



# 2008 Collaboration Institute

Arlington, Virginia  
Marriott Crystal City  
September 15-17, 2008



## SPEAKERS BIOGRAPHIES

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### U.S. Department of Health and Human Services- Office of Family Assistance

**Sidonie Squier, MA**, is the Director of the Office of Family Assistance, Administration for Children and Families (ACF), US Department of Health and Human Services, where she administers the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program, the Nation's principal welfare assistance program. She joined ACF in June 2005. Ms. Squier has served in various welfare administration and policy positions- most recently as the Federal Liaison on human service issues for the State of Texas. Previously, she worked in Austin, Texas, administering TANF, food stamp, and Medicaid eligibility programs as well as special nutrition, refugee, and domestic violence programs. While in Austin, she served on the American Public Human Services Association steering committee for TANF and the Texas County Advisory Workgroup on Healthy Families, which focused on healthy marriage. Earlier, Ms. Squier was the State of Florida's Director, economic Self-Sufficiency and Welfare Reform Administrator. She has also worked in Michigan and California in health and human services policy and communications roles. Ms. Squier graduated from California State University at Long Beach with both a B.A. and an M.A. in communications.

**Lisa Washington-Thomas** is Branch Chief of the Division of Self-Sufficiency in the Office of Family Assistance, Administration for Children and Families. She has experience in a wide array of social services programs, such as TANF, AFDC, Job Opportunities and Basic Skills, Emergency Assistance Group, the Rapid Response to Technical Assistance Contract, Healthy Marriage Resource Center, and Community Planning Grants. Ms. Washington-Thomas earned a B.A. from Georgetown University.

**ROBIN Y. McDONALD, Esq.** is the Director of the State and Territory TANF Management division within the Office of Family Assistance (OFA). The OFA is the operating division that administers the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program within the Department of Health and Human Services' Administration for Children and Families. As Division Director, Ms. McDonald oversees the planning and provision of technical assistance to help States and Territories implement new requirements authorized under the Deficit Reduction Act of 2005 (DRA), which are designed to expand upon successful efforts to move families toward self-sufficiency. Ms. McDonald's responsibilities also include implementation and oversight of the \$150 million Healthy Marriage and Promoting Responsible Fatherhood demonstration grants authorized by the DRA.

Immediately prior to her position with OFA, Ms. McDonald served as the Community-Based Abstinence Education's (CBAE) Management and Program Analyst with the Administration for Children and Families' Family Youth Services Bureau. Her primary responsibilities included oversight of government contract negotiation, monitoring legislative and legal compliance by State and discretionary grant recipients, and developing recommendations for proposed regulatory changes.

From 2002 - 2005, McDonald served as a Special Assistant to the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Labor's Center for Faith-Based and Community Initiatives—part of President George W. Bush's national faith-based and community initiative. Ms. McDonald's primary responsibilities included development and implementation a national ex-offender employment demonstration project called *Ready4Work*. The project served as a foundation for the



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---

Administration's \$300 million Prisoner Re-Entry Initiative announced in the January 2004 State of the Union address.

For the past fifteen years, Ms. McDonald has enjoyed a broad career in the non-profit community, as well as in the Legislative and Executive Branches of the Federal government. She completed her undergraduate work in Mass Communications/Speech and Broadcasting from Anderson University in Anderson, IN, and earned a *Juris Doctor* degree from the George Mason University School of Law in Arlington, VA. Ms. McDonald is an attorney, a member of the Maryland State Bar and resides in Arlington, VA.

**Paul Maiers** has worked at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families since 1991 and has been involved in a wide range of technical assistance projects that promote family self sufficiency and child well being. Mr. Maiers has managed several grants, contracts, and other projects that have assisted States and communities in implementing their TANF programs, as well as various welfare reform stakeholders. During his tenure in the Office of Family Assistance, he has participated in several high level ACF initiatives in areas related to work policies, self-sufficiency strategies, family formation, marriage, and family strengthening. Prior to working on TANF, Mr. Maiers was a Family Assistance Specialist helping States implement their JOBS (Job Opportunities and Basic Skills) Programs, which was the predecessor to the TANF Program. Prior to working at the Department of Health and Human Services, Mr. Maiers worked at the U.S. Treasury Department, U.S. Coast Guard, Navy Department, and also on active duty in the U.S. Navy for four years.

### **U.S. Department of Health and Human Services- Office of Child Support Enforcement**

**Dail Moore** is the Director of the National Technical Assistance and Training Center in the federal Office of Child Support Enforcement (OCSE). He served as Technical Assistance Chief for OCSE from 2003 - 2004. Dail was OCSE's Welfare-to-Work Officer from 2000 to 2003, and served in other areas of federal child support and TANF. Prior to joining USDHHS, he was Director of the Office of Employment Training for the City of Alexandria, Virginia, and served in other employment training capacities for the City for 15 years. Dail completed the Harvard Institute for Employment and Training Administration and received his BA from the University of Virginia.

**Margot Bean** was appointed Commissioner for the Federal Office of Child Support Enforcement (OCSE) effective July 25, 2005. Margot leads an office whose primary mission is to serve children and families by assuring that assistance in obtaining financial and medical support is available to children through locating parents, establishing paternity and support obligations and enforcing those obligations.

Prior to becoming Commissioner of OCSE, Margot served the New York State Division of Child Support Enforcement (DCSE) as a senior policy advisor from 1998 until being appointed Deputy Commissioner and Director in 2000. Under her leadership, child support collections in the State reached record levels.

Before joining the DCSE, Ms. Bean was Director of the Guam Office of Child Support Enforcement within the Guam Attorney General's Office. She began her career in the Guam



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---

Attorney General's Office in 1980 and served as an Assistant Attorney General in several divisions, including the Prosecution, Civil Litigation and Family Divisions.

Ms. Bean was delegate to the Hague Conference from its second session where she participated as an official in the NCSEA delegation. In the last several sessions she was the lead of the United States official delegation and signed the convention on behalf of the US government.

Ms. Bean is an attorney licensed in New York and Guam, and is a graduate of Lewis & Clark Northwestern School of Law and William Smith College. She is a former President of the National Child Support Enforcement Association.

**Eileen Brooks** is Director of the Division of State, Tribal and Local Assistance in the Federal Office of Child Support Enforcement in Washington, DC. This Division administers OCSE's Special Improvement Project (SIP) grants, Section 1115 grants, Healthy Marriage Initiative waivers, and the Access and Visitation grant program. It also promotes program development and performance improvement by providing technical assistance and training; developing materials and resources for the child support community; and leading collaboration initiatives with other programs and with the courts. A major Division activity is the annual National Child Support Enforcement Training Conference in Washington, DC. Eileen has a bachelor's degree in political science from the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, and a master's degree in public administration from the American University, Washington, DC.

### U.S. Department of Labor, Employment and Training Administration

**Gay Gilbert** joined the U.S. Department of Labor, Employment and Training Administration in November 2000 and currently serves as the Administrator of the Office of Workforce Investment. In that role, she provides federal oversight and leadership for America's workforce investment system, including employment and training programs under the Workforce Investment Act and direction and support for the nation's locally driven one-stop delivery system. A key focus for her office is promoting increased collaboration among the workforce system, business and industry, education partners at all levels to develop innovative workforce solutions to ensure the nation's workers have the critical skills they need to succeed and businesses have access to the talent they need to grow and prosper - both of which are key to American competitiveness in the global economy.

Prior to joining the U.S. Department of Labor, Gay was a senior official for the State of Ohio overseeing workforce programs for over ten years. Gay also served as Assistant City Attorney for the City of Columbus, Ohio in the area of public employment law for two years and eight years with the West Virginia Department of Human Services.

She received her Bachelor of Arts from Michigan State University, a Master of Social Work from West Virginia University, and a Juris Doctor from Ohio State University

**Christine Ollis** is the Chief of the Adult Services Division, Office of Workforce Investment, Employment and Training (ETA), U. S. Department of Labor (DOL). The Division includes the Workforce Investment Act's Adult and Dislocated Worker programs, Wagner Peyser funded programs, Older Worker, Indian and Native American, and Migrant and Seasonal Farmworker programs, the Disability Program Navigator initiative, Career Advancement Account



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---

demonstration projects and the Community Based Job Training Grant initiative. Prior to taking this position in November 2005, Ms. Ollis was the Division Chief for the One-Stop Operations Division at ETA. Chris has held a variety of positions in ETA since joining DOL in 1998. She was the Deputy Administrator in the Office of Financial and Administrative Management. She was the team leader for the Performance Accountability team, Deputy Director of the Office of Grants and Contract Management, team leader in the Youth Office, and the former Deputy Director of the National School-to-Work Office. Chris began her federal career in the Office of Vocational and Adult Education as chief of staff. Prior to that she ran her own workforce/education focused consulting business, and worked for the National Association of Counties. She began her workforce career running a CETA program in Central New York.