



2013 ACF Region IX TANF Peer Collaboration and Technical Assistance Workshop

Tuesday, September 10, 2013

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

8:30 a.m.—8:45 a.m. Welcome and Introductions

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

8:45 a.m.—9:00 a.m. Regional Administrator Welcome

Robert “Bob” Garcia, Acting Regional Administrator, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families-Region IX

9:00 a.m.—10:15 a.m. TANF Policy and Priorities Dialogue

During this facilitated discussion, Region IX State and Territory representatives will engage with ACF Region IX and OFA leadership on key issues, including: the Affordable Care Act (ACA); work participation rate challenges; working with homeless families; improving engagement with non-custodial parents as a pathway to self-sufficiency; and other national and State-level policy developments that impact the effective administration of the TANF program.

Earl Johnson, Director, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Office of Family Assistance

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

10:15 a.m.—10:30 a.m. Break

10:30 a.m.—12:30 p.m. Developing and Sustaining Career Pathways for TANF Participants

Project HATSA: Guam rolled out Project HATSA (Helping Achieve TANF Success through Action) in January 2012 with a trades-focused career pathway. Now, HATSA is expanding into another career pathway highlighting healthcare. Through these programs, and successful strategic partnerships with employers, community colleges, and local workforce development organizations, Guam has been able to increase the employability and long-term economic outcomes for low-income families. During this peer discussion, representatives from Guam’s TANF program will discuss the components of its career pathways initiative and highlight the keys to success.

Christine San Nicolas, Social Service Supervisor, Guam Department of Public Health and Social Services, Work Programs Section

Community College Career & Technical Training: In June 2013, the Community College Career & Technical Training (C3T) Program launched its initial vocational (non-credit) courses in the field of energy. The C3T Program is a collaborative effort between University of Hawaii Community Colleges (UHCC), the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations, Workforce Development Division (DLIR/WDDI), and the Department of Human Services, Benefit, Employment and Support Services Division (DHS/BESSD) and it provides eligible individuals the necessary basic skills, vocational training, and career pathways that will lead to jobs in three fields—agriculture, energy and health.

*Catherine Scardino, Employment and Training Program Administrator,
Hawaii Department of Human Services, Benefit, Employment and Support
Services Division*

Reaching More Students through Linked Learning: Linked Learning is an innovative approach to education in California that integrates rigorous academics with career-based learning and real-world workplace experiences. It ignites students' passions by giving them meaningful learning experiences in industry-themed pathways in fields such as engineering, health care, performing arts, law, and more.

Research shows that Linked Learning students are less likely to dropout and more likely to graduate on time than their peers at traditional high schools. What's more, Linked Learning is helping to create students who are prepared to succeed in college, career, and life. By creating a workforce that is better equipped to succeed, Linked Learning makes California more competitive, benefitting the State's businesses, tax base, and economy.

*Robin Schmitt, Executive Director, Programs and Intervention, Antioch
Unified School District*

12:30 p.m.—2:00 p.m.

Current Developments in Region IX Jurisdictions (Working Lunch)

Each State and Territory in Region IX will provide brief updates regarding important priorities, issues, and concerns impacting their programs. Participants will also hear promising strategies for mitigating challenges from their peers.

2:00 p.m.—3:00 p.m.

TANF's Role in Ending Family Homelessness

Homelessness and housing instability can present a significant barrier to TANF participant families in their efforts to become self-sufficient. The U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness (USICH) has recently partnered with ACF to co-chair an interagency working group to identify ways in which Federal resources including TANF can serve as a critical resource to end family homelessness. Katharine Gale, policy director at USICH, will present on her agency's role in coordinating the effort to end homelessness and then lead a discussion on how TANF agencies can integrate services to address the needs of families at risk of or experiencing homelessness.

*Katharine Gale, Policy Director, United States Interagency Council
on Homelessness*

3:00 p.m.—3:45 p.m.

Strategies for Improving the Operation of the TANF Program

Asset Limit Reform: Recognizing the need to help Hawaii's families build a solid asset base and achieve financial security, during the 2008 Hawaii State Legislature, the Hawaii State Asset Building and Financial Education Task Force was established to develop policy recommendations in the area of asset building and financial literacy. Recommendations from this task force and a further study completed by the Hawaii Department of Human Services in January 2013 recommended the exemption of assets for the TANF program. Governor Neal Abercrombie signed the bill sponsored by the Department into law on April 18, 2013.

Lorie Young, Acting Financial Assistance Program Administrator, Hawaii Department of Human Services

Business Process Reengineering: As part of an effort to streamline operations in its local eligibility offices, Nevada has recently undertaken a Business Process Reengineering project. The project is currently in its pilot phase in one of Nevada's eight large offices. Marybeth Burroughs and Lori Wilson will first give a brief overview of Business Process Reengineering before discussing how and why the State decided to move in this direction. They will also provide information about the goals and intended outcomes of the project.

Marybeth Burroughs, Social Service Program Specialist III, Nevada Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Welfare and Supportive Services

Lori Wilson, Chief, Employment and Support Services, Nevada Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Welfare and Supportive Services

3:45 p.m.—4:00 p.m.

Break

4:00 p.m.—4:45 p.m.

ACF's Family Self-Sufficiency and Stability Research Consortium (FSSRC): Resources and Supports for Conducting and Using High-Quality Research Studies

This session will introduce the structure and opportunities available through the new Family Self-Sufficiency and Stability Research Consortium (FSSRC). This research consortium is a new initiative of the Office of Planning, Research, and Evaluation (OPRE), Administration on Children and Families (ACF). Three components of the FSSRC will be discussed:

- Scholar's Network: A network of seven scholars funded by OPRE to conduct family self-sufficiency and stability research.
- Data Center: A university-based resource available to help state and local TANF agencies access and use administrative and other self-sufficiency data.
- Project AWESOME: A technical assistance resource to improve the ability of State and local TANF agencies to produce and use high quality research.

This session will also be used to elicit feedback from States about challenges and opportunities that may influence their ability to conduct and use research and suggestions for how program administrators may collaborate with researchers to supplement their research capacity and gain insight into the effects of their programming.

Alicia Meckstroth, Senior Researcher, Mathematica Policy Research

4:45 p.m.—5:15 p.m.

Pay-After-Performance and Jobs Program Preliminary Orientation

Several years ago, Arizona began using a “pay-after-performance” method for two-parent families to encourage participation and compliance. Amy Graybeal and Jason Bernbaum will discuss the background that led to this decision, how the method of “pay-after-performance” works, and how it has impacted client participation. In addition, Ms. Graybeal will provide an overview of their Jobs Program Preliminary Orientation (JPPO) process. She will discuss how their orientation process varies between their two contractors and how it is beneficial in setting their clients up for successful program participation.

***Jason Bernbaum**, Principal Managing Analyst, Arizona Department of Economic Security*

***Amy Graybeal**, Employment Administration Policy Manager, Arizona Department of Economic Security*

5:15 p.m.—5:30 p.m.

Status Check and Looking Ahead

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

5:30 p.m.

Adjourn



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Wednesday, September 11, 2013

8:15 a.m.—8:30 a.m.

Check-in and Day Two Outlook

Aditi Shrivastava, Program Specialist, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Office of Family Assistance-Region IX

8:30 a.m.—9:15 a.m.

Engaging Non-Custodial Fathers as a Strategy to Achieving Self-Sufficiency

Shareef Abdur-Rahim will discuss the Future Foundation and its success in engaging non-custodial parents (particularly fathers) and their children, and the critical impact this approach to engagement can have on facilitating and ensuring a family's successful progression to self-sufficiency.

Shareef Abdur-Rahim, Founder, The Future Foundation, Georgia

9:15 a.m.—10:15 a.m.

Behavioral Interventions to Advance Self-Sufficiency (BIAS) Study

The *Behavioral Interventions to Advance Self-Sufficiency (BIAS)* project aims to develop and test the application of behavioral economics principles to ACF's programs and target populations. ACF contracted with MDRC and its subcontractor, MEF Associates, to apply a behavioral research lens to programs that serve low-income families, including TANF, child care, child support, and child welfare. Mary Farrell will focus on a pilot she is leading that is designed to increase the number of child support order modifications among incarcerated non-custodial parents in Texas.

Mary Farrell, Executive Vice-President, MEF Associates

10:15 a.m.—10:45 a.m.

Break (Check-out of hotel)

10:45 a.m.—12:00 p.m.

Implementing Early Engagement Models to Better Prepare TANF Recipients for Self-Sufficiency

Early Engagement Models: In 2012 there were budget-driven, legislated changes for the California TANF program that included changing the time on aid for work-eligible adults from 48 to 24 months. However, if the adult is meeting Federal work participation requirements their eligibility extends to 48 months. Along with this change of a prospective 24-month time limit, California is implementing new strategies to ensure recipients are receiving appropriate services during their limited time on aid. Todd Bland and Kären Dickerson will discuss early engagement techniques to help prepare TANF families to quickly move into work or work-related activities and increase work participation rates.

Todd Bland, Deputy Director, California Department of Social Services, Welfare to Work

Kären Dickerson, Chief, CalWORKs Branch, California Department of Social Services

The Promise of Peer Mentors in TANF Programs: Lessons from Child Welfare: Peer mentors are used with increasing frequency in the fields of mental health, disability services, and addictions and a growing body of research evidence suggests the value of this model. Drawing upon lessons learned from the field of child welfare, this presentation will highlight the promise of using peer mentors in TANF programs in order to increase client engagement in services.

Jill Berrick, University of California, Berkeley, School of Social Welfare

12:00 p.m.—12:30 p.m.

Closing Remarks and Evaluations

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

12:30 p.m.

Adjourn