



## OFA State and Tribal Technical Assistance and Resources

### *The Whole Family Approach: How TANF Programs Can Engage Customers in Mental Health Services, Part II Webinar*

#### SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES

##### **Dr. Maria Aguirre-Mendoza, Executive Director, Soboba Tribal TANF Program**

Dr. Maria Aguirre-Mendoza, member of the Gabrielino-Tongva Tribe of Los Angeles, California, currently serves as the Executive Director for the Soboba Tribal TANF Program (STTP). While in this position, she has helped serve numerous American Indian families in both rural and urban settings in achieving self-sufficiency goals. Part of these goals include the importance of mental health. While serving as the STTP Executive Director, Dr. Aguirre-Mendoza has continued to maintain holistic mental health counseling services for program participants through a case management approach.

In her early years, Dr. Aguirre-Mendoza obtained her bachelor's degree from the University of California, Berkeley and went on to earn her master's and doctoral degrees from California Baptist University in Riverside, California. Her work with tribal communities led to her completing a dissertation titled, Cultural Infusion In Tribal TANF Programs of California. Dr. Aguirre-Mendoza also serves as an adjunct professor for California Baptist University, where she sits on student dissertation boards for topics related to and affecting the tribal community.

##### **Liz Carver, Director, Workforce Development Division, Utah Department of Workforce Services**

Liz Carver is currently the Director of the Workforce Development Division at the Utah Department of Workforce Services. She oversees one-stop employment centers and staff throughout Utah as well as several federal and state programs including WIOA and TANF. She is also the liaison for the Governor's State Workforce Development Board. Ms. Carver has a Master's degree in Educational Psychology and has over twenty years of experience working with the Department of Workforce Services in a variety of positions. She has successfully implemented many technical and policy-driven projects to help improve workforce programs across the State of Utah.

##### **Lisa Guetzkow, Integrated Programs Manager, Ramsey County Workforce Solutions**

Lisa Guetzkow is an experienced leader, having worked in human services and workforce development for over 30 years. She is driven by her passion and commitment to ensure individuals and families are supported by programs that are rooted in collaboration, best practices, community voice, and a comprehensive continuum of care. Her impact in leading integrated service delivery initiatives includes experience in workforce development, chemical and mental health, children and family services, housing, reentry, education and training, and community resources. She has worked in both non-profit and government organizations throughout her career and holds a Bachelor of Science in Social Work from Metropolitan State University.



***Antoinette Kitchen, Family Assistance Program Specialist, Division of State TANF Policy, Office of Family Assistance, Administration for Children and Families, Department of Health and Human Services***

Antoinette Kitchen has over 18 years of experience in the Federal Government as both manager and team member for the Policy/Compliance Divisions for two different agencies. She joined the Office of Family Assistance almost seven years ago and brought extensive state public sector experience from the Division of Social Services, TANF Employment & Training Program, and Office of Child Support Enforcement. In her current role in the Division of State TANF Policy, she reviews TANF state plans, combined WIOA state plans, and audit reports; drafts policy instructions and federal regulations; and answers state TANF policy questions. She is the team lead on matters pertaining to state TANF work participation requirements. Also, she represents her team on policy collaborations across federal agencies and across ACF offices.

***Arnold Ontiveros, Staff Manager, New Mexico Human Services Department***

Arnold Ontiveros is a staff manager with Work and Family Support Bureau within the New Mexico Human Services Department. He obtained his bachelor's degree in Community Health from New Mexico State University. He is originally from Lovington, New Mexico and has spent his whole life living within the state lines of the Land of Enchantment. New Mexico is home, and he strives to develop programs to improve the lives of others. His passion and background consist of 15 years of case management, program implementation, and innovative strategies to better serve the citizens of New Mexico.

***Mary Roberto, Project Director, ICF***

Mary Roberto has over 25 years of state and local level leadership experience in workforce development and human services policy development, program implementation, evidence-informed technical assistance, training, and coaching. She has led state and local cross-system initiatives and interoperability efforts for a wide range of human services and workforce development programs. She was instrumental in shaping systems interoperability among state and local level human services and workforce development programs, including the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program, the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) program, and the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)/SNAP E&T. She has conducted federal and state policy analysis and implemented various cross-program initiatives, including client assessment, effective case management, work requirements and training engagement initiatives, career pathways, violence prevention, and safety net programs, as well as related statewide training and technical assistance projects. Ms. Roberto also specializes in poverty reduction initiatives and interagency/multi-program interoperability.

***Dr. Mary Beth Vogel-Ferguson, Research Associate Professor, Social Research Institute, University of Utah***

For the past 24 years, Dr. Mary Beth Vogel-Ferguson has directed research studies and program evaluations with state and regional level government agencies. She is currently the Principal Investigator of several studies sponsored by Utah's Department of Workforce Services. These studies include evaluations of the work-focused cash assistance program, refugee programs, employment for formerly chronically homeless individuals, and implementation of trauma-informed approaches across the state. She has assisted all levels of agency management, from senior leadership to front-line workers, in using data for program and policy development. She also provides workshops for local and national agency administrators, research bodies, and social work groups addressing issues related to welfare policy, trauma-informed approaches, employment issues, poverty, and serving diverse low-income populations.



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**Katie Wagoner, Workforce Development Manager, Goodwill-Easter Seals Minnesota**

Katie Wagoner is a manager in the Families Achieving Success Today (FAST) program based in St. Paul, Minnesota. She is employed by Goodwill-Easter Seals, the primary contracted partner with Ramsey County Workforce Solutions in leading the innovative program model. Ms. Wagoner has worked in the TANF arena for over 18 years. For the bulk of her career, she has managed supplemental programs that strive to address inequities in outcomes for specified, underserved populations of families enrolled in TANF programs. During a four-year break from direct service in the mid-2010s, Ms. Wagoner worked as a legislative advocate, lobbying to improve TANF policies at the state level. She holds a Bachelor's degree in Social Science and Master's degree in Public and Nonprofit Administration from Metropolitan State University.