



## OFA State and Tribal Technical Assistance and Resources *Re-Engaging Parents in the Workforce: A Tribal TANF Perspective*

### SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES

#### **Dr. Lisa Blackmon, Ed.D., Program Specialist, Region VI, Office of Child Care (OCC)**

Lisa Blackmon is a Program Specialist with the Office of Child Care (OCC) within the Administration for Children and Families (ACF), Region VI in Dallas, Texas. She has served in this capacity for over 18 years and provides leadership and guidance to support early childhood initiatives across ACF. During this time, her involvement in various programmatic and fiscal aspects of OCC include several special projects and duties focused on grant administration, technical assistance, research and evaluation activities, interagency and regional office coordination, State and Tribal CCDF collaboration, and oversight of construction and renovation of Tribal child care facilities. She has over 25 years of experience working in the field of early childhood and health and human services. Prior to her federal career, she worked as a social worker, domestic violence advocate, and manager in child protection and family violence prevention programs for a Tribal program in Oklahoma. She is a member of the Chickasaw Nation of Oklahoma. She received her undergraduate and graduate degrees in psychology from East Central University in Oklahoma, and a doctorate in early childhood education from the University of North Texas.

#### **Matthew Gregg, Senior Economist, Community Development and Engagement, Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis**

Matthew Gregg is a senior economist in Community Development and Engagement, where he focuses on research for the Center for Indian Country Development. Before joining the Bank, he was an associate professor of economics at Roger Williams University and, prior to that, a visiting economics professor at Grinnell College. He has conducted research on a wide range of topics within tribal economic development and published work on historical development, Indian removal, land rights, and agricultural productivity. He is a member of the Association for Economic Research of Indigenous People. He received his Ph.D. from the University of Georgia, where he specialized in applied microeconomics and economic history.

#### **Zenia Haynes MSW, Program Specialist, Region V, Office of Child Care (OCC)**

Zenia Haynes is a Program Specialist with the Office of Child Care (OCC) within the Administration for Children and Families (ACF), Region V in Chicago, Illinois. She has been part of the ACF family for 22 years. She began her career with the Office of Grants Management as a Grants Management Specialist with Lead responsibilities for Tribal grants in multiple programs including Child Care, TANF, Native Employment Works, Child Support, Child Welfare, Promoting Safe and Stable Families, Family Violence Prevention Services and Foster Care and Adoption. She served in this capacity for over 16 years. While working as a Grants Management Specialist, she earned her MSW degree. She accepted detail opportunities in the Office of Child Care which led to her moving to and becoming a Program Specialist for the Office of Child Care. She is currently working on an Infant Mental Health certificate and a credential in an effort to elevate and advocate the importance of social, emotional child development and mental health well-being. With times being as they are, she hopes to use reflective supervision and consultation to expand capacity for those in administrative roles and embed reflective practices into



systems that support young children. She received her undergraduate degree in Accounting from the University of Indianapolis and MSW degree from Indiana University.

**Louisa Jones**, *Senior Director of Federal Workforce Innovations and Social Policy, ICF*

Louisa Jones is a Senior Director with ICF and has 17 years of experience in providing training and technical assistance for education, literacy, TANF, Title I, and workforce development projects for the U.S. Departments of Education, Health and Human Services, and Labor. Ms. Jones has designed and facilitated technical assistance, training, and outreach/dissemination efforts with all 50 states, territories, Tribal programs, and nonprofits. Ms. Jones' content focus includes career pathways, adult learning, workforce development, Tribal programs, literacy systems, assessments, special populations, and identifying key strengths and barriers of TANF and other low-skilled populations. She received her bachelor's degree in history and international studies from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and her master's degree in international education development from Teachers College, Columbia University. She is currently pursuing her MBA from the State University of New York at Oswego and has her Project Management (PMP) certification.

**Deborah Northburg**, *Director, Cook Inlet Tribal Council*

Deborah Northburg currently serves as the Senior Director of Child & Family Services (CFS) at Cook Inlet Tribal Council (CITC), providing a continuum of child welfare support and early childhood services. CFS is a critical division of CITC's Tribal non-profit organization, along with education, workforce development, TTANF, recovery services, and early learning services. Ms. Northburg has been with the organization for more than 18 years and has more than 28 years' experience in the human services field, in both state and Tribal child welfare systems, working toward the goal of improving child safety and family well-being. In her role at CITC, she has worked closely with other service areas within the organization, particularly TTANF, as well as the state's child protection system in various shared initiatives aimed at reducing the disproportionality of indigenous children in the child protection system. This work over the last 10 years has focused on developing and sustaining partnerships to support prevention of child abuse and/or neglect, early intervention for at-risk families, and interventions that improve economic stability of families.