



Agenda

2014 Region IX State & Territory TANF Technical Assistance Meeting

Tuesday, September 16, 2014

8:30 a.m.—9:00 a.m. Registration and Networking

9:00 a.m.—9:30 a.m. Welcome and Introductions

Julie Fong, TANF Regional Program Manager, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Office of Family Assistance-Region IX

Robert E. Garcia, Regional Administrator, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Region IX

Mary Roberto, Senior Program Manager, ICF International

9:30 a.m.—9:45 a.m. Meeting Overview and Schedule

Mary Roberto, Senior Program Manager, ICF International

9:45 a.m.—10:15 a.m. Policy and Program Updates Discussion with OFA Leadership

This session will be an opportunity for State Commissioners and Secretaries to engage in an interactive dialogue with leadership from Administration for Children and Families (ACF), Office of Family Assistance (OFA), about national and State issues of significance related to the TANF program and Administration priorities for promoting economic and family stability. Some discussion points include:

- *TANF Reauthorization*
- *Technical Assistance and OFA Initiatives: Policy Academy; HPOG Grants; TA Workgroups; EBT Regulations; Executive Functioning; Career Pathways*
- *WIOA and the relationship to TANF*
- *Overview of State MOE, TANF Expenditures, and the ACF-196 R*
- *Other Questions and Concerns*

Susan Golonka, Acting Director, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Office of Family Assistance

10:15 a.m.—10:30 a.m. BREAK

10:30 a.m.—12:30 p.m. Current Developments and Challenges in Region IX Jurisdictions

Representatives from each TANF jurisdiction will update their peers on the current status of their respective program(s), including information around their program priorities, issues, concerns, legislative and budget impacts, etc.

12:30 p.m.—1:30 p.m.

Working Lunch – Strategies and Resolutions

During this brainstorming session, state and territory TANF representatives will have an opportunity to share information, strategies, and approaches for addressing, resolving, and preventing challenges, barriers, and major issues.

1:30 p.m.—3:15 p.m.

TANF and Family Homelessness: Strategies and Models for Improving Resources and Supports for Homeless Families

Housing stability is essential to the economic and social well-being of families and to their quality of life, but individuals and families participating in the TANF program often face multiple barriers to achieving housing stability. Although the TANF program is not specifically developed to improve housing stability, leveraging TANF funds and partnerships with other public and private programs are useful strategies for strengthening housing stability and economic well-being for TANF participants and other low-income families. During this workshop, attendees will explore the housing challenges facing TANF participants, and will learn strategies for integrating program components designed to address family homelessness and increase economic stability.

Kirk Tyler, Program Manager - Family Services, Weingart Center for the Homeless

Lori Hunley, WorkFirst Supervisor Spokane, Washington State Department of Health and Social Services

3:15 p.m.—3:30 p.m.

BREAK

3:30 p.m.—4:45 p.m.

Executive Functioning: What's TANF Got to Do With It?

There is emerging understanding of the impact that poverty and interrelated stress have on decision-making, interpersonal relationships, and economic and financial independence. Various stresses have a tremendous impact on the cognitive development of individuals living in poverty and this situational stress causes a reduction in executive functioning and soft skill capacity, both for adults and children. Many clients served by TANF programs have issues with goal setting, goal attainment, problem solving, and other key skills that are vital to navigating their way to economic independence. This session explores the importance of focusing on issues related to executive functioning and soft skills and provides practical resources for TANF programs to integrate service components that improve outcomes for individuals and their families.

Judy Parks, Vice President of Mobility Mentoring Programs and Services, Crittenton Women's Union

4:45 p.m.—5:00 p.m.

Check-in and Review of the Day

Mary Roberto, Senior Program Manager, ICF International

5:00 p.m.

Adjourn



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2014 Region IX State & Territory TANF Technical Assistance Meeting

Wednesday, September 17, 2014

9:00 a.m.—9:15 a.m.

Check-in and Overview of Day's Scheduled Agenda

Mary Roberto, Senior Program Manager, ICF International

9:15 a.m.—10:45 a.m.

Engaging TANF Clients: Comprehensive Strategies and Approaches to Successfully Engaging and Working with TANF Clients to Achieve Successful Outcomes

To better serve TANF clients, this session will focus on effective strategies and approaches to client engagement that increase successful outcomes. This session will cover strategies for initial engagement; approaches to assess and address challenges; identifying potential program "hot spots", and methods to encourage on-going client contact. As an integral role in client success, this session will also cover topics related to maintaining staff competency and nurturing a culture of staff "buy-in."

Jodie Sue Kelly, Co-Founder, Cygnet Associates

10:45 a.m.—11:00 a.m.

BREAK

11:00 a.m.—12:15 p.m.

Engaging TANF Clients: Comprehensive Strategies and Approaches to Successfully Engaging and Working with TANF Clients to Achieve Successful Outcomes: CONTINUED

As a continuation from the previous session, Jodie Sue Kelly will focus primarily on the practical strategies and approaches for client engagement and will allow time for participants to learn practical approaches and strategies for one another.

Jodie Sue Kelly, Co-Founder, Cygnet Associates

12:15 p.m.—1:30 p.m.

LUNCH ON OWN

1:30 p.m.—2:45 p.m.

The Data Intersection Between Medicaid, SNAP, and TANF: Potential Opportunities/Approaches to Aligning Data and Data Management Systems for Eligibility Reporting and Determination

The Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (ACA) and other federal legislation impacting TANF, childcare, Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), child support, and child welfare are requiring changes to data management and encouraging the development of interoperable computer systems across healthcare and human services programs. During this session, a representative from the State of Utah will share their approach and lessons learned from the roll out of their integrated eligibility system.

Kevin Burt, Associate Director, Utah Department of Workforce Services, Eligibility Services Division

2:45 p.m.—3:00 p.m.

BREAK

3:00 p.m.—3:45 p.m.

Overview of Workforce Investment Opportunity Act Reform of 2014 and the Potential Intersection with TANF

Passed by Congress with a wide bipartisan majority and signed into law by President Obama on July 22, 2014, WIOA is the first legislative reform of the public workforce system in more than 15 years. WIOA is designed to help job seekers access employment, education, training, and support services to succeed in the labor market and to match employers with the skilled workers they need to compete in the global economy. This interactive session will feature information sharing on WIOA, a question and answer segment and an exploration of ways that ACF and Department of Labor (DOL) Regional Offices can work most effectively with states as regulations are developed and WIOA is implemented.

Virginia Hamilton, Regional Director, U.S. Department of Labor, Employment and Training Administration Region VI

Rosemary Cowan, Chief, Division of Workforce Investment, U.S. Department of Labor, Employment and Training Administration Region VI

Bryan Rogers, Director of State Systems, U.S. Department of Labor, Employment and Training Administration Region VI

Diane Walton, Acting Regional Monitor Advocate, U.S. Department of Labor, Employment and Training Administration Region VI

3:45 p.m.— 4:15 p.m.

Facilitated Discussion

During this open discussion, States and Territories will have the opportunity to dialogue with each other and Regional staff on topics including:

- *Follow-up and Feedback on Meeting Topics and Presentations*
- *Future Technical Assistance*
- *Potential Activities Inspired by Meeting*

4:15 p.m.—5:00 p.m.

Closing Discussion and Identification of Follow Up Actions and Items

5:00 p.m.

Adjourn