

Building a Path to Family Stability

1301 Young Street, Dallas, Texas

Please note: All sessions will take place in Room A954 of the Regional Office. **Government identification is needed to enter building.**

Tuesday, September 23, 2014

8:00 a.m. – 9:00 a.m. **Registration (Room A954)**

9:00 a.m. – 9:30 a.m. **Welcome**

Leon R. McCowan, Regional Administrator, Administration for Children and Families, Region VI

Marjorie Petty, Regional Director, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Region VI

Susan Golonka, Acting Director, Administration for Children and Families, Office of Family Assistance

Larry Brendel, TANF Regional Program Manager, Administration for Children and Families, Office of Family Assistance, Region VI

9:30 a.m. – 11:15 a.m. **State of the State Dialogue with ACF/OFA Leadership**

During this dialogue with ACF/OFA leadership, State Commissioners, Directors, and TANF Administrators will have opportunities to engage in discussions on issues of national, regional, and local significance to the TANF program and related to ACF priorities. Topics for discussion will include issues around TANF Restructuring and TANF Redesign. Attendees will have an opportunity to provide specific updates on local programs, policies, and practice changes within their TANF programs and seek and/or offer guidance and recommendations for improving program outcomes. Dr. Christopher King will provide an overview of toxic stress and dual-generation poverty, including an overview of a Dual-Generation Strategy initiative being implemented in Austin, Texas.

Facilitator: **Susan Golonka**, Acting Director, Administration for Children and Families, Office of Family Assistance

Presenter: **Dr. Christopher King**, Senior Research Scientist, Ray Marshall Center for the Study of Human Resources, University of Texas at Austin

11:15 a.m. – 12:15 p.m. **Lunch on Your Own**

12:15 p.m. – 1:15 p.m. **Forging a Path to Family Stability in a Changing Job Market**

Most families participating in the TANF program face barriers to employment and family stability. These barriers range from substance abuse to mental health and from domestic violence to housing stability. In addition, TANF and other low-income families are faced with a changing economic landscape. The Great Recession is now firmly in the rearview mirror, but job growth has been slow and uneven. All signs point to continued general job market expansion; but all industries, occupations, and skill sets are not growing at the same pace, nor are all educational credentials valued equally by the labor market. Employment is at the core of sustainable families, but jobs and earnings can be hard to come by in this uneven economic recovery. An increasing number of jobs require additional postsecondary education, certifications, or specific work experience. This session covers a broad array of the demographic, economic, and business factors that are influencing job creation, worker skill requirements, and job opportunities.

Facilitator: **Larry Brendel**, TANF Regional Program Manager, Administration for Children and Families, Office of Family Assistance, Region VI

Presenter: **Richard Froeschle**, Director of Labor Market and Career Information, Texas Workforce Commission

1:15 p.m. – 3:15 p.m.

Program Flexibility, Career Pathways, and Improving Employment Outcomes for TANF Participants

During this networking session, attendees will have the opportunity to engage ACF leadership, peers, and national experts in a discussion on utilizing existing program flexibilities and building and sustaining career pathways for TANF participants and other low-income individuals with the goal to improve employment outcomes. Also, with the passage of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA), our U.S. Department of Labor, Employment and Training (DOL/ETA) partners will share an overview of the WIOA and outline potential strategies for connecting with TANF programs to improve employment outcomes. Attendees will share updates on current policy and program changes and challenges.

Part I (1:15-2:30 p.m.)

Facilitator: **John Disque**, TANF Program Specialist, Administration for Children and Families, Office of Family Assistance, Region VI

Presenters: **Liz Schott**, Senior Fellow, Center on Budget and Policy Priorities

Sandy Elledge, TANF Programs Field Representative, Oklahoma Department of Human Services

Five Minute Break

Part II (2:35-3:15 p.m.)

Facilitator: **John Disque**, TANF Program Specialist, Administration for Children and Families, Office of Family Assistance, Region VI

Presenters: **Nicholas Lalpui**, Regional Administrator, U.S. Department of Labor, Employment and Training Administration, Region IV

Frank Stluka, Regional Director, Office of State Systems, U.S. Department of Labor, Employment and Training Administration, Region IV

3:15 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Break

3:30 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Improving Child and Family Outcomes by Improving Noncustodial Parent Employment

States and localities are looking to improve the economic stability among TANF families by providing increased employment opportunities for noncustodial parents. Many localities have implemented innovative strategies that are strengthening partnerships between TANF and other agencies, resulting in increased employment and improved economic stability for noncustodial parents and their families. During this session, attendees will be able to interact with State-level program representatives and national and local responsible fatherhood experts about key strategies for increasing noncustodial parent programming, developing partnerships with stakeholders, and more strategically meeting the various needs of TANF families.

Facilitator: **Reagan Miller**, Division Director, Workforce Development Division, Texas Workforce Commission

Presenters: **Mervil Johnson**, Workforce Collaboration Manager, FACT Project, Workforce Solutions for Tarrant County

Maurice Stevens, President, Career Development and Placement Strategies, Inc., Cuyahoga County, Ohio

Alyssa Puckett, Fatherhood Placement Specialist, Fatherhood Works Grant, Goodwill Central Texas, Austin, Texas

Wednesday, September 24, 2014

8:15 a.m. – 8:30 a.m.

Day One Reflections

Attendees will discuss key items from Day One and outline specific follow-up topics. The session will lay the foundation for increased sharing and topical targeting.

8:30 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.

Strengthening TANF Programs: A Panel Dialogue

During this session, national TANF and family stability experts will discuss the role of TANF in the overall safety net and in the lives of low-income families. Presenters will highlight strategies and resources for improving employment outcomes, TANF performance measures, and building pathways to family stability. This session will allow for a facilitated dialogue and also engage States on how to strengthen TANF programs and improve overall program performance.

Facilitator: Dr. Yvette Lamb, Principal, Family Self-Sufficiency, ICF International

Presenters: Dr. Michelle Derr, Senior Researcher, Mathematica Policy Research

Dr. Jeanette Hercik, Senior Vice President, Family Self-Sufficiency, ICF International

Liz Schott, Senior Fellow, Center on Budget and Policy Priorities

10:00 a.m. – 10:15 a.m.

Break

10:15 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

Moving Programs Towards Evidence-Based Practice, Session I

During this session, presenters will provide context for how States can follow a process in thinking about their program(s) and how to move along the evidence-based continuum. States will be interactively engaged in thinking how they can use logic models, asset mapping, and an evidence-informed framework to move their program along this spectrum. During OFA's Promising Pathways Initiative (2011-2012), Arkansas Career Pathways Initiative (CPI) implemented a number of evidence-informed practices to help strengthen its work. It has achieved significant success developing tiered educational and career pathway programs, but lacked the capacity to measure long-term impacts on State budgets. Through conference calls, site visits and off-site analyses, the Initiative has developed a Return-On-Investment (ROI) model that illustrated positive savings within a two to three year timeframe. This summer, the Initiative is preparing to conduct a randomized control trial of its work with foundation support. In July 2014, CPI's approach received national attention, as one of the approximate 30 programs and strategies highlighted in the White House's report on effective ways to implement job-driven training programs.

Facilitator: Dr. Jeanette Hercik, Senior Vice President, Family Self-Sufficiency, ICF International

Presenters: Dr. Yvette Lamb, Principal, Family Self-Sufficiency, ICF International

Dr. Karon Rosa, Program Director, Career Pathways Initiative, Arkansas Department of Higher Education

Franklin Holbrook, TANF Division Chief, Arkansas Department of Workforce Services

11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Lunch on Your Own

1:00 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.

Moving Programs Towards Evidence-Based Practice, Session II

During this session, participants will be guided through an interactive self-assessment process to identify how they can move their agencies towards becoming evidence-based programs. Using existing research and tools, this session will describe some promising practices around incorporating evidence-based research and strategies into programs. Highlights of additional research tools and initiatives that may support Region VI States' needs will also be shared.

Facilitator: **Larry Brendel**, TANF Regional Program Manager, Administration for Children and Families, Office of Family Assistance, Region VI

Presenter: **Dr. Michelle Derr**, Senior Researcher, Mathematica Policy Research

2:30 p.m. – 2:45 p.m.

Break

2:45 p.m. – 4:15 p.m.

Creating Strong Partnerships and Implementing Effective Programming/Services for Families Experiencing or at Risk of Homelessness

The increase in the number of entire families that are homeless or at immediate risk of becoming homeless has risen in the past few years, and the Interagency Council on Homelessness was charged by the President to develop strategies to end family homelessness by the Year 2020. Although the TANF program was not specifically developed to improve housing stability, TANF funds in conjunction with partnerships with other public and private programs can be useful strategies for strengthening housing stability and economic well-being for TANF participants and other low-income families. During this workshop, attendees will hear about what strategies have been developed and possible intersections of these strategies with TANF funded programs.

Facilitator: **Nora Gilligan**, Special Assistant to the Director, Administration for Children and Families, Office of Family Assistance

Presenters: **Lindsay Knotts**, Management and Program Analyst, U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness (USICH)

Dr. Sharon McDonald, Director for Families and Youth, National Alliance to End Homelessness

Winona Connor, Emergency Solutions Grant Program Manager, Louisiana Housing Corporation

Angela Walker, Vice President of Residential Services, The Family Place, Dallas, Texas

4:15 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

TANF Listening Session on Homelessness

During this special State/ACF listening session, State attendees will have the opportunity to dialogue with ACF leadership about using TANF funds to serve homeless families and families at risk of experiencing homelessness or housing insecurity. The results of a Region VI questionnaire will also be reviewed.

Facilitators: **Nora Gilligan**, Special Assistant to the Director, Office of Family Assistance, Administration for Children and Families

Larry McDowell, TANF Program Specialist, Administration for Children and Families, Office of Family Assistance, Region VI

Thursday, September 25, 2014

8:15 a.m. – 8:30 a.m.

Day Two Reflections

During this session, attendees will discuss key items from Day Two and outline specific follow-up topics. The session will lay the foundation for increased sharing and topical targeting.

8:30 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.

Working with Victims of Family Violence to Address Financial Literacy

The TANF program provides States with significant flexibility to assist survivors of domestic violence achieving greater levels of economic self-sufficiency and safety. States have developed innovative strategies to provide enhanced TANF-funded programs that identify and serve the needs of TANF participants impacted by domestic violence. During this discussion, attendees will learn about promising strategies for identifying and providing economic stability and safety services for TANF participants. Attendees will engage national experts and local programs in discussion on topics related to workforce development and asset-development for TANF families impacted by domestic violence, and will have an opportunity to engage in dialogue on a variety of topics relating to TANF and domestic violence.

Facilitator: **Carol Sedanko**, TANF Program Specialist, Administration for Children and Families, Office of Family Assistance, Region VI

Presenters: **Jan Langbein**, CEO, Shelter Ministries of Dallas

Kim Pentico, Economic Justice Specialist, Allstate Foundation Economic Empowerment for Domestic Violence Survivors Program and the National Network to End Domestic Violence

10:00 a.m. – 10:15 a.m.

Break

10:15 a.m. – 11:15 a.m.

Addressing the Needs of Rural TANF Participants: Challenges and Solutions

During this session, each State will have the opportunity to provide a brief overview of their key rural issues and barriers. An overview of the Rural Communities Initiative will be shared, and the resources on the OFA PeerTA Web site focusing on transportation, child care, domestic violence, and education and employment barriers will be reviewed.

Facilitator: **Louisa Jones**, Principal, Family Self-Sufficiency, ICF International

Presenters: **Loretta Robertson**, Policy Supervisor, Workforce Program Policy and Services to Dislocated Workers, Texas Workforce Commission

Linda Hughes, Program Director, Adult and Family Services, Oklahoma Department of Human Services

Marilyn Martinez, Director, Income Support Division, New Mexico Human Services Department

Kim Matherne, Program Director, Economic Stability Programs, Louisiana Department of Children & Family Services

Carla Morris, TANF Program Manager, Arkansas Department of Workforce Services

Agenda

11:15 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.

State Team Time and Discussion

During this independent team time, attendees will engage peers, experts, and ACF attendees on topics of interest while completing State and Regional “pathway activities,” leading to family stability. Teams will provide rapid report-outs on outcomes of the meeting and discuss next steps.

12:15 p.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Closing Remarks and Adjourn

Larry Brendel, TANF Regional Program Manager, Administration for Children and Families,
Office of Family Assistance, Region VI