



2011 ACF/OFA Regions V & VII Tribal TANF Meeting Speaker Biographies

Lesa Evers is the Acting State Director of Indian Affairs for the State of Montana where she has served since June 2010 when she was appointed by Governor Brian Schweitzer. Prior to that, she spent two years as the Economic Development Specialist for Indian Country in the Governor's Office of Economic Development-- working with each of the Tribe's governing bodies. Born on the Blackfeet Reservation in Browning, Montana, she is of Blackfeet descent and is an enrolled member of the Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewas. She and her son Elliott currently reside in Helena, Montana where she has spent the last 12 years working for the State of Montana.

Genee Felix was involved in the planning, negotiation, and implementation of the South Puget Intertribal Planning Agency (SPIPA) TANF Program. She was also instrumental in the development and implementation of the SPIPA One Stop Career Center (WIA program). Ms. Felix has more than 23 years experience in human services and has worked in the area of program development for 12 years. She specializes in mediation, domestic violence, and substance abuse. She is currently the Program Coordinator of Client Services for the SPIPA TANF Program.

Mark H. Greenberg is the Deputy Assistant Secretary for Policy at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families. Before joining HHS, Mr. Greenberg directed the Georgetown University Center on Poverty, Inequality and Public Policy, a joint initiative of the Georgetown University Law Center and the Georgetown Public Policy Institute. In addition, he was a Senior Fellow at the Center for American Progress (CAP) and the Center for Law and Social Policy (CLASP). He previously served as the Executive Director of CAP's Task Force on Poverty and as CLASP's Director of Policy. During his career, Mr. Greenberg has written extensively on issues relating to federal and state welfare reform efforts; workforce policy issues affecting low-income families; child care and early education policy; tax policy; poverty measurement; and a range of other low-income issues. In addition, he frequently provided technical assistance to state and local governments regarding poverty reduction strategies. Prior to coming to D.C., Mr. Greenberg worked at Jacksonville Area Legal Aid in Florida and the Western Center on Law and Poverty in Los Angeles, California. Mr. Greenberg is a graduate of Harvard College and Harvard Law School.



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Dr. Earl S. Johnson is the Director of the Office of Family Assistance. Prior to joining ACF, Dr. Johnson was Senior Policy Advisor to Oakland, California Mayor Ron Dellums, where he was responsible for helping set policy and program goals for the city in the areas of workforce, health and urban affairs. He also worked with the White House Office of Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnerships on fatherhood initiatives. Before serving in Oakland he had significant state and nonprofit sector experience, having served as Associate Secretary for Planning and Evaluation in the California Health and Human Services Agency, as Associate Director, Working Communities for the Rockefeller Foundation, and as Senior Program Officer for The California Endowment, a private statewide health foundation.

Dr. Johnson graduated from the American University in Washington, D.C. and earned a Master of Arts in Public Policy from the University of Chicago and a PhD in Social Welfare from the University of California. He is widely known for his work in developing programs and policy on matters related to TANF and has authored articles on needy family issues. His areas of expertise include poverty and fatherhood, both high priority issues for the Administration and HHS.

Dr. Dorry Larson has worked for over 10 years for the Sisseton Wahpeton Oyate (SWO). As the manager of the SWO Human Service Agency, Dr. Larson oversees the delivery of mental health counseling and chemical dependency services. The program also administers financial assistance as well as a daycare. In 2002, Dr. Larson and Joyce Country developed the Professional Empowerment Program (PEP) which was recognized by the Honoring Nations Program at Harvard University as an exemplary program.

Dr. Larson is a Licensed Psychologist and Level III Certified Chemical Dependency Counselor. He received his PhD at the University of South Dakota and was awarded a Bush Fellowship to study Systems Theory at the Family Center, founded by Murray Bowen, at Georgetown University. During his career, Dr. Larson has worked at two community mental health centers and was in private practice for 13 years in Brookings, South Dakota.

Robert Shelbourne is the Director, Division of State TANF Policy within the Office of Family Assistance, and the Acting Director, Division of Tribal TANF Management within the Administration for Children and Families at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). He began his employment with HHS in 1974 after working with the Illinois Department of Public Aid as a caseworker, supervising caseworker, and supervisory quality control specialist.