



Region X

Tribal TANF Conference

September 27 – 29, 2010 ★ Tulalip, WA

Agenda

Monday, September 27, 2010

Facilitator: Rae Belle Whitcomb, Director Workforce Development Center, Bristol Bay Native

Time	Activity & Presenters
9:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.	Registration and Networking
10:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.	<p>Welcome and Opening Remarks</p> <p><i>Frank Shields</i>, TANF Program Manager, United States Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Region X, Seattle, WA</p> <p>Traditional Opening Ceremony: <i>Ray Fryberg, Sr.</i>, Director of Fisheries and Wildlife, Tulalip Tribe, Tulalip, WA</p> <p><i>Susan Johnson</i>, Regional Director, United States Department of Health & Human Services (HHS), Region X, Seattle, WA</p> <p>Introduction of Conference Facilitators Monday: Rae Belle Whitcomb Tuesday: Geene Felix Wednesday: David Lee</p>
10:30 a.m. – 11:45 a.m.	<p>Session #1: Data Reporting: Coding and Databases</p> <p><i>Geene Felix</i>, Program Coordinator of Client Services South Puget Intertribal Planning Association (SPIPA), Shelton, WA</p> <p><i>Andrea Halstead</i>, Administrative Director, Tribal TANF Programming Quinault Indian Nation, Taholah, WA</p> <p>Data management is a broad concept and Tribal TANF programs include a lot of data about financials, clients, and program components. Effectively managing a Tribal TANF program requires that administrators manage data. During this session participants will learn strategies for processing and managing data, while using program data as a resource to improve program performance and client services.</p>
11:45 a.m. – 12 noon	Room set-up for lunch

12:00 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.

Working Lunch: Effectively Meeting the Needs of Tribal TANF Clients

Cecile Greenway, Native American Coordinator, United States Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), Region X, Seattle, WA

Health coverage is a critical need for TANF clients. Most clients are eligible for Medicaid. Assisting in enrolling and accessing the services of Medicaid can help programs and individuals meet their work participation goals through access to needed services. Additionally, understanding the benefits of the Medicaid and Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP) can help to move beneficiaries toward self sufficiency.

1:30 p.m. – 2:15 p.m.

Session #2: Subsidized Employment

Jim Thomas, Tribal TANF Consultant, Lummi Island, WA

Subsidized employment has been used successfully to provide Tribal TANF participants and Tribal TANF-eligible clients with paid work experience. These programs have developed a stronger link to unsubsidized employment and have provided comprehensive wrap-around supports to help participants overcome barriers and improve work-related skills. To date, eight Tribes have received funding from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 to establish and/or enhance subsidized employment programs. During this session, participants will discuss the usefulness and effectiveness of subsidized employment to provide more supportive work environments, additional training, and enhanced connections to other services that are necessary to help individuals succeed in the labor market.

2:15 p.m. – 2:45 p.m.

Session #3: Port Gamble Food Stamp, Medicaid Eligibility Pilot Project

Jolene Sullivan, TANF Program Director, Port Gamble TANF, Port Gamble, WA

The Port Gamble Tribe has been working with Washington State, Division of Community Economic Services, for more than six years to allow TANF Tribes to determine the eligibility of both medical and basic food assistance services within the Tribe. In January of 2010, Port Gamble began a pilot project which is the first of its kind in the nation to offer enhanced services to Tribal residents. During this session, participants will hear about the pilot project and discuss strategies for establishing similar projects at other Tribal communities.

2:45 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Break

3:00 p.m. – 4:15 p.m.

Session #4: Emergency Preparedness

Lewissa Swanson & Jenny Holladay, Program Specialists, Administration for Children and Families, Region X, Seattle, WA

Disasters can strike anywhere anytime – from floods and fires to earthquakes and windstorms. TANF programs need to be able to continue to provide services to current and new TANF recipients during and after a disaster. During this session, participants will discuss how to develop an emergency plan, how TANF funds may be used to assist disaster survivors, and how to prepare yourself for a disaster and recovery.

4:15 p.m.

Adjourn for the day

5:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

**Networking Reception
Upper Skagit Dance Group
Light Snacks will be served**

Tuesday, September 28, 2010

Facilitator: Geene Felix, Program Coordinator of Client Services, SPIPA TANF Program

Time	Activity & Presenters
8:00 a.m. – 8:30 a.m.	Networking
8:30 a.m. – 9:15 a.m.	Session #6: Client Assessment Tools <i>Geene Felix</i> , Program Coordinator of Client Services, South Puget Intertribal Planning Association (SPIPA), Shelton, WA In order to develop an appropriate employability plan, case managers must first assess their clients' strengths and barriers to obtain important information on job readiness. During this session participants will receive an overview of effective client assessment tools and discuss strategies for developing appropriate assessments to obtain important information on soft skills, employment and educational skills, mental and physical health, and other specific strengths and barriers to work.
9:15 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.	Break
9:30 a.m. – 10:45 a.m.	Session #7: Fatherhood Initiatives and Involvement of the Dads <i>Tony Gould</i> , Program Manager, Revitalizing Fatherhood Project, Nooksack Tribe, Deming, WA <i>Trevor Delgado</i> , Case Manager, Revitalizing Fatherhood Project, Nooksack Tribe, Deming, WA <i>Judd Bunag</i> , HS-BCP, Fatherhood Coordinator, Cook Inlet Tribal Council, Inc., Anchorage, AK Although there may be substantial barriers to the active engagement of fathers, many non-custodial fathers remain involved and engaged in the lives of their children. Fatherhood and male parenting are important to the development of children and communities and many Tribes have developed new interventions that are focused on decreasing father absence, while improving the relationship between fathers and children. During this session, participants will discuss strategies that promote responsible fatherhood and gain a better understanding of how to increase the effectiveness of responsible fatherhood programs.
10:45 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.	Break
11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.	Session #8: Government Accountability Office (GAO) Presentation <i>Kristy Kennedy</i> , Senior Analyst, United States Government Accountability Office (GAO), San Francisco, CA <i>Brenda Muñoz</i> , Analyst, United States Government Accountability Office (GAO), San Francisco, CA As the U.S. Congress looks toward reauthorizing the TANF program in 2011, the Chairman of the Natural Resources Committee, U.S. House of Representatives has requested a GAO study on tribal Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) programs. This is a follow-on study to a report GAO issued on July 5, 2002, entitled <i>Welfare Reform: Tribal TANF Allows Flexibility to Tailor Programs, but Conditions on Reservations Make it Difficult to Move Recipients into Jobs</i> (GAO-02-768). GAO will provide updates and highlights of upcoming activities for their current study as they relate to gaining a better understanding of: (1) how tribes have tailored their TANF programs to meet their specific needs, and the

challenges they have faced in administering their own programs; (2) how tribal TANF programs have changed since 2002, especially in light of changing economic conditions; and (3) the extent to which the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) has provided oversight and guidance to ensure the integrity and effectiveness of tribal TANF programs.

12:00 noon - 12:15 p.m.

Room set-up for Lunch

12:15 p.m. - 1:45 p.m.

Working Lunch: Improving Domestic Violence Programs in Tribal Communities

Beatrice Arakawa, Victim Advocate for Domestic Violence, Lower Elwha Tribe, Port Angeles, WA

Bernie LaSarte, Victim Advocate for Domestic Violence, Coeur d'Alene Tribe, Plummer, ID

Tribal communities, in general, experience higher rates of domestic violence than other communities. The importance of this issue has led many communities to establish special initiatives and programs that are specifically tailored to the cultural norms of Tribal communities. During this session, participants will discuss strategies for identifying domestic violence among Tribal members and developing services to reduce the incidences of violence. Participants will also learn how to use TANF funds to improve services and also learn how to conduct community education programs for law enforcement and families.

1:45 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Session #9: Support Services for Non-Custodial Parents

Panel Lead: *Darrel Pickett*, Child Support Program, Quinault Indian Nation, Quinault, WA

Jannette Taylor, Tribal TANF Program Coordinator, Coeur d'Alene Tribe, Worley, ID

Nicole Earls, Tribal TANF Program Coordinator, Quileute Tribe, La Push, WA

Non-custodial parents play an important economic and social role in the lives of children and communities. Besides providing economic resources, non-custodial parents are also sources of emotional support, practical assistance, information, guidance, impacting child development. During this session, participants will discuss strategies for improving the participation of non-custodial parents and strategies for providing employment-related services to non-custodial parents as a method to improve child outcomes. Participants will hear about the importance of in-depth assessments, referrals to job-training programs, job placement, and career development/counseling in Indian country.

3:00 p.m. - 3:15 p.m.

Break

3:15 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Session #10: Child Support-Federal Perspective

Nancy Mathieson, Child Support Program Specialist, Administration for Children and Families, Region X, Seattle, WA

With 38 Comprehensive Tribal Child Support Programs and 9 Start-Up Programs in existence that are funded by the federal Office of Child Support Enforcement (OCSE), it's time to get to know more about their role in family self sufficiency. Child support is a partnership between Tribal, State, Federal and other stakeholders to increase parental support of children, strengthen families, and help provide economic stability to improve the lives of children. During this session, participants will gain a better understanding of the child support enforcement program from a federal perspective and of the importance of communication, connection and collaboration between TANF and Child Support as partners working together to provide support to children and families.

4:30 p.m. Adjourn

Wednesday, September 29, 2010

Facilitator: David Lee, TANF Manager/Interim 477 Director, Shoshone-Bannock Tribes of the Fort Hall Reservation

Time Activity & Presenters

8:00 a.m. – 8:30 a.m. Networking

8:30 a.m. – 9:45 a.m. **Session #11: Audit Resolution & Federal Reporting**

Patty Fisher, Senior Financial Management Specialist, Administration for Children and Families, Region X, Seattle, WA

Sam Stitt, Financial Management Specialist, Administration for Children and Families, Region X, Seattle, WA

Effectively managing Tribal TANF programs requires a clear understanding of the Federal fiscal policies and procedures. During this session participants will gain a better understanding of Federal reporting procedures and will also learn effective strategies to prepare for and successfully navigate a program audit.

9:45 a.m. – 10:00 a.m. **Break**

10:00 a.m. – 11:15 a.m. **Session #12: Self Sufficiency Programs/Gardening**

Rae Belle Whitcomb, Tribal TANF Program Manager, Bristol Bay Native Association (BBNA), Dillingham, AK

For generations, Tribes have lived and prospered using the bounty of the land. Tribal cultures promote leadership, self-sufficiency, and self-reliance. During this session participants will discuss strategies and fundamentals of gardening and how it relates to economic self-sufficiency. Participants will learn about the essentials of good gardening and how to turn home-grown products into economic power and individual independence.

11:15 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. **Conference Closing**

Frank Shields, TANF Program Manager
ACF Region X

Traditional Closing Ceremony
Tulalip Tribal Member

12:00 p.m. Adjourn