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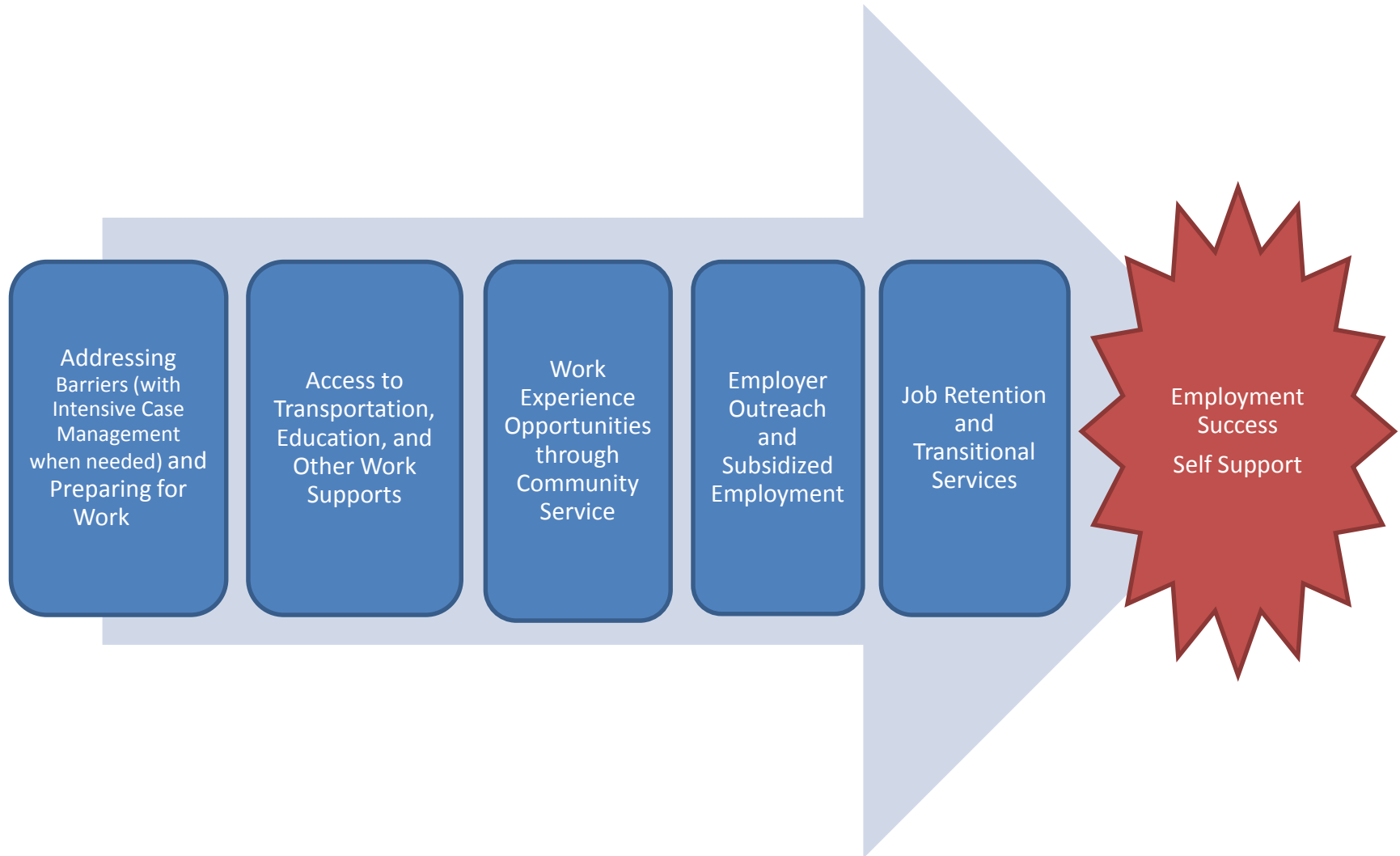
# Bethany Hamm

## Director

### Office for Family Independence (OFI)

- Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)
- Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)
- Medicaid Eligibility Determinations
- Child Support Enforcement and Recovery
- Disability Determination Services

# Maine: – We are Breaking the Cycle (BTC)



# Maine: – We are Breaking the Cycle (BTC) Through Employment-Focused Strategies that Include Immediate and Constant Engagement

- ✓ **PERFORMANCE BASED CONTRACT** – FEDCAP Rehabilitation Services
- ✓ **COMPREHENSIVE CASE MANAGEMENT** – Vocational Assessments – Medical Wellness assessments and pathways – What can the recipient do even with limitations – Retention Services
- ✓ **THREE CONTACTS PRIOR TO SANCTIONS** – Contacts include home visits
- ✓ **EMPLOYMENT OUTCOMES:** The number of cases closing due to employment each month has more than ***doubled*** since January 2017. On average, participants are moving to employment within 9 weeks of entering the program
- ✓ **WORK REQUIREMENTS:** The number of TANF recipients meeting the required work hours has quadrupled

# Maine: New TANF Spending – Investing in our Parents and Youth – Jobs for Maine Graduates (JMG)

"If it weren't for my experience in JMG, I know I wouldn't be where I am today. JMG helped me find myself, helped me engage more with my peers, to communicate, to listen, to be someone I didn't think I could be."

"JMG helped me in so many ways: to write a resume, stay organized in high school, find a job, apply to college; and during college they've helped me focus on graduating and meeting the right people for my future goals. JMG really helps get you ready for the real world. It has kept me going forward and I've met a lot of good people along the way."



# OFI: New TANF Spending – Investing in our Parents and Youth – My Place Teen Center

## youth leadership academy

### What the kids are saying about the Academy



"I love YLA because now I understand all the parts to working in a restaurant, from prep and cooking, to service and kitchen maintenance."

"They present a positive environment — which creates a positive me."

"I learned so much from my peers and the YLA staff about collaboration and being part of a team."

"They care about my future. They're preparing me to go to college."

"We don't just sit around and talk. It's about actually doing something."

"For me it all comes down to one thing:  
FIELD TRIPS!"

# Maine: New TANF Spending – Investing in our Parents and Children – Family Futures Downeast (Two-Gen Strategy)

## **Helping Parents and Children**

Living in poverty can be passed on from one generation to the next. To stop the cycle, Family Futures Downeast believes that children should be empowered at the same time as their parents. How does this "empowerment" happen?

## **Quality Education at No Direct Cost**

Families that become a part of Family Futures Downeast are given the opportunity to participate in a positive, supportive learning environment. Over the course of a year, parents will be enrolled part-time in specially-designed college classes held in the evenings while their children are provided with age-appropriate instruction, all at no out-of-pocket cost.



# Maine: New TANF Spending – Investing in our Parents and Children – Higher Opportunity Pathways for Employment (HOPE)



- ✓ Unanimous bipartisan legislation.
- ✓ Provides post-secondary education (emphasis on community college two-year degrees), certificate training, support services, and child care to non-cash-TANF families with household income at or below 185% FPL.
- ✓ Establishes college navigator positions to provide support and barrier remediation for families in the HOPE program.
- ✓ Primarily funded with TANF block grant, CCDBG, and some SNAP E&T funds. Services funded with TANF are all non-assistance in nature. No general fund dollars are used for this program.

# Maine: Whole Family Approach to Jobs

## Priorities

- Understanding and addressing cliffs
- Building on promising efforts that already exist to bring family-centered approaches to the rest of Maine
- What are the career pathways in Maine as our rural economy and demographics change, exploring the new economy and entrepreneurship