



# Rural Communities Initiative Academy AGENDA

Kansas City, Missouri  
September 3-5, 2008



## TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 2, 2008

**5:00 – 7:30 PM**    **PRE-REGISTRATION (MAIN STREET GRILLE FOYER)**

## WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 3, 2008

**8:00 – 8:30 AM**    **REGISTRATION (BALLROOM FOYER)**

**8:30 – 9:30 AM**    **WELCOME AND OPENING REMARKS (BALLROOM D/E)**

Speakers:    **Gary Allen**, Region VII, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services  
                  **Janel Luck**, Director, Family Support Division, Department of Social Services, Missouri  
                  **Bobbi Mariani**, Director, Economic Development and Support Division, State of Kansas Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services, Kansas

### **OVERVIEW OF THE RURAL COMMUNITIES INITIATIVE**

Speakers:    **James Butler**, Federal Project Officer, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Office of Family Assistance  
                  **Lisa Washington-Thomas**, Technical Assistance Branch Chief, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Office of Family Assistance

**9:30 – 11:00 AM**    **PLENARY SESSION: RURAL AREA INTRODUCTIONS (BALLROOM D/E)**  
(BREAK INCLUDED)

Participants at this Academy represent 16 rural areas with varied and unique experiences. There are also rural specialists, speakers, and other rural areas represented at this Academy that may be tapped into to share and learn valuable lessons. After an initial icebreaker exercise, teams, rural specialists, speakers, etc., will participate in a team building exercise and discuss their priorities for things to learn and things to teach during the Academy.

Speakers:    **Rural Area Team Representatives**

Moderator:    **Kent Peterson, ICF International**



# Rural Communities Initiative Academy AGENDA

Kansas City, Missouri  
September 3-5, 2008



**11:00 – NOON**

## **ACADEMY 101 (BALLROOM D/E)**

Participants will be provided with an overview of the Academy model including plenary sessions, breakout sessions and team times. Participants will learn more about the outcomes of the Academy, the Initiative, and be provided with an overview of the Individualized Technical Assistance Plans. Content faculty will also provide a brief introduction and overview of their background and programs. Teams will also meet their facilitators during this session.

Speakers: **Jeanette Hercik**, Vice President, ICF International  
**Kent Peterson**, ICF International  
**Content Faculty**

**NOON – 1:30 PM**

## **LUNCH ON YOUR OWN (SEE RESTAURANT LIST IN BINDER)**

**1:30 – 2:30 PM**

## **TEAM TIME: ROAD MAPPING (TEAM SUITES)**

Teams will convene in their team suites to clarify any questions they may have and strategize their team assignments for the Academy. This includes mapping what breakout sessions each team member will attend and report back on. Participants will also work with their facilitator to discuss and select rural content faculty to work one-on-one with during their team times on Thursday.

**2:30 -2:45 PM**

## **BREAK AND TRANSITION**

**2:45 – 4:00 PM**

## **BREAKOUT SESSIONS**

### **Breakout Session #1: Rural America and 21st Century Economic Development (Seville I)**

In this breakout session, the context for rural economic development and the need for workforce development, education, and training will be discussed. Innovative solutions to addressing the particular needs of rural areas will be highlighted and shared.

Speakers: **Cynthia M. Duncan**, Carsey Institute, University of New Hampshire  
**Marv Pichla**, Executive Director, Thumb Area Michigan Works!  
Growing to Work Enterprise, Michigan  
**Trina Gress**, Chief Operations Officer, Career Options, North Dakota

Moderator: **James Butler**, Federal Project Officer, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Office of Family Assistance



# Rural Communities Initiative Academy AGENDA

Kansas City, Missouri  
September 3-5, 2008



## 2:45 – 4:00 PM BREAKOUT SESSIONS (CONTINUED)

### **Breakout Session #2: Providing Innovative Work Supports to Rural TANF Recipients (Seville II)**

In this breakout session, the context for providing essential work supports to rural TANF recipients will be highlighted and shared.

Speakers: **Pankaj Bhanot**, Acting Division Administrator for the Benefit, Employment, and Support Services Division of the State of Hawaii  
Department of Human Services  
**Daylan Beamon**, Business Access LLC.  
**Almetra Franklin**, CEO, St. Mary Community Action Head Start, Inc.  
Road Home Program, Louisiana

Moderator: **Kathleen Miller**, Rural Policy Research Institute

### **Breakout Session #3: Connecting Tribal Populations in Rural Areas to Work (Westport)**

In this breakout session, the context for connecting tribal populations to work in rural areas will be shared and highlighted.

Speakers: **Teresa Wall-McDonald**, Development Director, Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes, Montana  
**Dr. Geni Cowan and Julie Gondry**, The Center for Human Services, University of California at Davis Extension, California  
**Eddie Brown**, Professor and Director, Arizona State University

Moderator: **Nicole Thompson**, Mississippi State University, Mississippi

## 4:00 – 4:15 PM BREAK

## 4:15 - 5:30 PM BREAKOUT SESSIONS

### **Breakout Session #1: Using Innovative Technologies in Rural Areas (Seville I)**

In this breakout session, participants will engage in dialogue about rural economic development and the need for workforce development, education, and training and explore innovative solutions to address the particular needs in rural areas.

Speakers: **Jackie Savage**, President, Connect Inc., North Carolina  
**Denise Parker**, Program Manager, Department of Children and Families, ACCESS Florida, Florida

Moderator: **Judy Kennedy**, TANF Program Manager, State of Kansas  
Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services, Kansas



## Rural Communities Initiative Academy AGENDA

Kansas City, Missouri  
September 3-5, 2008



### 4:15 - 5:30 PM BREAKOUT SESSIONS (CONTINUED)

#### **Breakout Session #2: Transportation Solutions in Rural Areas for TANF Clients** (Seville II)

In this breakout session, the context for providing solutions to transportation barriers in rural TANF areas will be highlighted and shared.

Speakers: **Barbara Bayes**, Executive Director, The Good News Mountaineer Garage, West Virginia  
**Margaret Morton**, Executive Director, Sylacauga Alliance for Family Enhancement, Alabama

Moderator: **James Butler**, Federal Project Officer, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Office of Family Assistance

#### **Breakout Session #3: Family Strengthening** (Westport)

In this session, presenters will share strategies and programs that enhance family self-sufficiency and stability including addressing the needs of drug endangered children and families in rural areas, as well as providing valuable and innovative employment and training programs and supports.

Speakers: **Roger Fisher**, Employment and Training Coordinator, WSOS Community Action Commission, Ohio  
**Doug Burnham**, University of Kentucky, Drug Endangered Children's Network, Kentucky

Moderator: **Bruce Weber**, Professor of Agricultural and Resource Economics, Oregon State University, Oregon

### 5:30 – 6:30 PM CLUSTER SESSION NETWORKING



# Rural Communities Initiative Academy

## AGENDA

Kansas City, Missouri  
September 3-5, 2008



### THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 4, 2008

#### **8:00 – 9:30 AM Rural Area Round Robin (Team Suites)**

This time will allow Rural Area Teams the opportunity to engage in peer-to-peer learning, question and answer, and share dialogue around promising strategies, tools, and resources used in delivering TANF services to clients specific to your rural area. One member from each team will staff the team meeting room while the other team members will rotate among the various team meeting rooms during this time. The purpose of this session is to foster the formation of new partnerships and collaborations, while creating peer-to-peer networks. Additionally, rural speakers and presenters will circulate amongst the teams to provide input, feedback, and facilitate conversations.

#### **9:30 – 9:45 AM BREAK AND TRANSITION**

#### **9:45 – 10:30 RURAL POVERTY IN AMERICA (BALLROOM D/E)**

This session will set the context and overall picture of rural poverty in America. The presenters will discuss challenge of intergenerational poverty, the context, and background on the economic and social challenges that rural areas face. Presenters will additionally discuss snapshots of success in rural areas facing the challenges of poverty, and the importance of working with peers, colleagues, and all stakeholders to generate new strategies and programs that will provide rural areas with improved programs, resources, and tools.

Speakers: **Cynthia M. Duncan**, Carsey Institute, University of New Hampshire

**Bruce Weber**, Professor of Agricultural and Resource Economics,  
Oregon State University

#### **10:30–NOON TEAM TIME (Team Suites)**

During this session, Academy participants will meet as a team and have the opportunity to meet one-on-one with speakers and presenters on various topical issues. Facilitators will also take this time to take teams through an action planning process that will begin the stages for each team to build their own Individualized Technical Assistance Plan.

#### **NOON – 1:15 PM LUNCH ON YOUR OWN (SEE RESTAURANT LIST IN BINDER)**



## Rural Communities Initiative Academy AGENDA

Kansas City, Missouri  
September 3-5, 2008



**1:15 – 2:45 PM**     **TEAM TIME** (Team Suites)  
During this session, Academy participants will continue to meet as a team and have the opportunity to meet one-on-one with additional speakers and presenters on various topical issues. Facilitators will also take teams through an action planning process that will begin to build each team's Individualized Technical Assistance Plan.

**2:45 – 3:00 PM**     **BREAK**

**3:00 – 4:30 PM**     **BREAKOUT SESSIONS**

**Breakout Session #1: Addressing Education, Training, and Workforce Development Needs in Rural Areas** (Salon G)

In this breakout session, the context for continued education, training, and collaboration will be discussed. Innovative solutions to addressing the needs of rural areas will be highlighted.

Speakers:     **Lou Ann Hargrave**, Work Prep, Oklahoma  
                  **Shauna King-Simms**, Director, Transitional Programs, Kentucky Community College and Technical System, Kentucky  
                  **Shawndus Gregory**, Community Outreach Coordinator, Career Pathways, Phillips County Community College University of Arkansas

Moderator:    **Marv Pichla**, Executive Director, Thumb Area Michigan Works! Growing to Work Enterprise, Michigan

**Breakout Session #2: Addressing Health Needs in Rural Areas** (Seville II)

In this breakout session, presenters will provide an overview of the health issues and challenges that rural areas are facing, including statistics and trends. Presenters will also provide examples of how rural communities across multiple counties are working together to address rural health needs by providing specialized quality assistance, training, and resources to rural communities.

Speakers:     **Anna M. Huff**, Director, Mid-Delta Community Consortium, Arkansas  
                  **Kathleen Miller**, Rural Policy Research Institute, Missouri

Moderator:    **Nicole Thompson**, Mississippi State University



## Rural Communities Initiative Academy AGENDA

Kansas City, Missouri  
September 3-5, 2008



---

**3:00 – 4:30 PM      BREAKOUT SESSIONS (CONTINUED)**

**Breakout Session #3: Substance Abuse and Domestic Violence (Seville I)**  
In this breakout session, the context for substance abuse and domestic violence in rural areas will be shared and highlighted.

Speakers:    **Dr. Geni Cowan and Julie Gondry**, The Center for Human Services, University of California at Davis Extension

Moderator:   **Eddie Brown**, Professor and Director, Arizona State University

**4:30 - 6:00 PM      OPTIONAL TEAM TIMES (ASSIGNMENTS: FINAL PREPARATIONS FOR REPORT OUT)**



## Rural Communities Initiative Academy AGENDA

Kansas City, Missouri  
September 3-5, 2008



### FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 5, 2008

#### **7:30 – 9:00 AM**     **OPTIONAL TEAM TIMES (ASSIGNMENTS: FINAL PREPARATIONS FOR REPORT OUT)**

#### **9:00 – 11:00 AM**

#### **MAINTAINING THE MOMENTUM: TEAM TIME REPORT-OUT** (BALLROOM D/E)

During this time, each rural team will provide a report out on the information they are taking away from the Academy including next steps, lessons learned, and their overall objectives for technical assistance from the Rural Communities Initiative.

Speakers:     **Rural Area Team Representatives**

Moderators:     **Jeanette Hercik**, Vice President, ICF International  
                       **Kent Peterson**, ICF International

#### **11:00 – 11:30 AM**

#### **NEXT STEPS: RURAL INITIATIVE** (BALLROOM D/E)

During this session, the participants will be engaged in a discussion on plans for the year and rest of initiative.

Speakers:     **James Butler**, Federal Project Officer, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Office of Family Assistance  
                       **Louisa Fuller**, Rural Initiative Project Manager, ICF International

#### **11:30 – NOON**

#### **CLOSING REMARKS AND ADJOURNMENT** (BALLROOM D/E)

Speakers:     **Lisa Washington-Thomas**, Technical Assistance Branch Chief, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Office of Family Assistance