



WELFARE PEER TA NETWORK ROUNDTABLE
*Improving Outcomes through Supervised Work
Experience & Community Service*

Golden, CO
March 9-11, 2005



March 9, 2005

11:00 AM – 12:00 PM **Registration**

12:00 – 12:30 PM **Welcome and Introductions**

Thomas Sullivan, Regional Administrator, Administration for Children and Families, Region VIII

Marva Livingston Hammons, Executive Director, CO Department of Human Services

John Horejsi, Federal Project Officer, Welfare Peer TA Network

José Rivera, J.D., Project Director, Welfare Peer TA Network

Federal and State representatives will welcome participants and provide a brief overview of the Welfare Peer TA Network and the goals of the roundtable.

12:30 – 1:15 PM

Improving TANF Outcomes through the Use of Work Experience

Mack Storrs, Senior Policy Advisor, Office of Family Assistance, ACF

Thomas Sullivan, Regional Administrator, Administration for Children and Families, Region VIII (Facilitator)

This session will focus on understanding the federal perspective with respect to the definitions associated with the unpaid work experience and the allowances that are afforded to States as they define what qualifies as community service and supervised work experience.

1:15 – 2:00 PM

Setting the Context

Mary Kay Cook, Section Manager, Colorado Works Program

Michelle Derr, Ph.D., Policy Researcher, Mathematica Policy Research, Inc.

Mack Storrs, Senior Policy Advisor, Office of Family Assistance, ACF (Facilitator)

As Colorado Counties look at new ways to improve participant outcomes as well as to increase their participation rate, it becomes increasingly necessary to look at the lack of work readiness of many participants still remaining on County TANF rolls. Thus, “supervised work experience” and “community service” represent not just options, but necessary steps or rungs on the ladder to success for many of participants. This introductory session will help to put the issue of work readiness



into that broader context.

2:00 – 2:15 PM

Break

2:15 – 2:45 PM

Developing Strategies to Increase TANF Participation

Linda Johnson, Assistant Commissioner for Career Development Service, Georgia Department of Labor

This presentation will focus on the policy, administrative and other issues that must be considered in creating a program that seeks to increase TANF participation while, at the same time, prepare participants for a meaningful role in today's workplace.

2:45 – 3:30 PM

Self-Assessment Roundtable

José Rivera, J.D., Welfare Peer TA Network

Speakers who will be presenting throughout the program will form a panel to respond informally to facilitated self-assessments made by county staff regarding their Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats with respect to local challenges and issues associated with transitional jobs, supervised work experience and community service programs.

3:30 – 4:30 PM

Community Service: New Opportunities for Partnership

Stephen W. Telow, Bureau of Family Independence, Maine Department of Human Services

Joe Barela, Colorado Works Program

This session will likewise look at the opportunities available to use community service, not just as a method for enhancing participation rate, but as a building block for the development of skills among those who, by virtue of other challenges, have not had the opportunity build skills. This session will also look at innovative ways of conducting strength based assessments of skills that are not predicated on grade level achievement.

4:30 – 5:00 PM

Day 1 Wrap-up and Day 2 Preview

José Rivera, J.D., Welfare Peer TA Network

March 10, 2005

8:30 – 9:00 AM

The Self-Assessment Matrix

José Rivera, J.D., Welfare Peer TA Network

The group exercise done on the previous day will be presented as a PowerPoint matrix showing how the participants, overall, saw their respective Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats. This will include an interactive discussion with the audience regarding the findings and conclusions.

9:00 – 10:30 AM

Transitional Jobs: Pathway to Self-Sufficiency

Linda Johnson, Assistant Commissioner for Career Development Service, Georgia Department of Labor

Nancy Meeden, Senior Employment and Training Consultant, Georgia GoodWorks

Richard Greenwald, President & CEO, Transitional Work Corporation, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Michelle Derr, Ph.D., Policy Researcher, Mathematica Policy Research, Inc.(Moderator)

This panel will look at two models of transitional jobs programs in order to examine how the lessons learned in these programs might be applied to Colorado counties.

10:30 – 10:45 AM

Break

10:45 – 11:45 AM

Round Robin Breakout Sessions on Transitional Jobs

Refreshments to be served between sessions

The purpose of this session is to allow participants to go into greater detail with each of the presenters on issues related to program development/implementation and program administration/policy. Groups will be divided by the color code on their badges.

First Session

10:45 – 11:15 AM

Green Group – Program Development/Implementation

The focus in this breakout will be on developing program structure and problems associated with implementation.

Second Session

1115 – 11:45 PM

Red Group – Program Administration/Policy

The focus in this breakout will be the administrative, management and policy issues associated with introducing a such a program.

Wrap-up in Main Room at 11:45 PM

Noon – 1:00 PM

Lunch (Served on premises)

1:00 – 2:00 PM

Supervised Work Experience

Pat McBrayer, Program and Policy Specialist, Arizona Department of Economic Security

Barbara VanBurgel, Director, Bureau of Family Independence, Maine Department of Human Services

Linda Johnson, Assistant Commissioner for Career Development Service, Georgia Department of Labor

Joe Barela, Colorado Works Program

In this session, participants will be introduced to several models of supervised work experience programs of the type and nature which might be replicated in Colorado Counties. The focus will be on both the public and private sectors. Additionally, there will be special attention paid to the differences between the urban and the rural experience. Experts will present actual models which have worked in their jurisdiction or areas and timetables for effective implementation.

2:00 – 3:00 PM

Round Robin Breakout Sessions on Supervised Work Experience

Refreshments to be served between sessions

The purpose of this session is to allow participants to go into greater detail with each of the presenters on issues related to program development/implementation and program administration/policy. Groups will be divided by the color code on their badges.

First Session

2:00 – 2:30 PM

Green Group – Program Development/Implementation

The focus in this breakout will be on developing the program structure for a

Second Session 2:30 PM – 3:00 PM	supervised work experience program and problems associated with implementation.
Wrap-up in Main Room at 3:00 PM	<i>Red Group – Program Administration/Policy</i> The focus in this breakout will be the administrative, management and policy issues associated with introducing a supervised work experience program.
3:15 – 4:30 PM	The County Experience Various County representatives will be invited to share their experiences in utilizing subsidized work, transitional jobs, supervised work experience and community service.
4:30 – 4:50 PM	Putting the Pieces Together – Strategies for Your County This will be a closing presentation aimed at contextualizing the day’s discussions and preparing participants for the following day’s Action Plan Exercise.
4:50 – 5:00 PM	Day 2 Wrap Up and Day 3 Preview <i>José Rivera, J.D., Welfare Peer TA Network</i>

March 11, 2005

9:00 – 10:00 AM

Putting the Pieces Together: Strategizing Solutions for Your Region

During this session, the counties will break out into designated groups to discuss County-based strategies and action plans. Thereafter, each county will be expected to create a plan that represents a practical approach for implementing a new “supervised work experience” and/or “community service” strategy for their County.

10:00 – 10:30 AM

Break

During this break, participants will be able to check out and otherwise prepare for departure. Project staff will photocopy the Action Plans and return them after the break

10:15 – 11:30 AM

Putting Action Planning into Action

Building on the previous session, a sample of the Action Plans will be shared with the audience for general discussion. Faculty members from the various panels will be asked to comment on some of the recommendations and plans.

11:30 – 12:00 NOON

Insider Talk on Reauthorization

Mack Storrs, Senior Policy Advisor, Office of Family Assistance, ACF

Participants will receive an in-depth briefing on the status of reauthorization, what changes have been implemented and what changes are pending as regards TANF policy, compliance, participation rates, work requirements and the like.

12:00 – 12:30 PM

Closing Remarks

Kevin R. Richards,, Director, CDHS/Colorado Works

John Horejsi, Federal Project Officer, Welfare Peer TA Network