



Welfare Peer Technical Assistance Network
**IMPROVING OUTCOMES FOR
TANF CHILD ONLY CASES**



NASHVILLE, TN
APRIL 26-27, 2005

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Morning activities will be held in conjunction with the Mayor's Youth Summit in the Nashville Convention Center #206. At noon, we will move to #110-111 for the remainder of our Welfare Peer TA event.

10:30 – 11:45 AM

An Overview of the TANF Child Only Caseload

Gerri Robinson, Executive Director, Metropolitan Social Services (moderator)

A National Perspective

Deborah Gibbs, Research Triangle Institute

Jeanette Hercik, Ph.D., Welfare Peer TA Network

This session will provide an overview of the TANF child only caseload on the national scale. Research conducted on the specific needs and challenges of this caseload will be discussed. Innovative programs and lessons learned from research in the field will be included.

The Child Only Caseload in Tennessee

Stacia Couch, University of Tennessee

During this session, participants will gain a more thorough understanding of how national trends manifest themselves in Tennessee. Specific caseload and demographic data will be shared as a foundation for improving the service delivery to child only TANF cases.

After the panelists complete their presentations, participants will have the opportunity to ask questions.

11:45– 12:00 PM

Charge to the Community

Bill Purcell, Mayor, Metropolitan Government of Nashville and Davidson County

Gerri Robinson, Executive Director, Metropolitan Social Services

12:00 – 12:45 PM

Registration and Welcome to Welfare Peer TA Roundtable

Gerri Robinson, Executive Director, Metropolitan Social Services

Jon Margolis, Administration for Children and Families, Region IV

John Horejsi, Federal Project Officer, Welfare Peer TA Network

After participants pick up Roundtable registration materials outside of Suite 110-111, Ms. Robinson will welcome participants to Nashville, and then the Federal representatives will provide a brief overview of the Welfare Peer TA Network and the goals for the Roundtable.

12:45 – 1:45 PM

A View from the Frontlines – Grandparenting + Advocacy

Roni Spaulding, Community Programs Manager, Adult Services/Community Programs Division, El Paso County Department of Human Services
Diana Wills, Grandparent Advocate, El Paso County Department of Human Services

John Horejsi, Federal Project Officer, Welfare Peer TA Network (moderator)

Ms. Spaulding will set the context of the El Paso County program and then introduce the keynote speaker, Ms. Wills. Ms. Wills will provide insightful comments regarding her role as Grandparent Advocate for grandparents who are the primary caregivers for their grandchildren, as well as share first-hand knowledge of the challenges and the rewards of being the primary caregiver of her grandchildren.

1:45 – 2:00 PM

Break

2:00 – 2:15 PM

State and Local Perspectives

Paul Lefkowitz, Tennessee Department of Human Services

Renee Pratt, Davidson County Department of Human Services

Gerri Robinson, Executive Director, Metropolitan Social Services (moderator)

This panel will provide the overall context for Tennessee's and Davidson County/Nashville's focus on the Child Only TANF Caseload and the potential opportunities for working together to address the needs of these children and families.

2:15 – 3:00 PM

The Importance of an Integrated Approach to the Child Only Caseload

Deborah Gibbs, Research Triangle Institute, North Carolina

Melinda Lis, University of Illinois, Chicago

Leslie Cohen, University of Illinois, Urbana

Pam Sylakowski, Metropolitan Social Services (moderator)

Ms. Gibbs will build off the research presented in the morning session to specifically highlight the integrated service needs of children in TANF child-only cases with relative caregivers. Following this presentation, Ms. Lis and Ms. Cohen will showcase the Illinois Extended Family Support Program, emphasizing the collaborations that have occurred to create holistic services for this caseload.

2:45 – 3:00 PM

Break

3:00 – 4:30 PM

Setting the Context: The Child Only Caseload in Davidson County

Gerri Robinson, Executive Director, Metropolitan Social Services

Renee Pratt, Davidson County Department of Human Services

Following opening remarks from Ms. Robinson and Ms. Pratt, this highly interactive facilitated discussion will encourage local stakeholders to respond to the information presented during the day, and to articulate the challenges they face in improving services to local TANF child only caseloads. This session will afford all participants a chance to articulate the aspects of programs that are currently workable in Nashville and those that would be challenged by current programmatic and policy constraints or other factors.

APRIL 27, 2005

8:00 – 9:00 AM

Understanding Impacts on Children & Caregivers: An Overview of Research and Practice in Tennessee

Don Bruce, Ph.D., University of Tennessee

Susan Brooks, J.D. Vanderbilt University

Pam Sylakowski, Metropolitan Social Services (moderator)

Dr. Bruce will expand upon the Ms. Couch's presentation from Day I regarding the status of welfare children in the State of Tennessee. Specifically he will look at key findings around financial supports and child well-being. Following Dr. Bruce, Ms. Brooks will present an overview of current Tennessee policies and practices around the legal options for relative caregivers.

9:00 – 10:00 AM

The El Paso County Experience—System of Care for Dependent Children

Roni Spaulding, Community Programs Manager, Adult Services/Community

Programs Division, El Paso County Department of Human Services

John Horejsi, Federal Project Officer, Welfare Peer TA Network (moderator)

El Paso County, Colorado (Colorado Springs) is widely recognized for their success in serving the TANF child only caseload. Ms. Spaulding will describe the policy development path taken by the County, the strategies used to build partnerships and enhance services, and present available impact data of their TANF services.

10:00 – 10:15 AM

Break

10:15 – 11:00 AM

The Importance of Caregiver Well-Being

Stephanie Bailey, M.D., Director, Metropolitan Health Department

Gerri Robinson, Executive Director, Metropolitan Social Services (moderator)

Dr. Bailey will focus on the importance of caregiver well-being, particularly addressing their physical health needs, emphasizing common health conditions impacting older caregivers such as diabetes, hypertension and obesity. She will discuss the significance of managing emotional stress particularly due to parenting for the second time around.

11:00 – 12:45 PM

Action Planning

Gerri Robinson, Executive Director, Metropolitan Social Services (facilitator)

This session will introduce the Action Planning activities and provide time for participants to review materials and prepare responses. Participants will have a chance to ask clarifying questions and will receive materials to guide their thinking for the Action Planning exercises.

Participants will break into working groups to address the action items deemed most critical by the group. Teams will be provided action planning tools to support and facilitate their discussions. These tools will ask participants to capture their current strengths, challenges, opportunities, and resources -- both available and needed -- on the given topic. Participants will also be asked to commit to timelines and to serve as team member leads on specific goals.

12:45 – 1:00 PM

Break

1:00 – 2:15 PM

Action Planning Updates

Jeanette Hercik, Ph.D., Welfare Peer TA Network (facilitator)

During this final action planning session, participants will provide the larger group with a brief overview of the plans formulated within each smaller working group. This serves three purposes: 1) to share the information with the group of stakeholders; 2) to secure additional project team members, as appropriate, and; 3) to allow the working group recommendations to benefit from the collective wisdom of the larger stakeholder group. Representatives from both the Illinois and Colorado programs will reflect on the proposed plans and next steps.

2:15 – 2:30 PM

Closing Remarks

Marc Hill, Office of the Mayor

Gerri Robinson, Executive Director, Metropolitan Social Services

John Horejsi, Federal Project Officer, Welfare Peer TA Network