



OFA State and Tribal Technical Assistance and Resources *Addressing Intergenerational Trauma among TANF Families*

SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES

Jessica Bartlett, Ph.D., M.S.W., Program Area Director, Early Childhood Development, Child Trends

Dr. Bartlett is a Research Scholar in the Early Childhood Research program area at Child Trends and leads the organization's Massachusetts office. She conducts applied research and provides training and technical assistance to childhood programs and interventions that support healthy parenting and children's mental health and development by engaging families, programs, and communities. She has particular expertise in child and parent resilience to trauma and adversity, including financial instability, natural disasters and pandemics, child abuse and neglect, parental stress and depression, historical and intergenerational trauma, and discrimination. Dr. Bartlett serves on the Steering Committee and is Co-Chair of the Evaluation Community of Practice for SAMHSA's National Child Traumatic Stress Network. She received her masters and doctoral degree in applied child development from Tufts University and master's in social work from Simmons College School of Social Work.

Nicole Bossard, Ph.D., Expert Consultant, ICF and President, TGC Consulting, Inc. (Facilitator)

Dr. Bossard has 20 years of experience specializing in leadership, organization development, and collaboration capacity-building in child welfare, children's mental health, and education, particularly systems of care. Her areas of expertise include family and community engagement, leading sustainable systems change, and collaborative partnerships between communities and child- and family-serving systems. Her recent research interests include meaningful family engagement in child welfare-driven systems of care, parent leadership in child welfare, and evaluation capacity building, namely technical assistance on building evidence-informed practices within TANF programs. Recognized for her highly engaging methods, Dr. Bossard brings joy and resourcefulness to the work of strengthening communities and employee engagement. She has worked with diverse stakeholders and partners to address the needs of children and families in the Northeast, Southeast, Midwest, and Western regions of the United States as well as Tribal communities throughout the country. Dr. Bossard currently provides training and technical assistance for several national projects, turning attention away from compliance-driven practice and towards measurable improvements in the lives and communities of those served.

Mariana Chilton, Ph.D., Professor, Health Management, Dornsife School of Public Health, Drexel University and Policy Director, Center for Hunger-Free Communities

Dr. Chilton is a professor at the Dornsife School of Public Health at Drexel University. She is the Director of the **Center for Hunger-Free Communities** And he founded **Witnesses to Hunger**, a participatory action program meant to ensure participation of Black and Latinx women who have experienced poverty in the national dialogue on hunger. She also founded the **Building Wealth and Health Network** to address interpersonal and collective trauma, incentivize entrepreneurship, and build resiliency among families with young children. She has testified before the U.S. Senate and U.S. House of Representatives on the



importance of child nutrition programs and other anti-poverty policies. She previously served as the Co-chair of the Congressionally appointed National Commission on Hunger.

Marla Conwell, Ph.D., *Family Support Programs Manager, South Puget Intertribal Planning Agency (SPIPA)*

Dr. Conwell is an enrolled Chehalis Tribal member with lineage from Sac-N-Fox and Prairie Band. From 2002 to 2008, she was the Language and Culture Program Manager for the Chehalis Tribe and then became the General Manager. She earned her doctorate degree in Indigenous Development and Advancement focusing on indigenous language revitalization through the Te Whare Wananga o Awanuiarangi in Whakatane, New Zealand. Dr. Conwell was both the first international doctoral graduate from the Wananga program as well as the first Tribal member to earn their Doctorate for the Chehalis Tribe. She also earned her Master of Public Administration, with an emphasis in Tribal Governance from the Evergreen State College in 2006. Currently, she works for the South Puget Intertribal Planning Agency (SPIPA) as the Family Support Programs Manager and oversees six different programs for SPIPA, including the Child Care Development Fund (CCDF) program, The Child Placing Agency and Foster Care programs, The Child Support piece of the SPIPA Workforce Development program (Tribal TANF), Family Violence Prevention program, and the Healthy Families home visitation program.

Amber Hoyt, BS., *Family Support and Home Visitor, South Puget Intertribal Planning Agency (SPIPA)*

Ms. Hoyt currently works for the South Puget Intertribal Planning Agency (SPIPA) as the Family Support/Home Visitor for the Healthy Families Program and TANF in Kitsap County, WA. She has worked in the Early Childhood Education (ECE) field for 13 years. Ms. Hoyt began her studies in Early Childhood Development in high school and pursued a degree in ECE from Olympic College in Bremerton, Washington, and then continued on to Washington State University to pursue a degree in Human Development in 2016.

Ms. Hoyt has worked in various programs including Early Head Start, Head Start, Head Start/ECEAP and the Navy Child and Youth Programs (Navy-CYP) in the Kitsap County area. At SPIPA, she has designed several parenting education workshops and presentations, helped the Healthy Families Program transition to virtual service delivery during the COVID-19 pandemic, and has spearheaded the development of the SPIPA Healthy Families Program YouTube channel.

Alie Huxta, M.S.W., *Associate Director of Partnerships and Strategic Planning, Building Wealth & Health Network*

Ms. Huxta started her career in human transformation by creating experiential learning and political consciousness programs with young people in Philadelphia. In this time, she was trained to lead Transformational Social Therapy groups, a model that urges people across identities to share personal violence, hopes, and fears to reach collective intelligence and solutions. This work led her to pursue a clinical social work degree at Bryn Mawr's Graduate school for Social Work and Social Research where she studied the psychological effects of oppression as a counselor at Women Organized Against Rape. She is always looking for new and innovative ways to bring more human connection and healing to "human services."



Kevin Thomas, Jr., M.P.P., *Associate Director of Operations and Asset Building, Building Wealth and Health Network*

Mr. Thomas works at the Building Wealth and Health Network as the Associate Director of Operations and Asset Building. His primary role is to manage the day-to-day Network activities and staff, as well as develop the program and its capacity. Kevin is responsible for facilitating Financial SELF Empowerment sessions for the Networks members, but he also works with the Network team to develop new coaches and expand its footprint. Prior to his current role, Kevin was a highly decorated banker, working with industry giants PNC Financial Services and Commerce Bankcorp. He was also a recognized community advocate in the North and West Philadelphia sections of city. Kevin received his Bachelor of Science in Business Administration from St. Joseph's University and his master's in public policy at Drexel University.

Dana Thomson, Ph.D., M.S.Ed., *Senior Research Scientist, Child Trends*

Dr. Thomson is a Senior Research Scientist in the Early Childhood Development research area at Child Trends. Her work investigates how early trauma, adversity, and poverty-associated stressors impact families and the developing minds of young children. She identifies protective processes that promote resilience and uses this research to inform the development, implementation, and refinement of programs and services designed to achieve improved life outcomes for children facing disadvantage and adversity. A critical aspect of all of Dr. Thomson's work is her whole-family approach, which includes a focus on policies and strategies that support family economic stability and relational health, thereby creating positive conditions in which parents and children can flourish, with the aim of reducing many of the disparities in children's wellbeing that begin in early childhood.