



2014 OFA Region VIII State Meeting Collaboration and Innovation: Keys to Engaging TANF Customers

Amanda Abens, Director, Center for Training and Development, PIMA Community College

As the Director for the Center for Training and Development (CTD) at Pima Community College, Amanda Abens administers both credit and clock hour occupational training programs and also oversees the Pathways to Healthcare Program. Pathways, funded by the Health Profession Opportunity Grant (HPOG), provides support and assistance to train TANF recipients and low-income county residents for high-demand healthcare jobs. Amanda is an alumna of the University of Arizona and also has her Masters in Counseling from the University of Phoenix. Before joining Pima Community College, Amanda built multi-sector collaborations with the Norton School of Family and Consumer Sciences at the University of Arizona and has over 10 years of experience working with homeless and low income families. Amanda combines her experience in both social service and higher education with her expertise in collaboration building to bring a unique perspective to the Center for Training and Development. Since 1963, CTD has trained approximately 50,000 students, with a 90 percent completion rate and an 85 percent job placement rate.

Dee Daniels Scriven, Regional Representative, Region VIII, Administration for Children and Families, Colorado Refugee Resettlement Program

Dee Daniels Scriven currently serves as a Regional Representative for the Office of Refugee Resettlement within Region VIII's Administration for Children and Families, Department of Health and Human Services. Prior to this position, Dee worked in ORR for over three years in various roles including a Unaccompanied Refugee Minor program analyst, a state analyst and finally, as a Special Assistant in the Office of the Director focusing on national program and policy initiatives, white papers, and outreach/engagement. Prior to ORR, Dee served as an Assistant Attorney General in the D.C. Office of the Attorney General, Child Protection Section, where she consistently managed a caseload of approximately one hundred abused and/or neglected children. Prior to her work as an AAG, Dee worked as a public defender in Baltimore City and Montgomery County, Maryland, where she represented both English and Spanish speaking clients. Dee has also worked with Paz y Esperanza, a grass roots NGO in Peru. In law school, Dee participated in the International Human Rights Law Clinic, where she worked on various immigration and asylum cases. Dee has a J.D. from the Washington College of Law at American University and is a member of the D.C. and Maryland bars. She earned her BA from Colorado College in International Political Economy.

Michelle Derr, Senior Researcher, Mathematica Policy Research

Dr. Michelle Derr, a senior researcher at Mathematica Policy Research, is well known for her ability to translate research findings effectively to improve public policies and direct practice. Most of her work focuses on quick turnaround research projects used to describe a promising practice or document the implementation of a public policy. She has conducted site visits to welfare agencies and other social service programs in roughly 100 communities in more than half the States and the District of Columbia. She specializes in evaluating employment and training initiatives targeted to public assistance clients, ex-offenders, individuals with disabilities, and other disadvantaged populations. Putting her knowledge into practice, she provides evidence-based technical assistance to States and local communities to help strengthen their performance outcomes. She holds a Ph.D. in Social Work from the University of Utah.

Nora Gilligan, Special Assistant to the Director, Office of Family Assistance, Administration for Children and Families, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

Nora Gilligan serves as Special Assistant to the Director of Office of Family Assistance (OFA). A graduate of Georgetown University's International Health program in 2006, she first began work with the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services in the Office of Global Health Affairs. Ms. Gilligan transitioned to domestic policy issues after receiving her Master of Public Administration at Baruch College's School of Public Affairs, in New York City. Through this program, Ms. Gilligan worked as a fellow under Oakland, California Mayor Ron Dellums, completing a capstone case analysis of the local workforce investment system as informed by the City's unique demographics and needs. Within the Office of Family Assistance, Ms. Gilligan's area of interest continues to be jobs, workforce and economic development, especially as relates to public-private partnerships. Additionally, Ms. Gilligan represents OFA on the U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness' work group on family homelessness, helping to drive OFA's role in finding solutions for sustainable housing and related issues.

Susan Golonka, Acting Director, Office of Family Assistance, Administration for Children and Families

Susan Golonka is the Acting Director of the Office of Family Assistance, Administration for Children and Families (ACF), U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). She is a nationally recognized expert on welfare reform, foster care and related human service issues. Prior to joining ACF, Ms. Golonka served as the program director of the Economic, Human Services and Workforce Division at the National Governor's Association (NGA). Ms. Golonka directed NGA's policy analysis, research, and technical assistance efforts on welfare reform, low-income families, work supports service integration, and child welfare to help State policymakers and administrators develop and implement sound policies. She oversaw technical assistance to States through on-site consultations, intensive ongoing technical assistance, customized workshops, and policy academies. Ms. Golonka also managed the network of governors' Human Services Policy Advisors. Ms. Golonka received her Master's degree in Public Administration from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and her Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Virginia.

Vicky Herring, TANF Program Specialist, Administration for Children and Families, Office of Family Assistance

Vicky Herring has worked for the Department of Health and Human Services for 24 years. She has served in various capacities and programs including Administrative Officer, Child Care, and Quality Control for the former Aid to Families with Dependent Children program. She is currently a Children and Families Program Specialist for the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program within Region VIII, Denver and currently works with State TANF and Tribal TANF and NEW grantees.

Marjorie Hudspeth, TANF Program Specialist, Administration for Children and Families, Office of Family Assistance

Marjorie Hudspeth has worked for the Department of Health and Human Services for 23 years. She has served in various capacities and programs including Child Care, Child Welfare, Office of Child Support Enforcement and Quality Control for the former Aid to Families with Dependent Children program. She is currently a Children and Families Program Specialist for the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program within Region VIII, Denver and currently works with State TANF and Tribal TANF and NEW grantees.

Candace Joice, Education Manager, iEmpathize

Candace Joice volunteered with iEmpathize for three years before joining the iE team in June of 2013. Prior to that, she worked for five years both as a theatre artist and as a secondary/post-secondary educator. Candace is using her experience in academic and social research, curriculum development, and production management to increase the impact of our education based programs. She lives in Denver, Colorado with her husband, Cary. Candace holds a B.S. in Communication from Southwest Baptist University and an M.A in Theatre from the University of Central Missouri.

Janelle Jones, TANF Program Specialist, Administration for Children and Families, Office of Family Assistance

Janelle Jones is a Children and Families Program Specialist for the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program within Region VIII, Denver and currently works with State and Tribal TANF. She has worked in the

Health and Human services field for 6 years, including County and Federal Government. She holds a Bachelor of Science in Public Administration from Regis University, and also a Master of Science in Organizational Leadership from Regis University.

Louisa Jones, Technical Assistance Specialist, Bridges for Refugees and Asylees, Office of Refugee Resettlement Technical Assistance Initiative and Principal, ICF International

Louisa Fuller Jones, PMP, is a Principal at ICF International, Inc. Ms. Jones has over 14 years of experience managing and developing TANF, workforce development, and education projects for the U.S. Departments of Health and Human Services, Education, and Labor. Currently, Ms. Jones provides strategic direction and TA support for OFA, OCS, and ORR's TA initiatives for TANF, low-skilled, and refugee populations. She has extensive expertise in providing evidence-informed TA for all ten ACF Regional Offices; all 50 States, Territories, Tribal TANF programs, and multiple urban and rural TANF agencies and their community based partners. Prior to joining ICF, Ms. Jones managed U.S. Department of Education and Labor projects that conducted qualitative research; provided intensive training and technical assistance; and disseminated information to State and local education and workforce agencies around Title One schools, workforce development, secondary to postsecondary transitions, and career development. Ms. Jones received her Master's in International Education Development from Columbia University, Teachers College where she studied abroad in South Africa and Tanzania, and she received her Bachelors in International Studies/History from the University of North Carolina at Chapel-Hill.

Stan Koutstaal, Program Manager, Health Profession Opportunity Grants, Administration for Children and Families

Dr. Stan Koutstaal is Program Manager for the Health Profession Opportunity Grants (HPOG) program in the Administration for Children and Families (ACF). HPOG provides training and education to TANF recipients and other low-income individuals for occupations in the health care field that pay well and are in high demand. Prior to serving the HPOG program, he provided leadership for several other ACF programs including Abstinence Education, Runaway and Homeless Youth Programs, Mentoring Children of Prisoners, and Family Violence and Prevention Services. Before his Federal service, he was the Director of Counseling for a non-profit organization in St. Louis, Missouri. He has also served as an adjunct faculty member for graduate classes at St. Louis University and Virginia Tech University. He received his Ph.D. in Marriage and Family Therapy from Texas Tech University.

Kathryn Kurtz, Deputy District Attorney, Special Victim's Unit, First Judicial District Attorney's Office, Colorado

Kathryn Kurtz received a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology and a Bachelor of Arts in Sociology from the University of Colorado, Boulder in 1999. She received her Juris Doctor from the University of Denver, College of Law in 2002. Ms. Kurtz has worked at the First Judicial District Attorney's Office since 2003. She is currently assigned to the Special Victim's Unit. The Special Victim's Unit is responsible for prosecuting all felony level offenses against children including sexual assault, physical abuse, homicide, exploitation, and trafficking in children. Ms. Kurtz is a member of the Rocky Mountain Innocence Lost Working Group, a multi-agency collaborative committed to investigating and prosecuting human trafficking. She is also the chair of the Child Youth Leadership Commission Human Trafficking Subcommittee and on the Colorado Human Trafficking Council.

Corrine Livers, Wyoming Department of Family Services

Corrine Livers is the TANF Program Manager for the Wyoming Department of Family Services. She has been with the department for 12 years and has managed the TANF program for 6 1/2 of those years. Prior to managing the TANF program, Corrine was an eligibility worker in the field processing SNAP, TANF, Medicaid, and child care eligibility. She is a proud graduate from the University of Wyoming, and is married with an adorable one year old daughter, two dogs, and one cat.

Levetta Love, Director, Office of Economic Security, Colorado Department of Human Services

Levetta Love is the Director of the Office of Economic Security with the Colorado Dept. of Human Services. As Director, she guides the state's effort to help vulnerable and struggling families become safe and economically stable in partnership with 64 counties and numerous nonprofit organizations. This is primarily accomplished by through the implementation of a variety of programs to ensure Coloradans can take steps to improve their quality of life through employment and meet their basic needs in times of hardship through benefits such as food and energy

assistance, child Support, and financial benefits for aging and disabled adults. Prior to joining the state staff, Love spent many years in County Human Services Departments managing assistance programs including: TANF, Food Assistance, Medicaid, Child Care, Adult Protective Services and workforce development. With over 25 years of experience, Love's career has included work with domestic violence survivors, cliff effect mitigation, poverty, employment programs and early childhood development. She has served on many work groups, committees and boards collaboratively developing policy and providing guidance throughout Colorado and nationally. She received her BS degree from Illinois State University, but is most proud of the "education through experience" received as a front line worker which fuels her passion for this work and the people we serve.

Suzy MacKenzie, Director, The Family Tree Program

Ms. MacKenzie has been with Family Tree since 2001. She has 32 years of experience working in the non-profit sector in education and social work. In her time at Family Tree, she has served as the Director of the Adams County TANF Stable Families Program for the past eleven years and Director of Family Tree's Arapahoe County Kinship/Family Stability Program for the past seven years and Director of the Douglas County Kinship Navigator Program for the last two years. She provides supervision to case managers as well as oversight, reporting and development of the programs. She also recently started a non-profit ranch in order to use horses to help bring hope and healing to those experiencing adversity in their lives.

Bennie Milliner, Executive Director, Denver's Road Home

Appointed by Mayor Michael B. Hancock as Executive Director of Denver's Road Home in February 2012. Prior to that served as his Deputy Director for Legislative Affairs. Served as Veterans Liason for U.S. Senators Ken Salazar and Michael Bennet. Retired from USAF after 23 years. Served on Denver Public Schools School Board from 1996-2001.

Kisha Russell, TANF Program Manager, ACF – OFA, Region VIII

Kisha Russell is the TANF Regional Program Manager within the Office of Family Assistance (OFA) for Region VIII. Kisha has been in her current position since November 2013. Prior to coming to OFA, Kisha briefly worked for the State of Colorado as the Program Manager for the Colorado Child Care Assistance Program, and prior to this was a Program Administrator in Arapahoe County. Kisha began her career determining eligibility for public assistance programs within the state of Oklahoma and since has gained 15 years of experience working programs including: TANF, SNAP, Medicaid, Child Care, Long Term Care, and Adult Financial. Kisha holds a Bachelor of Science from Oklahoma State University and a Master's of Science from Colorado State University.

Liz Schott, Senior Fellow, Center on Budget and Policy Priorities

Liz Schott, a Senior Fellow with the Family Income Support team at the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, works on TANF. She was a Senior Policy Analyst at CBPP from 1997-2000 and then consulted for CBPP until rejoining the Center staff in 2007. Schott has taught at Seattle University Law School and has consulted on public benefits issues for several national research organizations. Schott worked as legal services attorney in Washington State for nearly 20 years, serving 10 of those years as statewide coordinator on public benefits. She received her law degree from Boston University School of Law.

Carla Snodgrass, National Director of Operations, Healthy Families America, Prevent Child Abuse America

Carla Snodgrass is currently the National Director of Operations at Healthy Families America. In this role she develops and implements support services to increase the effectiveness of the Healthy Families operations. Prior to this she was the Director of Programs at Prevent Child Abuse Tennessee where she managed day to day operation of a statewide child abuse prevention agency and oversaw a statewide Domestic Violence Hotline and Parent Helpline.

Thomas Sullivan, Regional Administrator, Administration for Children and Families

Thomas F. Sullivan was named Regional Administrator for the Administration for Children and Families in Denver, CO in 2002. In this capacity he has lead outreach efforts to minority communities in the Rocky Mountain West, sought to prevent child abuse, improve the level of services to the abused, engaged faith and community based organizations to develop adoption and foster care initiatives as well as mentoring programs for children of prisoners. He has lead the effort to establish throughout the six states of Colorado, Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, Utah and Wyoming abstinence, healthy marriage and responsible fatherhood initiatives so that the

destructive effects of out-of-wedlock births and divorce could be minimized. Working with Tribal leaders from all across this region, he has sought remedies for the twin epidemics of child sexual abuse and child suicide on many reservations. In April, 2010 Mr. Sullivan received a Certificate of Appreciation from the Montana Wyoming Tribal Leaders Council, representing all of the elected leadership of the ten tribes in those states, in recognition of his long-standing efforts to prevent the abuse and neglect of American Indian children. Mr. Sullivan has undergraduate degrees in economics from Boston College and in philosophy from St. Paul's College in Washington, DC and an MBA from Harvard.

Sisifo Taatiti, *TANF Program Manager, Utah Department of Workforce Services*

Sisifo Taatiti is the TANF Program Manager with the Department of Workforce Services (DWS) in Utah. She has been the TANF Program Manager since December 2012. Sisifo works closely with the Refugee Services Office to determine ways that TANF funds can be utilized to better serve refugees. She also oversees DWS' Refugee Cash Assistance Program Policy. Sisifo has a Bachelor's degree from Brigham Young University in Provo, Utah as well as a Master's degree in Social Work with an emphasis on Forensic Social Work from the University of Utah. Past experience includes work as a DWS eligibility specialist serving refugee families. Prior to working for DWS, Sisifo worked for many years in Juvenile Justice and Youth Corrections.

Beth Ward, *Statewide Director of Programs, CLIMB Wyoming*

Beth Ward is a high-energy, creative business professional with 27 years of experience working with disadvantaged and at-risk populations. Beth spent her first twenty years in business developing and managing programs for children and youth. For the past seven years, her primary focus has been working with adults in CLIMB Wyoming providing both program management, organizational management and staff training. Beth is experienced in public/private partnership, has served on several governor-appointed task forces, and has been a state-recognized trainer. The common thread Beth has woven in her work with both little people and big people is celebrating their strengths and honoring their differences and needs, while supporting them as they build a better life.

Geneva Ware-Rice, *Expert Consultant, ICF International*

Geneva Ware-Rice is a former employee of the Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families; Ms. Ware-Rice brings 17 years of Federal government experience in programmatic technical assistance, discretionary grant programs, training, supervision, and leadership to her clients. Ms. Ware-Rice specializes in the provision of training and technical assistance to organizations with federally-funded grant programs. She has successfully trained professionals to implement service delivery programs and to develop knowledge of promising practices. Ms. Ware-Rice has served as a trainer, facilitator, expert panelist, and key note speaker. Training venues include conferences, roundtables, and webinars. She completed her Bachelor of Arts degree in Sociology, with a minor in Psychology and earned a Master of Social Work degree from Howard University in Washington, D.C. Ms. Ware-Rice also earned a Master of Arts in Teaching from Bowie State University in Bowie, MD.

Stephanie Wilkins, *TANF Program Manager, Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services*

Stephanie Wilkins is the Program Manager for the Montana Temporary Assistance for Needy Families unit with the Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services (DPHHS). Prior to joining DPHHS Ms. Wilkins had 6 years in management and marketing of a non-profit cooperative for rural Montanans. In addition, she has extensive experience serving as the Chief Executive Officer of Wilkins Incorporated (an Agri-Business in central Montana that provides life skills, training, and rural development). Over the last ten years, Ms. Wilkins has served in various roles within the Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services. She began her career specializing in case management and direct client services, she served as a program supervisor for several years, and worked as the TANF Policy Specialist. Ms. Wilkins currently lends her practical experience, passion, and strong commitment to serving the needs of Montana TANF families and youth in refocusing the Montana TANF program through a 5 year strategic planning effort.