



Biographies

2013 Tribal TANF – Child Welfare Coordination Projects Annual Grantee Meeting

Pirkko Ahonen, Ph.D. joined James Bell Associates (JBA)'s child welfare practice area in 2009. Dr. Ahonen, an educational psychologist, has nearly a decade of applied research and program evaluation experience. She currently provides support for the Adaptable Evaluation Training and Technical Assistance for Healthy Marriage, Promoting Responsible Fatherhood and Tribal TANF-Child Welfare Grantees project as well as the Evaluation Technical Assistance for Children's Bureau Discretionary Grantees project. Prior to joining JBA, her research and evaluation work has primarily been in the field of education, including areas of education innovation, professional development, and learning styles; as well as national program evaluations related to comprehensive school reform and public school choice. Dr. Ahonen has also conducted research on other topics such as homelessness, resilience, and gender. She has a broad experience base with issues of human development arising from her counseling background as well as years of teaching undergraduate and graduate courses in human development.

Dr. Ahonen holds a Ph.D. in educational psychology with a concentration on research methodology and an earlier M.S. degree in counseling, marriage and family therapy. She received her doctorate from the University of New Mexico where she also completed two years of post-doctoral work focused on program evaluation.

Candace Fleming, Ph.D. is an associate professor in the Colorado School of Public Health, Department of Community and Behavioral Health. Dr. Fleming's interests are in the areas of individual, family and community resiliency, and the use of culture and history in the restoration of balance within the Indian community. An important contribution has been her work on the Board of Directors of the National Association for Native American Children of Alcoholics. Another area of expertise is program evaluation of both intervention and prevention efforts in Indian and Native communities. She has also been active in the governance of the American Psychological Association over the years and in 2001 was elected to Fellow status within the Society of the Psychological Study of Ethnic Minority Issues and is a founding member of the Board of Directors for First Nations Behavioral Health Association. Dr. Fleming (Kickapoo/Oneida/Cherokee) was raised on the Northern Cheyenne Reservation in southeastern Montana. She studied psychology and music history at Wellesley College, Wellesley, MA and received a BA. Her doctoral degree in Clinical Psychology was conferred by the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

Felicia Gaither is the Director for the Division of Tribal TANF with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Office of Family Assistance (OFA). Ms. Gaither is responsible for the oversight and administration of the Tribal TANF Program, Native Employment Works Program and the Tribal TANF Child Welfare discretionary grant, providing technical assistance and guidance to Regional Offices, states and Tribes administering the TANF program throughout the Nation. Previously Ms. Gaither served as the Region VIII-Denver Program Manager in OFA where she was responsible for providing technical assistance and guidance to state and tribal administrators in Colorado, Montana, Utah, Wyoming, South Dakota and North Dakota. Ms. Gaither has years of experience working in human services. She has served in many capacities working for a variety of organizations at the local, state and Federal levels. Ms. Gaither received her B.A. in Political Science from the University of Nebraska, earned a Master's degree in Public Administration from Wichita State University and has earned a PhD in Human Services from Capella University.

Carol Harford Ph.D. is a principal research scientist at NORC at the University of Chicago in the Economics, Labor, and Population Studies department. She works on federally-sponsored studies on human services for vulnerable children and families that address housing needs, food security, self-sufficiency, education and employment, child maltreatment and elder abuse prevention interventions. Carol currently serves as NORC's project director for a congressionally-mandated study of housing needs in Indian Country, sponsored by HUD, and a study of the food distribution program on Indian reservations, sponsored by USDA. She also works on an evaluation of tribal health profession opportunity grants for ACF/OPRE. Earlier, while with JBA, she worked on a study that examined tribes' planning and implementation of family preservation and support services, as well as many other child welfare projects. An applied anthropologist from NYC, she earned her Ph.D. from Columbia University.

Kim Keating joined JBA's child welfare practice area in 2006. Ms. Keating has 15 years of experience in program evaluation and social science research. She has managed and contributed to several national research projects that address program performance and evaluate the achievement of intended outcomes for low-income and at-risk children and families. Ms. Keating's areas of expertise include child welfare and Head Start program research, large-scale data collection, training, and project management. As the Project Manager for the Cross-Site Evaluation of the Infant Adoption Awareness Training Program, she provides oversight and planning for a cross-site evaluation of the process and outcome goals achieved by six grantees funded by the Children's Bureau. Ms. Keating is a member of JBA's Evaluation Technical Assistance for Children's Bureau Discretionary Grantees project team. In this capacity, she provides evaluation technical assistance to the Collaboration between TANF and Child Welfare to Improve Child Welfare Program Outcomes grantees and Post-Adoption Marriage Education grantees. In addition, Ms. Keating recently offered program evaluation technical assistance and support to Office of Family Assistance discretionary grantees through JBA's contract to provide Adaptable Evaluation Training and Technical Assistance for Healthy Marriage, Promoting Responsible Fatherhood and Tribal TANF-Child Welfare Grantees.

Prior to joining JBA, Ms. Keating managed the Program Information Report (PIR) data collection on behalf of the Administration for Children and Families' Office of Head Start. Ms. Keating managed all phases of the reporting process, including instrument development, ensuring alignment of the survey content with the Head Start Program Performance Standards, participating in working groups with senior Federal officers, and providing recommendations for modifications to Federal staff. Ms. Keating's analyses and summaries of the annual PIR data were used to inform program policy and funding decisions and were reported to Congress, the public, and a wide variety of stakeholders. Ms. Keating received a M.Ed. in Counseling and Human Development from George Mason University and a B.A. in Psychology from the University of Virginia.

Julie Morales is a Research Associate at James Bell Associates. Ms. Morales has 16 years of experience in applied social science research, program evaluation, and programmatic and evaluation technical assistance (TA). Her areas of expertise include the design and implementation of human services program evaluations including state and tribal child welfare system change and services integration projects; the application of rigorous research methods in social services and the provision of evaluation TA to state and tribal grantees. At JBA, Ms. Morales is an evaluation TA liaison for the ACF funded Tribal Evaluation Institute providing assistance to tribal grantees on tracking and measuring benchmarks; conducting rigorous home visiting program evaluations; and facilitating linkages and opportunities for peer learning across tribal grantees. Ms. Morales is also a lead liaison on the Study of Coordination of Tribal TANF/Child Welfare Services Cooperative Agreements on which she is responsible for monitoring tribal grantee program progress; provision of evaluation TA and communication and coordination with tribal consultants. She is also responsible for primary data collection on a descriptive study of tribal grantees program implementation to document effective approaches and strategies for TANF and child welfare services integration.

Albert M. Pooley, founder/President of Native American Fatherhood & Families Association, was born to the Hopi and Navajo Native American cultures. He grew up close to both cultures on the reservation where the love of a father taught him outstanding life lessons. He holds a Masters of Social Work (MSW) and Masters of Public Administration (MPA). Mr. Pooley has extensive experience as a marriage and family counselor. He appreciates

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the role of being a father and he finds joy in teaching principles that are relevant to his Native American culture. Mr. Pooley is the founder of the Fatherhood/Motherhood Is Sacred programs. Throughout his professional career he has worked & served over 300 Native Tribes across North America and many Urban Indian Agencies. His special interest has focused on working with Native men. His programs are now being considered for implementation internationally. Mr. Pooley has been recognized by both Native and non-native organizations and groups for his unique approach to addressing issues that face our country by strengthening families and communities. In recent years tribal, state and federal agencies have recognized the impact of the Fatherhood/Motherhood Is Sacred programs and are increasingly seeking his knowledge and expertise in fatherhood initiatives that permeates across multiple agencies. Mr. Pooley has been married for 43 years to Julia and they have six children and thirteen grandchildren.