

Regions IV, V, VI, VII, and VIII Office of Family Assistance Tribal Technical Assistance Meeting



ADMINISTRATION FOR
CHILDREN & FAMILIES

Biographies

Ann Blythe, Executive Manager, Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians Tribal TANF Program

Ann Blythe is the Executive Manager of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians Tribal TANF program. She has over 30 years of experience in management. Prior to working with TANF, she was a Child Support Court clerk and retired operations manager for Harrah's Cherokee Casino. Ms. Blythe is very active in the tribal community. She was instrumental in changing the child sexual abuse laws for all tribes and does volunteer work with the youth of her tribe, including basketball, youth group and 4H.

Joe Hobot, President and Chief Executive Officer, American Indian OIC

Joe Hobot is a Lakota descendant of the Hunk Papa Band of the Lakota Nation from the Standing Rock Indian Reservation of South Dakota. His grandfather and mother are both enrolled members. He holds a bachelor's degree from the University of Minnesota-Twin Cities with a dual major in film studies and history, and a master's degree in education from the University of St. Thomas. He is currently a doctoral candidate in education at Hamline University in St. Paul, MN. He has served at the American Indian OIC since 2006, previously holding the position of Director of Education, overseeing the progress of the organization's alternative high school, its Adult Basic Education/GED program, and the Takoda Institute of Higher Education. He also served as Lead Teacher at Takoda Prep with an emphasis on social studies, and as an instructor in the AIOIC postsecondary school. Mr. Hobot chairs the Metropolitan Urban Indian Directors (MUID) group based in Minneapolis, MN. The MUID Group is a collaborative of executive leaders from over 20 American Indian 501c3 nonprofit organizations that serve the Twin Cities' urban Indian community. In December, 2015 Mr. Hobot was the recipient of the Minnesota American Indian Chamber of Commerce's Bear Award – an honor which recognizes an American Indian individual who has shown a commitment to the development and success of American Indian business in the state. Mr. Hobot is a Minneapolis/St. Paul Business Journal 40 under 40 honoree, which recognizes his personal and professional accomplishments at AIOIC and beyond.

Jodie Sue Kelly, President, Cygnet Associates

Jodie Sue Kelly has been in the workforce development field for over three decades. She is a popular speaker at national, regional, and local conferences. She was awarded the 2004 National Association of Workforce Development Professional of the Year. Ms. Kelly has a master's degree from George Mason University in information systems and a bachelor's degree from California University of Pennsylvania in psychology.

Nicole Matthews, Executive Director, Minnesota Women's Sexual Assault Coalition

Nicole Matthews, a member of the White Earth Band of Ojibwe, is the Executive Director of the Minnesota Indian Women's Sexual Assault Coalition, a statewide coalition for American Indian sexual assault advocates in Minnesota. The mission of this coalition is to strengthen the voices of American Indian women to create awareness, influence social change, and reclaim the traditional values that honor the sovereignty of American Indian women and children, thereby eliminating the sexual violence perpetrated against them. The coalition vision is: Creating Safety and Justice for Native Women Through the Teachings of Our Grandmothers. Ms. Matthews received a bachelor's degree from St. Cloud State University in applied psychology with a minor in human relations and multicultural education. She was one of five researchers who interviewed 105 Native women used in prostitution and trafficking for the report: *Garden of Truth: The Prostitution and Trafficking of Native Women in Minnesota*. She is also the proud mother of three beautiful children: Jazmin, Kiora, and Kionte. They give her the strength and motivation to continue working to end violence perpetrated against women and children.

Holly Snowball Morales, Director, Employment and Training Services Department, Cook Inlet Tribal Council, Inc.

Holly Snowball Morales is currently director of the Employment and Training Services Department (ETSD) at Cook Inlet Tribal Council, Inc. She is responsible for the management and oversight of a department budget of over \$18 million. She is responsible for managing multiple programs, including a One Stop Job Center serving over 1,100 job seekers per year. Prior to becoming director, Ms. Morales managed the CITC Tribal Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) Program for eight years. TANF provides cash assistance determination, case management, and employment services to over 500 families per month. Ms. Morales earned a Bachelors of Business Administration in Organization Management from Alaska Pacific University. She was born and raised in Anchorage, AK; is married and has five children. She is of Yup'ik Eskimo and Irish decent.

Ivan Sorbel, Executive Director, Pine Ridge Area Chamber of Commerce

Prior to being promoted to the position of director, Ivan Sorbel was employed as Small Business Advocate and Acting Director of the Pine Ridge Area Chamber of Commerce. Mr. Sorbel has been with the Chamber since October 2001, shortly after its inception. He was born and raised in South Dakota. As the son of a Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) employee, he has lived on many different reservations in South Dakota and Nebraska. Mr. Sorbel attended college at Central Wyoming College in Riverton, WY on a rodeo scholarship. He transferred to Chadron State College in Chadron, NE and obtained a bachelor's degree in criminal justice. After college, he enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps and served for 5 ½ years. While in the Corps, he married and began a family. Shortly after his discharge, he and his wife moved back to the Pine Ridge Reservation to raise their children.

Barbara Stiffarm, Executive Director, Opportunity Link

Barbara Stiffarm joined Opportunity Link as Development Director in August 2006 and became Executive Director in 2009. She is also the Program Director for Vibrant Futures. Ms. Stiffarm has an extensive background in community advocacy and economic development services to Native and non-Native communities. She has held planning positions on both the Fort Belknap and Rocky Boy's Indian Reservations. She is currently a member of the Community Advisory Committee for Policy Link's

Program for Environmental and Regional Equity. Ms. Stiffarm is also the chairman of the Montana Community Finance Corporation Board and the Montana Indian Business Alliance. She served as a member of the Governor's Council on Economic Security for Montana Families until 2009, and currently serves on the Fort Belknap Investment Board and the University of Montana's Bureau of Business and Economic Research Board. She is an experienced advocate for improved rural health care and public transportation, Native American education and entrepreneurship, and innovative agricultural policies for energy development. Ms. Stiffarm was previously employed by the Fort Belknap Indian Community Council as the Tribal Planner/Community Development Block Grant Coordinator and by RJS & Associates, Inc., an American Indian-owned consulting firm located on the Rocky Boy's Indian Reservation. She is an enrolled member of the Blackfeet Tribe and has resided in Harlem, MT since 1982. She and her husband have three children.

Linda Thompson, Executive Director, First Nations Women's Alliance

Originally from Minnesota, Linda Thompson moved to North Dakota in 1995, living within the boundaries of the Spirit Lake Tribe. In 1997 she started the Spirit Lake Victim Assistance Program. Successfully creating services and establishing relationships across the state, she secured funding to employ four others to extend services to victims of violent crime. In 2007, Ms. Thompson and two other program directors of tribally-based victim service programs founded a Tribal Domestic Violence/Sexual Assault Coalition, whose members currently include representation from The Spirit Lake Tribe, Mandan, Hidatsa, Arikara Nation, Standing Rock Tribe, Trenton Indian Service Area, and the Native urban population of Bismarck. The Tribal Coalition (First Nations Women's Alliance) is a 501(c) 3 nonprofit organization with the mission of addressing domestic violence and sexual assault in Indian Country. It is one of 19 tribal coalitions across the nation. In 2008, Ms. Thompson was hired to serve as its Executive Director.

In addition to providing technical assistance to tribal domestic violence/sexual assault service programs and providing education and training opportunities, Ms. Thompson currently serves on the Board of Directors of the Council on Abused Women's Services ND (a state coalition); the ND Governor's STOP Advisory Committee as a designee for Mr. Scott Davis (Director of Indian Affairs Commission); the ND Attorney General's Fatality Review Team; the ND BCI Human Trafficking Task Force; the ND Lake Region Social Services District Board, and is a founding member of the FUSE-ND (Force to End Sexual Exploitation) which addresses trafficking issues. Ms. Thompson remains committed to deep and lasting advocacy for Native people and Native programs on critical tribal community issues at local, state, and national levels. She finds her role to be both challenging and rewarding.

Kim Turner, Public Health Services Advisor, White Earth Nation

Kim Turner is the Public Health Services Advisor for the White Earth Nation. In this role, Ms. Turner coordinates the White Earth Nation's WECARE (White Earth Care Assessment Resource & Education) System. Prior to coordinating the WECARE System, she spent 15 years as a Community Health Educator for the White Earth Health Education Program and 12 years as an LPN working in various medical settings. As the WECARE Coordinator Ms. Turner is responsible for providing a two-generational method of care for the whole family, a new approach, which has been customized to fit the needs of the White Earth Nation.