

# Open Door Collective Quarterly Newsletter

## September 2020

### Membership and Communications Committee

We put this banner on [the ODC website](#):

The Open Door Collective stands against police murder, brutality, and unjustifiable suspicion of Black Americans and other Americans of color, and against the systemic racism that contributes in profound and multifaceted ways to poverty.

We also created an ODC webinar series. The first one, *Addressing Health Disparities: What Health Practitioners and Adult Educators Can Do Together*, held on August 4th, was a great success. The next one, *Greening U.S. Adult Basic Skills Efforts: What Eco-partners and Adult Educators Can Do Together*, was held on September 24<sup>th</sup>. Archives of both are available. For further information contact [Paul Jurmo](#).

### Issues Groups and Task Forces

#### Criminal Justice Reform Issues Group

CJR members are putting the finishing touches on a third brief, which makes the case that foundational skills education is a fundamental right for incarcerated and reentering adults. The brief offers information on education and recidivism, variability and standards in correctional programming, and the range of correctional programming in education. The intended audience for the brief is adult educators, those serving adult learners in the criminal justice system, librarians, and related stakeholders. The brief recommends multiple solutions, drawn from the research literature, in support of foundational skills education as a fundamental right for incarcerated adults and as an important asset to the communities in which re- entering adults live and seek work. The brief was submitted for ODC steering committee review in September.

#### Labor and Workforce Development Issues Group

LWD members have – like the rest of our field – adjusted to the realities of our current era. Members are working in local and national adult basic education programs, writing articles for adult education journals, and advocating for new adult education funding and policies. LWD members have also worked with other ODC groups to organize the first webinars offered by ODC. The first was held during the COABE virtual conference on June 29th, focusing on the topic of how adult education programs can work with supporters of environmental sustainability. The second, on August 4th in collaboration with ODC's Health and ABE Issues Group, discussed how adult educators can collaborate with public health programs. On September 24th, we offered an updated version of the June 29th “environmental partnerships” webinar. To learn more about ODC and its environment-related resource materials, please [click here](#).

For further information, contact LWDI Group Chair, [Paul Jurmo](#).

## **Immigrant and Refugee Education and Integration Issues Group**

The Immigrant and Refugee Education and Integration Issues group has two new members. We're reflecting and considering what work we can do in support of ODC's broader mission and purposes, and also invite input from the broader ODC community.

## **Evidence-Based Adult Education System Task Force**

The E-BAES taskforce met on September 3rd and recapped the late July publication of the pandemic report, [COVID-19 Rapid Response Report from the Field](#) that ProLiteracy, the E-BAES taskforce, and the EdTech Center @ World Education compiled. The report includes information gathered and compiled to describe adult education's response to the pandemic. The taskforce is considering a potential second phase of the pandemic information gathering. An important issue is being able to identify what has gone well and what has not gone well as adult education programs have planned for and started the current academic year.

The taskforce also discussed the history of funding for adult education research and of current potential funding opportunities that taskforce members know about. For future

planning efforts, a small short-term committee will begin reviewing the previous work toward identifying a research agenda, as well as the extensive feedback from stakeholders last fall, with the charge to make recommendations on a proposed research agenda to the full taskforce at a later date.

## Older Adults Issues Group

The Older Adults Issues Group met several times over the summer and is working to complete two main tasks this fall. The first is a brief graphic resource page highlighting key themes overlapping literacy and impacts on older adults: technology, health, and community. We hope to pair this resource with a series of related social media posts to drive interest to the Open Door Collective website. The second is a survey we hope to send to a sampling of adult educators to gain a snapshot of the needs of older adults in the adult literacy space during the current pandemic climate. Contact Melanie at [melanie@litworks.org](mailto:melanie@litworks.org) or Becky at [beckydeforest@gmail.com](mailto:beckydeforest@gmail.com) if you would like to join this group.

## Health and ABE Issues Group

Representatives of the Health and ABE Issues Group joined in presenting the ODC sponsored July webinar entitled ***Addressing Health Disparities: What Health Partners and Adult Educators Can Do Together***. A subcommittee of our group is currently working on preparing a proposal for the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation focused on digital health literacy.



A national program of **Literacy Minnesota**

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