

CITY OF OAKLAND

FILED
OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK
OAKLAND

AGENDA REPORT

2011 MAR 10 PM 1:32

TO: Office of the City Administrator
ATTN: Dan Lindheim
FROM: Department of Human Services
DATE: March 22, 2011

RE: An **Informational Report on Plans for Improvement Provided by the Oakland Fund for Children and Youth Concerning Three After School Programs – Aspiranet’s East Oakland Pride Program, the Ujimaa Foundation’s Program at Burckhalter Elementary, and the East Bay Asian Center for Youth at Manzanita Community School**

SUMMARY

The Oakland After School Program Evaluation 2009-10 was received by the Life Enrichment Committee in January, 2011. The final evaluation findings report funded by both the Oakland Unified School District (OUSD) and the Oakland Fund for Children and Youth (OFCY) identified three programs as not meeting expectations in the quality assessment of last year’s programs. The quality assessments included in the final evaluation were completed in spring 2010 at the end of the program year. The process for addressing these findings commenced last year.

- Last year, OFCY and OUSD identified programs in need of improvement plans.
- Last summer, OUSD provided planning and training for site leadership including site coordinators, principals, and academic liaison and other key site staff. OUSD required after school site leadership attendance in their August training institute – Introductory Training in the Youth Program Quality Assessment Tool and Quality Standards.
- At the beginning of this after school program year, OUSD After School Office identified and commenced additional professional development, training, and coaching support for the programs needing plans for improvement at the beginning of the year.
- Over the past months, these organizations have worked to implement safety changes, received staff trainings, and integrated ongoing coaching in their programs, and added engagement tools, strategies and better curriculum to improve the quality of their programs.

Additional information on the three after school programs identified as below expectations from last year’s quality assessment results is provided in this report.

Aspiranet East Oakland Pride After School Program

The Aspiranet East Oakland Pride program received lower ratings on the quality assessment in the areas of meaningful learning opportunities, academic support, and to some extent physical and emotional safety. This school experienced several lockdowns this school year.

Item: _____
Life Enrichment Committee
March 22, 2011

The program implemented the improvement plan actions to address the safety of the environment and emotional safety of the children with the following:

- staff training and implementation of emergency/crisis procedures
- training in use of crisis aftermath circles and work with the school psychologist

To address improvements in student engagement and academic support and learning opportunities the program provided the following:

- The program is using high school students for tutoring and mentoring.
- The academic liaison is working with staff and students to encourage peer tutoring and cooperative learning methods, such as work with 3rd, 4th, 5th graders to enhance group learning and homework time and using 2nd grade reading buddies for kindergarten.
- use of tools to address youth engagement including the use of rubrics, providing more choices, and tools for self reflection
- implemented trimester structure to vary programming
- monthly trainings for line staff by academic liaison to better align with grade level standards and methods to increase student self reflection
- use of the Math Facts curriculum

As a result of changes implemented and support provided by OUSD, this program is performing well based on this year's quality assessment.

East Bay Asian Youth Center– Manzanita Community

This program received lower scores in the area of engagement and meaningful learning opportunities on last year's program quality assessment. Professional development training in the fall and curriculum development have been the focus of improvement efforts:

- OUSD provided the 2 day **Building Intentional Communities** training.
- Consultant coach provides one on one training to help staff work with students on inclusion and engagement.
- A full day Youth Work Methods Training for staff on how to work with youth individually was provided by OUSD as part of the Youth Program Quality Assessment (YPQA system).
- OUSD provided revised curriculum and is adding kid friendly training in math and English learning assistance.

This program is performing well based on this year's quality assessment conducted in the fall.

Ujimaa Foundation– New Lead Agency at Burckhalter Elementary

The after school program at Burckhalter Elementary School was previously provided by the organization Learning for Life. The after school program under the new agency has scored very high in the area of safe environment, supportive environment, and interaction with youth. As a new agency, the program received feedback and coaching from OUSD early in the year to identify coaching support needed and address areas of concern. As a result of this prioritization, the program developed an improvement plan in early October.

The elements in the improvement plan have been implemented and addressed:

- The organization made a necessary staffing change to address youth engagement.
- Academic Liaison has conducted 2 observations and provides feedback regularly through staff meetings.
- Coaching and staff development strategies implemented include video-taping after school teachers and program activities for use in self and team assessment.
- The program completed a 2 day Building Intentional Learning Community training and training on teaching diversity in the classroom.
- The program restructured academic time to be more engaging for children.

This year's program under the Ujima Foundation is performing well in the area of providing a safe well supportive environment and in youth's interactions. The program is working on improving quality in the areas of youth's engagement and academic climate.

BACKGROUND

At its meeting of January 11, 2011, the Life Enrichment Committee scheduled a standing monthly discussion item for future Committee meetings to receive updated information on the status of the program improvement plans for three Oakland Fund for Children and Youth after school sites.

KEY ISSUES

All three programs identified as low performing last year have shown significant progress based on findings from this year's early quality assessment by OFCY's after school evaluator. For the after school programs, the two quality assessment site visits are performed early in the school year and again by March/April.

Both OUSD and OFCY staff resources are appropriately targeted to program impacts and issues identified by this year's quality assessment site visits and other means over the course of the year. Programs identified as in need of support early in the year benefit from prioritization and plans for improvement developed with OUSD. The coaching, professional development and training provided by the OUSD After School Office with foundation support is implemented to support ownership by program leadership for quality improvement.

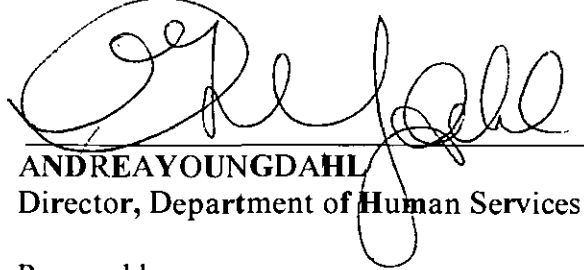
OUSD's training institute "Building Intentional Communities", funded by the Bechtel Jr. Foundation, is designed to enhance the supportive environment and the quality of interaction and engagement for youth in the after school programs. Elements of this training support professional development to counter bullying and redirect youth's behavior, and address inclusion, diversity, and youth engagement. Secondly, the Wayne T. Foundation funded the Weikart Center to pilot a system of quality improvement based on their Youth Program Quality Assessment Tool for 15 OUSD/OFCY after school sites. The workshops in the pilot program address key areas of quality and were made available to the other after school programs in most need of staff development and training as identified by OUSD. Finally, the Soda Foundation's ASK Fellows project is supporting a peer learning environment to advance best practices for the Oakland After School providers.

The Planning and Oversight Committee of OFCY will receive a mid-year report on the quality assessment findings and service and participation results in April, with the report to be forwarded to the Life Enrichment Committee in May.

ACTION REQUESTED BY COUNCIL

This is an informational report. No action is requested.

Respectfully submitted,



ANDREAYOUNGDAHL
Director, Department of Human Services

Prepared by:
Sandra Taylor, Manager
Children and Youth Services

APPROVED AND FORWARDED TO
THE LIFE ENRICHMENT COMMITTEE:



Office of the City Administrator