



OFA State and Tribal Technical Assistance and Resources *TANF and Reentry: Supporting Mothers on Their Path to Independence*

SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES

Ann Adalist-Estrin, *Director of the National Resource Center on Children and Families of the Incarcerated at Rutgers University, Camden New Jersey*

Ms. Adalist-Estrin is the Director of the National Resource Center on Children and Families of the Incarcerated (NRCCFI) at Rutgers University, where she teaches in the departments of Sociology, Anthropology and Criminal Justice. Under her leadership, NRCCFI has provided training and consultation to government, non-government, and community programs worldwide, including the Maryland Governor's Office on Children and Families Impacted by Incarceration Initiatives; The Counsel of State Government's Justice Center/Second Chance Act grantee training; Children of Prisoners Europe (COPE); and Sesame Street's "Little Children, Big Challenges: Incarceration" initiative. Ms. Adalist-Estrin's publications include "12 Guiding Principles for Responding to the Needs of Children and Families of the Incarcerated," published in the book *Contemporary Research and Analysis on the Children of Prisoners: Invisible Children*. In 2013, she was honored by the Obama White House as a "Champion of Change" for her work as an advocate for children and families of the incarcerated. She also received the 2021 Child Well-Being Award from Arizona State University's Center for Child Well-Being.

Jennifer Robinson, *Deputy Commissioner of Temporary Assistance, Onondaga County (New York) Department of Social Services-Economic Security*

Jennifer Robinson has worked with the Onondaga County Department of Social Services-Economic Security for 30 years and currently oversees a division of 200 employees. Prior to her role as Deputy Commissioner, she was an eligibility worker for many years and was privileged to work with individuals in need daily. Ms. Robinson believes the pandemic has taught us that we all have the potential to become an "at risk" household. She instills this idea in her employees and advocates for seeing TANF clients as real persons who are deserving of compassion.

Monika Madaras, *Assistant Administrator, Reach Up [TANF] Economic Services Division, Vermont Department for Children and Families*

Monika Madaras has served as an Assistant Administrator of Reach Up, Vermont's TANF program, for over six years. She is passionate about supporting families and helping to create communities where all are valued. Monika takes special interest in supporting caretakers and advancing family well-being.

Heather Newcomb, *Women's Program Manager, Vermont Works for Women*

Heather Newcomb jointly coordinates employment and career services at Vermont Works for Women (VWW) with other program staff. She passionately serves women experiencing barriers to help them succeed in the workforce. Ms. Newcomb plays a leading role with VWW programs for incarcerated women both during their incarceration and reentry. Ms. Newcomb has overcome many of the same barriers her clients face and brings that lived experience to her clients to ignite motivation and manifest hope. She is an advocate for strong communities where all members thrive, and advocates for those who lack a voice of their own. Ms. Newcomb recently joined the Board of the Women's Justice and Freedom Initiative, a new non-profit that serves incarcerated and formerly incarcerated women.