

1:00 – 1:45 PM

Utilizing Technology to Serve Rural Populations: *Texas Distance Learning*
Theresa Wheatley, Utah Department of Workforce Services
Daylan Beamon, Business Access

This session will highlight how states with rural areas are serving clients through technology. Utah will moderate this session, and share knowledge on their technological system, and then Texas will share information on their program. The Business Access Program is an in-home learning retention project where computers are installed in the homes of clients who have become employed. The program provides education and job training programs via the Internet, which includes G.E.D. courses and job skills development programs. From their homes, clients can search for jobs, develop job skills, and even find certain home-based employment.

1:45 – 2:30 PM

Providing Informal Support: New Mexico GOLD Mentoring Program
Sondra Match, GOLD Mentoring Program

Utilizing a partnership with the New Mexico Aging and Long Term Care Department and the Department of Human Services, a mentoring program was developed with retirees and TANF clients in the same community. Mentors fill the gaps in caseworker service delivery and coach clients in such ways as relationship building, pre-employment preparation, job search, and navigating through the government benefit system.

2:30 – 2:45 PM

Break

2:45 – 3:30 PM

Mitigating Transportation Barriers: Vermont's Good News Garage
Michael Muzzy, Program Manager

This session will highlight how the Good News Garage and "Ready to Go" programs address barriers by providing cars and bus transport for TANF clients. The Good News Garage is a nonprofit organization that was founded in Vermont and has now adapted in other parts of the country. The organization solicits donated cars, refurbishes them, and for a nominal fee, provides the cars to TANF clients.

3:30 – 4:15 PM

Training Programs: Virginia Training Onsite Program
Aleta Spicer, OEI

Occupational Enterprises, Inc., (OEI) established workspaces at two local manufacturing plants where their clients receive on-the-job training and perform unpaid work under the supervision of the plan management. Clients who are successful workers are given priority for hiring at the plants.

4:15 – 4:30 PM

Day 1 Wrap-up & Day 2 Preview

Welfare Peer TA Network Staff

Lisa Washington-Thomas, Federal Project Officer, Welfare Peer TA Network

This session will conclude Day 1 and introduce the activities for Day 2. Action planning exercises will be introduced.

DAY TWO

9:00 – 9:30 AM

Day One Overview and Outlook for Day Two

Welfare Peer TA Network Staff

Lisa Washington-Thomas, Federal Project Officer, Welfare Peer TA Network

9:30 – 11:00 PM

State to State Dialogue

This time will allow the Participant States to connect with one another to ask questions and learn about promising practices, which were highlighted in the introductory sessions and panel discussions. This is time for informal dialogue and interactive Q & A. The purpose of this session is to encourage the formation of new partnerships and collaboration among participants.

11:00 – 12:45 PM

Action Planning

Participants will break into working groups by State to address the action items deemed most critical. 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.

12:45 PM

Closing Remarks & Evaluation

*Lisa Washington-Thomas, Federal Project Officer, Welfare Peer TA Network
Welfare Peer TA Network Staff*