

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

OFA PeerTA Webinar – New Approaches for Identifying and Addressing Learning Disabilities and Mental Health Challenges Among TANF Participants

July 12, 2018

QUESTION: How have you been able to effectively evaluate your impact?

ANSWER ~ Rebecca Salon: I think the question probably was directed to Utah, but clearly the programs that we worked with where they've implemented customized employment and alternative approaches to assessment do track all kinds of data related to employment and career advancement along the way, educational advancement. From our perspective, the discovery process and some of the approaches that Mindy talked about as well really connect people to their communities in new ways. I know some programs look at the extent to which people become less dependent on publicly-funded systems as they develop more connections in the community through coworkers, through community organizations. So, I think there are a number of things that the different programs track.



QUESTION: What is the best way for TANF programs to reach out to ODEP representatives across the country?

ANSWER ~ Rebecca Salon: ODEP doesn't have regional offices the way that other agencies do, but ODEP can be contacted directly and we can send out, through your Q&A, a way to do that. And ODEP can, I think, connect people to technical assistance centers or resources or things like that.

ANSWER ~ Mindy Larson: We can be contacted directly through our website, www.ncwdyouth.info. We have a "Contact Us" function on the website. We have our email up there. And, of course, my email is included in my presentation and I can be contacted directly. I'm going to go ahead and put the email addresses in the chat box.



QUESTION: Are there any recommended assessment tools to identify learning disabilities and other disabilities that frontline TANF programs may want to consider?

ANSWER ~ Mindy Larson: It really comes down to, as I mentioned, screening first. So, in our assessment guide, there is a tool for asking some questions about learning needs, and so we do recommend taking a look at that tool. Also, talking to other education service providers in your area about what reputable tools they might recommend. Our guide has a directory of tools and websites and information. Obviously, a lot of assessment tools are not just assessments, but screening tools as well have a cost associated with them. But we have a lot of sort of directory guidance around all kinds of instruments.