



Rural Communities Initiative Leadership Forum AGENDA

Charleston, South Carolina
September 1-2, 2009



MONDAY, AUGUST 31, 2009

5:00 – 7:30 PM **PRE-REGISTRATION (UPPER LOBBY)**

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 1, 2009

8:00 – 8:30 AM **REGISTRATION (UPPER LOBBY)**

8:30 – 9:00 AM **WELCOME AND OPENING REMARKS (COLONIAL BALLROOM)**

Speakers: **Bridget Gray-Peebles, Director, Hampton County Department of Social Services, South Carolina**

OVERVIEW OF THE RURAL COMMUNITIES INITIATIVE THUS FAR

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

9:00 – 9:45 AM **THE ROLE OF COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP IN ADDRESSING POVERTY (COLONIAL BALLROOM)**

Daniel Dodd has been director of Step Up Savannah since 2005, bringing more than 14 years of experience in nonprofit leadership, fundraising and community organizing.

Under his leadership, Step Up has earned national recognition for bringing together business and government leaders, social service agencies, neighborhoods, and individuals to work to reduce poverty in Savannah and Chatham County.

In 2005, he was named one of Savannah's 40 under 40 community leaders by the Savannah Business Report and Journal. Mr. Dodd will speak about Step Up Savannah and their experience with the poverty simulator.

Speaker: **Daniel Dodd**, Step Up Savannah



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**9:45 AM –
11:00 AM**

ROUND ROBINS: LOOKING AT TOPICAL AREAS (COLONIAL BALLROOM)

Participants will have the opportunity to reflect on up to four topical areas addressed through technical assistance provided through the Rural Communities Initiative. In groups of 5-7, participants will have indicated prior to arrival at the Leadership Forum which topics they are most interested in discussing and be assigned to tables accordingly on the following topics:

- Transportation;
- Child Care;
- Economic Development;
- Distance Learning/Education;
- Job Development;
- Case Management;
- Assessments; and
- Substance Abuse.

Moderator: **Kent Peterson, ICF International, Inc**

**11:00– 11:15
AM**

BREAK AND TRANSITION

**11:15 AM –
12:30 PM**

SHOW AND TELL – RURAL SITES ROUND ROBIN (COLONIAL BALLROOM)

Participants will share in a round robin format what they have achieved and taken action over the past year of the Rural Initiative including:

- Strategies and Actions Taken;
- Challenges;
- Successes; and
- Technical Assistance Events.

12:30 – 2:00 PM LUNCH ON OWN (SEE RESTAURANT LIST IN BINDER)



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2:00 – 4:00 PM POVERTY SIMULATION (GOLD BALLROOM)

The Community Action Poverty Simulation (CAPS) is a unique tool that community action agencies are able to use to educate everyone, from policymakers to local community leaders, about the day to day realities of life with a shortage of money and an abundance of stress. CAPS is a copyrighted tool made available by the Missouri Association for Community Action to organizations that want to promote a greater understanding of poverty.

During this simulation, participants role-play the lives of low-income families, from single parents trying to care for their children to senior citizens trying to maintain their self sufficiency on Social Security. The task of each family is to provide food, shelter and other basic necessities during the simulation while interacting with various community resources staffed by Rural Initiative Staff.

Moderator: **Kent Peterson, ICF International, Inc**

4:00 – 4:15 PM BREAK

4:15 - 5:30 PM POVERTY SIMULATION DEBRIEF (GOLD BALLROOM)

Participants will discuss what they learned during the Poverty Simulator activity.

Moderator: **Kent Peterson, ICF International, Inc**

5:30 – 5:45 PM DAY 1 WRAP-UP

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 2, 2009

8:45 – 10:15 AM PANEL ON LEADERSHIP ROUND ROBIN (COLONIAL BALLROOM)

This panel will focus on leadership roles in communities, sustaining level of attention and innovation to critical TANF strategies, and being able to use the Rural Communities Initiative technical assistance experience to take away and build capacity and sustainability in the 16 rural communities

- **Bill Brumfield**, Human Services Area Director, Hennepin County Human Services & Public Health
- **Frank Brown**, Director, Economic and Workforce Development, MHCC Steps to Success
- **William Cook**, OFI Deputy Director, Fulton County DFCS



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- 10:15 – 10:30 AM** **BREAK**
- 10:30 – 11:15 AM** **SMALL GROUP DISCUSSIONS AND WORK SESSION: RURAL LEADERSHIP TEAM EXAMPLES (COLONIAL BALLROOM)**
Leadership teams play many roles in a rural community. What any leadership team does on a daily basis may well depend on the functions that the team is performing at the time.
- You will be engaging in discussions with your colleagues here about the specific things you can do in the next 3-6 months back in your communities that will demonstrate leadership around TANF and poverty issues. You will also create a description for a Rural Leadership Team of the strategies, actions, stakeholders, partners, funding streams, and content knowledge you will need to know to address the needs of TANF and low-income populations in your communities. Drawing on the previous panel on leadership, participants will also explore how to develop capacity building models, ensure sustainability, and continue the dialogue among their rural colleagues post-Leadership Forum.
- Please draw on the experience you brought with you, the insights from Daniel Dodd, the Poverty Simulation experience, and your dialogue with peers here at the Forum.
- Moderator: **Kent Peterson, ICF International, Inc**
- 11:15 AM– 11:45 AM** **REPORT OUT AND LARGE GROUP DISCUSSION (COLONIAL BALLROOM)**
Moderator: **Kent Peterson, ICF International, Inc**
- 11:45 AM – NOON** **WRAP UP (COLONIAL BALLROOM)**
- NOON** **ADJOURNMENT**