 - 9:15 AM	Opening	<i>Chapel</i>
9:15 - 9:45 AM	Plenary Presentation – The Community Schools Movement	<i>Chapel</i>
9:45 - 10:00 AM	Transition Break	
10:00 - 11:30 AM	Concurrent Workshops IV – Commitment	<i>Breakout Rooms</i>
11:30 - 11:45 AM	Transition Break	
11:45 AM - 1:00 PM	Strategic Action Planning	<i>Breakout Rooms</i>
1:00 - 2:00 PM	Lunch & Networking	
2:15 - 5:00 PM	Visits to Children’s Aid Society Community Schools	<i>Chapel</i>
6:00 - 7:30 PM	Closing Reception	<i>Sockman Lounge</i>





Full Conference Agenda

Wednesday, December 5

7:30 - 9:00 AM **Registration & Breakfast**

9:00 - 9:15 AM **Opening**
Chapel

Welcome

Richard R. Buery, Jr. *President and Chief Executive Officer, The Children's Aid Society*

Introductions & Conference Overview

Jane Quinn, *Vice President, The Children's Aid Society and Director, National Center for Community Schools*

9:15 - 10:45 AM **Plenary Presentation – Community Schools: A Strategy, Not a Program**

Presenters:

- ◆ Jane Quinn, *National Center for Community Schools*
- ◆ Abe Fernández, *Deputy Director, National Center for Community Schools*

10:45 - 11:00 AM **Transition Break**

11:00 AM - 12:30 PM **Concurrent Workshops I – Comprehensiveness**

Comprehensiveness refers to a community school's responsiveness to a wide spectrum of identified needs by marshalling a broad complement of partnership resources. Choose from among the following:

Room AB Creating a Positive School Climate

The workshop will provide relevant research on how school climate is assessed and key dimensions and indicators to include while using a "whole school" lens. Participants will complete a Climate Assessment Tool and will have an opportunity for interactive dialogue and strategy development around addressing challenges with school climate at individual sites. The workshop will assist participants in the development of action steps focused on creating a positive school climate with all stakeholders.

Presenters:

- ◆ Sarah Jonas, *Director of Regional Initiatives, National Center for Community Schools*
- ◆ Lukas Weinstein, *Consultant, National Center for Community Schools*

Room CD Healthy Bodies, Healthy Minds: A Wellness Approach

In this session, participants will learn strategies for developing coordinated school health programs where the primary goal is to fulfill the health and academic needs of students in the education environment. Participants will have the opportunity to review best practices from the field and identify the structures necessary to support a comprehensive, coordinated health and wellness program.

Presenter:

- ◆ Janice Chu-Zhu, *Senior Director of National Capacity Building, National Center for Community Schools*

Robing Room **Educating the Whole Child**

By taking a comprehensive and integrated approach, community schools have opportunities to address all of children's developmental needs--cognitive, social, emotional, physical and moral. This workshop will use a risk-and-opportunity framework to help participants consider how their community school can respond to the strengths and needs of the "whole child."

Presenter:

- ◆ Jane Quinn, *National Center for Community Schools*

Sockman Lounge **Conducting a Comprehensive Needs Assessment**

A needs assessment is a systematic process used to understand and create a profile of a community school's needs that will inform and drive decision-making. This session will guide participants through an eight-step methodology that results in meaningful, actionable information and that has proven to be useful for both shaping planning priorities and motivating site-based governance teams. Participants will additionally have opportunities to practice their data analysis skills and will walk away with a toolkit of resources.

Presenter:

- ◆ Abe Fernández, *National Center for Community Schools*

12:30 - 1:30 PM

Lunch & Networking

1:45 - 3:15 PM

Concurrent Workshops II – Collaboration

Collaborative community schools leverage the structured and meaningful engagement of multiple stakeholders, including educators, parents, students, funders, community residents, service providers and policymakers. Choose from among the following:

Room AB **Effective School-CBO (Community Based Organization) Partnerships**

Explore effective strategies and potential challenges involved with creating collaborations that support learning and strengthen partnership between all stakeholders. Use a variety of tools to assess the state of your partnership and how to deepen the level of partnership. Incorporate the concept of developmental needs of children and youth and relate it to the programs provided by CBOs.

Presenters:

- ◆ Sarah Jonas, *National Center for Community Schools*
- ◆ Christopher Anest, *Assistant Principal, PS 5 - Ellen Lurie School*

Room CD **Family Engagement**

The workshop will cover the why's and the how's of strengthening parent involvement. The "why" of parent involvement draws from both research and practice, and the segment on what parents need to know will provide relevant information on how parenting changes as children mature. The workshop includes information on how parent involvement is done successfully, referencing Harvard University's best practices. In addition to opportunities to network, dialogue and design parent activities, all participants will work on an action plan to take home and implement with their own program.

Presenters:

- ◆ Janice Chu-Zhu, *National Center for Community Schools*
- ◆ Lukas Weinstein, *National Center for Community Schools*

Chapel **Community Schools Collaboration across Jurisdictions**

More and more, community schools initiatives are engaging a vast array of partners and actors from across many jurisdictions. Cities, counties, school districts and many other entities are learning the importance of aligning their resources, using community schools as a vehicle for supporting their missions. In this workshop, participants will explore ways to engage these partners in community schools partnerships, identify key components for collaboration involving multiple jurisdictions and walk away with key messages and strategies toward deepening the community school collaboration.

Presenter:

- ◆ Todd Diskin, *Technical Assistance Coordinator, Schools Uniting Neighborhoods (SUN) Service System*

Sockman Lounge **Engaging the Community**

Without true community engagement, a community school can just be brick and mortar. In this session, participants will learn about the transformative process that happens in Cincinnati to make their community schools a thriving hub in each different neighborhood. From this experience, the presenter will help the participants look at their own communities and apply these strategies to their own work.

Presenter:

- ◆ Annie Bogenschutz, *Director of Training & Development, Community Learning Center Institute*

3:15 - 3:30 PM

Transition Break

3:30 - 5:00 PM

Concurrent Workshops III – Coherence

Coherence is characterized by an intentional integration and alignment of programs, services and opportunities to achieve outcomes beyond the reach of any one entity. Choose from among the following:

Room AB Integrated Learning: A Framework for Coordinating Student Supports

In this workshop, participants will explore how community schools can use an Integrated Learning approach to align school and non-school supports to meet the needs of the whole child. Key to this approach is having strong linkages between school and non-school programs and services. Participants will hear examples of how community schools have established these linkages and gain strategies for strengthening Integrated Learning within their own community schools.

Presenter:

- ◆ Sarah Jonas, *National Center for Community Schools*

Room CD The Roles of Lead Agencies and Community School Coordinators

Participants will explore the role of a lead agency partner in a community school; review the model and philosophy and discuss how it is shaped by the new realities we face in our schools on a daily basis. An experienced Community School Coordinator will share her story from Cincinnati. Finally, this session will provide a skill-building opportunity to apply new information and ideas.

Presenters:

- ◆ Janice Chu-Zhu, *National Center for Community Schools*
- ◆ Annie Bogenschutz, *Community Learning Center Institute*

Chapel Addressing Chronic Absence in Schools

Chronic absence – when students miss 10% of school for any reason – has emerged as a critical leading indicator that schools and communities should track and address. Following a review of recent national research, we will discuss the root causes and impact of chronic absence and explore key strategies schools can employ to assess their attendance patterns and organize their resources to meet students' and families' needs. In addition to reviewing successful practices from around the country, the ground-breaking work in New York City will be highlighted.

Presenters:

- ◆ Abe Fernández, *National Center for Community Schools*
- ◆ Lukas Weinstein, *National Center for Community Schools*

Sockman Lounge

The Importance of Principal Leadership in Creating Coherence

Designed by a veteran principal for principals and other interested participants, this workshop will share strategies for intentionally aligning their community school vision with initiatives undertaken by the school and its partners in support of Whole Child Education. Participants will examine coherence in relation to the following elements within their own settings: programs, services, practices, climate, leadership and accountability. Participants will then be engaged in applying what they have learned by examining coherence in their own settings and developing the next steps for improving the alignment, coordination, and integration of the elements discussed.

Presenter:

- ◆ Dr. Eileen Santiago, *Consultant and Retired Principal, Thomas A. Edison Elementary School*

5:15 - 6:15 PM

Suite 1220

Book Signing

Conference participants are invited to attend this optional session where they can meet the authors.

Whole Child, Whole School: Applying Theory to Practice in a Community School

by Eileen Santiago, JoAnne Ferrara & Jane Quinn (Rowman & Littlefield, 2012)

This new book provides a unique examination of the ways in which educating the whole child in the community school serves to ameliorate the conditions of poverty and obstacles to learning faced by students. Using a case study approach, the book highlights the successful journey of one school that transformed itself into a community school. The strategies outlined in this book will provide suggestions for using the resources of community partnerships as a framework for school renewal and improvements in student achievement.

Thursday, December 6

8:00 - 8:45 AM
TIC Café

Breakfast & Networking

9:00 - 9:15 AM
Chapel

Opening

Overview of Day Two

Janice Chu-Zhu, *National Center for Community Schools*

Hersilia Méndez, *Director of External Affairs & Communications, National Center for Community Schools*

9:15 - 9:45 AM

Plenary Presentation

Introduction

Sarah Jonas, *National Center for Community Schools*

The Community Schools Movement

Kwesi Rollins, *Director of Leadership Programs, Institute for Educational Leadership*

9:45 - 10:00 AM

Transition Break

10:00 - 11:30 AM

Concurrent Workshops IV – Commitment

Beyond merely identifying sources of funding, the Commitment capacity comprises visioning, communications, evaluation and other sustainability planning activities that are employed from the start. Choose from among the following:

Room AB

Sustainability Planning Overview

It's never too early to start thinking about sustainability of your community school initiative. This workshop is organized around the notion that sustainability is more than (but definitely includes) fundraising, and it will introduce participants to The Finance Project's eight-element sustainability planning framework. Participants will have an opportunity to begin assessing their initiative's sustainability readiness.

Presenters:

- ◆ Jane Quinn, *National Center for Community Schools*
- ◆ Todd Diskin, *SUN Service System*

Room CD

Building Public Will and Broad Community Support

When developing a community school it would be exhausting and impossible to have one individual or group implement and support the strategy alone. It is necessary to build public will and community support to make the initiative successful. In this session, participants will learn how to do this and understand the lasting benefits to creating this infrastructure.

Presenter:

- ◆ Annie Bogenschutz, *Community Learning Center Institute*

Chapel

Results Orientation: Developing a Theory of Change

More and more community school initiatives are looking for ways to build their partnerships, clarify and commit to roles, identify clear results and evaluate targets that make sense. This workshop gives a brief overview of an approach for planning, partnership-building, evaluation and on-going learning, known as "Theory of Change" (ToC). We will describe what a ToC is, its major features and components, what a ToC looks like for a community school and how it can be used.

Presenters:

- ◆ Dr. Heléne Clark, *Founder and Director, ActKnowledge*
- ◆ Sarah Jonas, *National Center for Community Schools*

Sockman Lounge

Developing Systems of Community Schools

A growing number of initiatives around the country are leveraging the community school strategy to create large-scale change – entire neighborhoods, school districts, cities and counties have moved beyond creating one or two school-community partnerships and instead have developed *systems* of community schools to accomplish a broad set of goals. This session will explore the components of such a system and discuss systemic change as a developmental process that requires a set of essential elements. Several examples from the field will be cited.

Presenters:

- ◆ Abe Fernández, *National Center for Community Schools*
- ◆ Katherine Eckstein, *Director of Public Policy, The Children’s Aid Society*

11:30 - 11:45 AM

Transition Break

11:45 AM - 1:00 PM

Strategic Action Planning

Breakout Rooms

Working in teams, participants will be led through a strategic planning process that incorporates the concepts learned during the conference and includes a self-assessment tool.

1:00 - 2:00 PM

Lunch & Networking

2:15 - 5:00 PM

Visits to Children’s Aid Society Community Schools

Chapel

In addition to touring the schools, participants will have opportunities for discussion with members of the community school team, including Community School Directors and Principals.

Organizer:

- ◆ Hersilia Méndez, *National Center for Community Schools*
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6:00 - 7:30 PM

Closing Reception

Sockman Lounge
