

Making Summer Meals Work: Creative Partnerships & Effective Management

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Director, California Summer Meal Coalition

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Agenda

- **Patrice Chamberlain,**
California Summer Meal Coalition
- **Michelle Drake**
Elk Grove USD
- **Rodney Taylor**
Riverside USD
- **Eva Mitnik**
Los Angeles Public Library





Why does summer matter?

- Increasing need for free/reduced-price (FRP) lunch during the school year – need continues in summer
 - Only 17% of students getting FRP during school year are participating in a USDA summer nutrition program—we’re missing 2.1 million kids!
 - 54% of NSLP-participating families find it harder to make ends meet in summer.

(Source: California Food Policy Advocates, 2013; Share Our Strength, 2013)

- Food insecurity associated with developmental, cognitive, behavioral and physical issues

Making the Connection

- Supports obesity prevention efforts
 - Kids gain weight 2-3x faster in summer
 - Ignoring summer lessens impact of school-year nutrition education efforts
- Supports academic success
 - Low-income kids experience greater loss in academic skills over the summer



Community connections

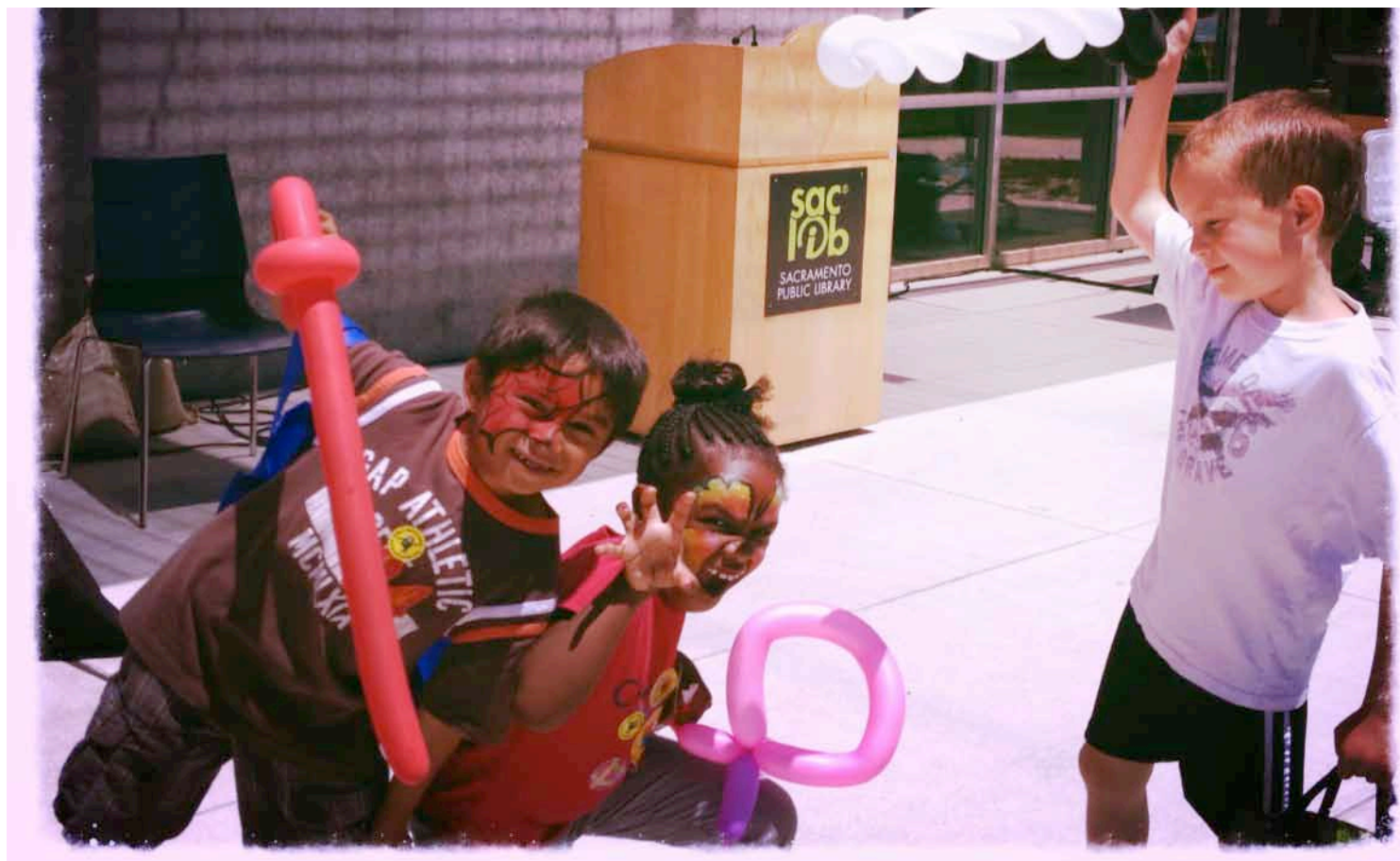
- Summer offers greater flexibility to establish community connections
 - Libraries
 - Churches/faith-based orgs
 - Food banks
 - City depts. & leaders
 - Public health /CNAP groups
 - Military
 - Local businesses
 - Media
 - More!



Summer 2013

- **USDA Makes California a Priority**
 - Five states
 - Increased outreach efforts
 - Dialogue with providers, state, about needs, opportunities, challenges
- **California Summer Meal Coalition partners with California Library Association**
 - Libraries in Sacramento, San Diego, Los Angeles, Fresno, Oakland
 - Win! Meals, learning, volunteerism





Time to re-envision what summer can be.

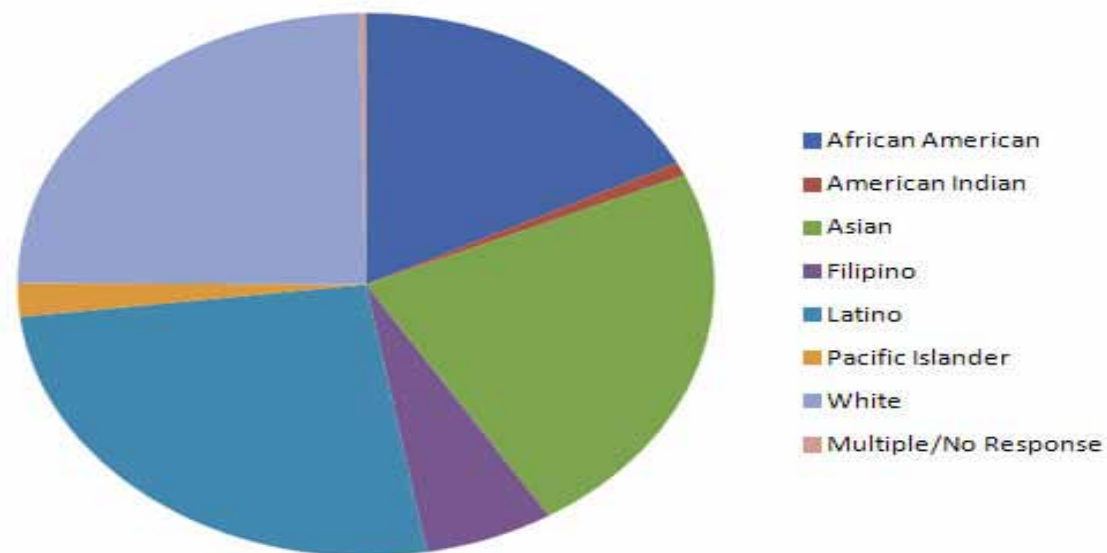
www.summermealcoalition.org

Michelle Drake,
Director, Child Nutrition
Elk Grove USD



Elk Grove Unified - Summer Meals

- Who are we?
 - 5th largest school district in California
 - 62,000 students
 - Very Diverse Population



Elk Grove Unified - Summer Meals

- Who are we?
 - 62 School Sites
 - 39 Elementary Schools
 - 9 Middle Schools
 - 9 High Schools
 - 5 Alternative Schools
 - 54% Eligible for Free & Reduced Meals





Elk Grove Unified - Summer Meals

- What we do.....
 - Provide numerous programs
 - Breakfast & lunch at all sites
 - Served 1.9 million breakfasts & 5.9 million lunches (12-13)
 - Snack & Supper
 - Served 225,00 snacks & 504,000 suppers (12-13)
 - Food Processing Center
 - Bakery, Hot Foods, Cold Foods, Packaging, Warehousing



Elk Grove Unified - Summer Meals

- Why Summer Meals....
 - History
 - Summer Schools under NSLP



- Budget Cuts
- Need

Elk Grove Unified - Summer Meals

- Why Summer Meals....
 - Summer Meals – Our 1st Year
 - Started Small
 - Used School Bus
 - Delivered meals to 3 local parks
 - Meals
 - Cold – Prepackaged
 - End of June – Mid August
 - Served 7,231



Elk Grove Unified - Summer Meals

- Why Summer Meals....
- Summer Meals – Our 2nd Year
 - Built Partnerships
 - Library (Summer Meal Coalition)
 - Local Parks & Recreation Departments
 - Local Churches
 - Continued at the Parks



Elk Grove Unified - Summer Meals

- Why Summer Meals....
- Summer Meals – Our 2nd Year
 - Changed the Mode of Delivery



Elk Grove Unified - Summer Meals

- Why Summer Meals....
- Summer Meals – Our 2nd Year
 - Focus on the Marketing
 - Kid Friendly Kick-off Event





Elk Grove Unified - Summer Meals

- Why Summer Meals....
- Summer Meals – Our 2nd Year
 - Focus on the Food
 - Cold – Prepackaged
 - Added Salads
 - Results
 - Beginning of June – Mid August
 - Served 16,630 meals



Summer Lunch @ Los Angeles Public Library



Eva Mitnick

Director of
Children's Services





CALIFORNIA
SUMMER MEAL
COALITION

David and Lucile Packard Foundation

LOS ANGELES
PUBLIC LIBRARY



LOS ANGELES REGIONAL

F  **OD**
B  **NK**

The logo for the Los Angeles Regional Food Bank features the word "FOOD" in yellow and "BANK" in green. The letter "O" in "FOOD" is replaced by a yellow bowl held by two white hands. The letter "A" in "BANK" is replaced by a green vertical bar.

Fighting Hunger. Giving Hope.



Summer Lunch @ LAPL



Central Library



Pacoima Branch



Why the Library?

- Location
- Family-friendly
- Summer Reading Program
- Resources for families





Feed minds as well as bodies!

- Research spanning 100 years shows that children experience learning loss when they do not engage in educational activities during the summer.
- The supply of low-cost summer programs in California is extremely limited ([National Summer Learning Association, 2009](#)).
- Budget cuts have had a devastating effect on public school summer programs (NSLA, 2009).
- The summer achievement gap affects low-income children disproportionately. Low-income youth are less likely to graduate from high school or enter college ([Alexander et al., 2007](#)).

Lunch @ the Library-Great for Families

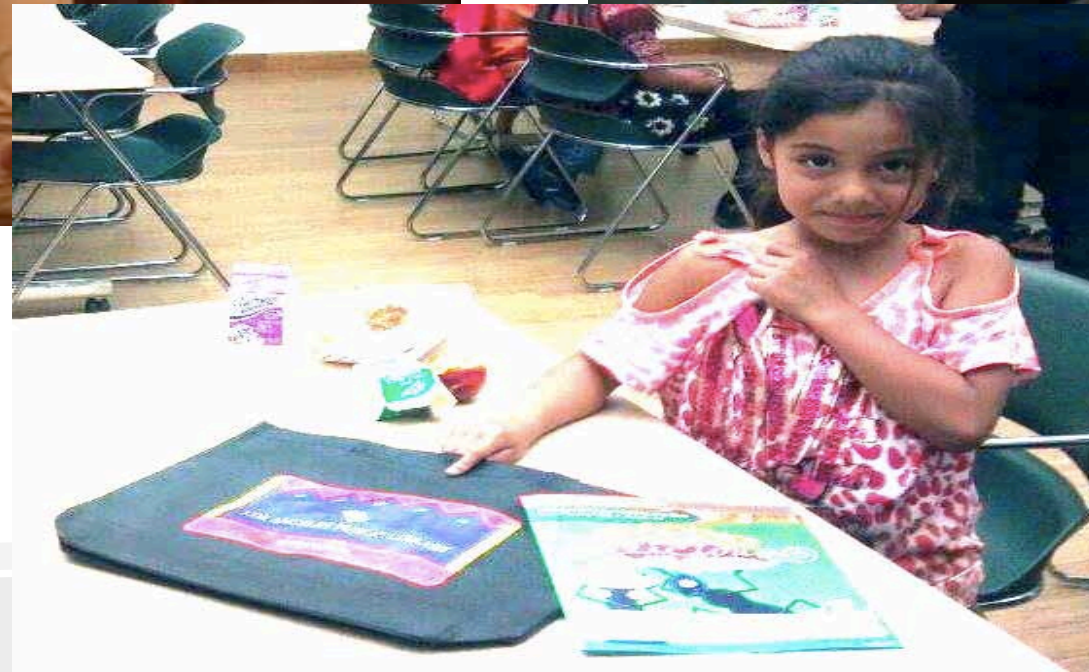
- 2,741 meals served
- 355 youth in Summer Reading Program



They know us and like us!

- 320 completed surveys:
 - 88% know they can read books at the library; 61% know they can get homework help; 71% know they can learn to read better
 - Kids and teens reported feeling happy (82%), safe (68%) and relaxed (69%)







Parents with the means invest more time and money than ever before in their children while lower-income families, which are now more likely to be headed by a single parent, are increasingly stretched for time and resources.³

LOW-INCOME YOUTH LACK OPTIONS IN THE SUMMER, and sometimes come to the library because it's air conditioned.⁴



FOR EVERY ONE LINE OF PRINT READ BY LOW-INCOME CHILDREN, MIDDLE-INCOME CHILDREN READ THREE.⁵

What Happens to Children DURING THE SUMMER?



During the summer months, disadvantaged children tread water at best or even fall behind. It's what we call

"SUMMER SLIDE"

while better off children build their skills steadily over the summer months.



SUMMER LEARNING LOSS

accounts for about two-thirds of the ninth grade achievement gap in reading.⁷

How Summer Learning Can Help CLOSE the Achievement Gap.

SUMMER LEARNING PROGRAMS TARGETED TO LOW-INCOME STUDENTS

can help close the achievement gap that has been attributed, at least in part, to cumulative learning loss during the summers and that has been shown to be steeper for low-income students than for others.



Longitudinal studies indicate that **the effects of summer learning programs endure for at least two years after participation.**⁶

Great for LA Public Library!

- Staff - invigorated despite difficulties
- Volunteers - 17 teens and 2 adults volunteered 479 hours
- Administration and Foundation – ready for Year 2



Plans for 2014

- More locations
- Streamlined procedures
 - Training; staffing
- More focus on the non-meal stuff
 - Summer Reading Program
 - Collaborative learning activities
 - Information for parents



Thanks!





For more information

- US Dept. of Agriculture
Summerfood.usda.gov
- CA Department of Education
cde.ca.gov/ls/nu/sf/
- CA Summer Meal Coalition
summermealcoalition.org
- Food Research & Action Center
Frac.org

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