

# MAKING it WORK



ADMINISTRATION FOR  
**CHILDREN & FAMILIES**

## Biographies

### **Nancy Ashley, Systems and Policy Analyst, Office of Policy and Innovation, Children's Home Society of Washington**

Nancy Ashley, JD, is a Systems and Policy Analyst in the Office of Policy and Innovation at Children's Home Society of Washington and part of the agency's team for Washington Innovation Cluster of the Frontiers of Innovation initiative at Harvard University. In that role, she leads the King County Child Welfare-Early Learning Partnership Project, which is designed to ensure access to community-based early learning, early intervention and infant/early childhood mental health programs for children ages 0-5, and their caregivers who are involved in the child welfare system. She is coordinating a project team testing the integration of the Mobility Mentoring model in Early Head Start and Parents as Teachers home visiting programs in two Washington state sites, and also coordinates her agency's race equity and cultural competence effort. For 18 years Ms. Ashley was the principal of Heliotrope, a consulting firm that focused on system change and strategic planning in the areas of early learning, afterschool care, youth development, domestic violence, and meeting basic needs. Her clients came from the philanthropic, local and state government, social services, and business sectors. Nancy practiced law for nine years before moving to consulting work. Ms. Ashley was a Big Sister mentor to a girl with developmental delays; a foster and fictive parent for 13 years for her mentee and her brother. Each had seven adverse childhood experiences; both are now successful young adults.

### **Monica Barczak, Senior Advisor, Administration for Children and Families, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services**

Monica Barczak is on a one-year Intergovernmental Personnel Act (IPA) assignment in the Office of Family Assistance and Office of Community Services in the Administration for Children and Families. She works on two-generation efforts to break the cycle of poverty, including the Rural IMPACT Demonstration initiative. Dr. Barczak comes to ACF from CAP Tulsa, a community action agency in Tulsa, OK, which she joined in 2003 in the Public Policy Department. In 2007 she led the development of the Innovation Lab and became director. Drawing on innovative approaches, such as human centered design and behavioral economics, the Lab cultivates and leads pilot and research projects to test new ways of working with children and families together. Before joining CAP Tulsa, Dr. Barczak worked for the City of Tulsa and taught political science for the University of California and the University of Nevada-Las Vegas. She has been a member of the Tulsa Area Workforce Investment Board since 2009. She holds a bachelor's degree in international relations from the University of Wisconsin-Madison and a master's degree and Ph.D. in political science at the University of California, Davis, where she studied Latin American politics.

### **Reggie Bicha, Executive Director, Colorado Department of Human Services**

In January 2011, Colorado Governor John Hickenlooper appointed Mr. Bicha as executive director of the Colorado Department of Human Services. Mr. Bicha has undertaken a bold initiative in Colorado to redesign and refocus the state agency, which employs more than 5,000 employees and operates on a \$2 billion budget. Mr. Bicha is a social worker, administrator, educator, and national leader. He has extensive experience working on child welfare, education, employment, and health issues at the county, state, and national levels. Before moving to Colorado Mr. Bicha served as the inaugural secretary of the Wisconsin Department of Children and Families. He is the immediate

past president of the American Public Human Services Association, and in 2015 was presented the APHSA State and Local Outstanding Member Award. In January 2014, Mr. Bicha was recognized for his leadership and dedication with the Casey Family Programs "Excellence for Children Award," and in 2012 he was selected for the Ascend Fellowship, sponsored by the prestigious Aspen Institute, to focus on approaches to move children and parents beyond poverty. Mr. Bicha and his wife Becky have three children and have served as foster parents.

## **Kisha Bird, Director of Youth Policy, CLASP**

Kisha Bird is director of youth policy at CLASP and project director for the Campaign for Youth (CFY), a national coalition chaired by CLASP. Ms. Bird works to expand access to education, employment, and support services for disconnected and other vulnerable youth. She is an expert in federal policy for vulnerable youth and helps ensure national legislation (such as the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act) is fully implemented in communities nationwide and has maximum impact for poor and low-income youth and youth of color. Before joining CLASP, Ms. Bird was director of the Pennsylvania Statewide Afterschool/Youth Development Network, working to make quality education and afterschool programs accessible to young people. Prior to that, she was a program officer at the Philadelphia Foundation, where she helped develop and manage the Fund for Children, Youth Advisory Board, and discretionary grants process. She also has direct service experience, working in various community settings with children, youth and families. Ms. Bird holds a master's degree in social service and a master's degree in law and social policy from Bryn Mawr College Graduate School of Social Work and Social Research. She also earned a bachelor's degree in sociology from Spelman College. Lastly, she is a graduate of the Education Policy Fellowship Program, a joint program of the Institute for Educational Leadership and the Pennsylvania Education Policy Leadership Center.

## **Cindy J. Crain, President and CEO, Metro Dallas Homeless Alliance**

Cindy J. Crain has served as the president and CEO of the Metro Dallas Homeless Alliance (MDHA) since March 2015. From 2008 to 2015, Ms. Crain served as the founding executive director of the Tarrant County Homeless Coalition. She has served for four years on the governing board of the National Council on Health Care for the Homeless and is a regular presenter and facilitator at the National Human Services Data Consortium national conference. She is a current member of the KERA citizen advisory committee and a former president of the League of Women Voters of Tarrant County. In 2016, Ms. Crain was appointed to the Weatherford Democrat Editorial Board. Ms. Crain is a Truman Scholar and founding board member and former president of the Truman Scholars Association. She holds a B.B.A. in marketing from Texas Christian University and an M.P.A. in technology and information policy from Syracuse University. She resides on her Flying Dog Farm in Weatherford, Texas, where she rises each morning by 5 a.m. to tend to her animals before heading to the MDHA offices in the Wilson District of Deep Ellum.

## **Bernarda "Bernie" Cutter, State of Louisiana Federal Project Officer, Region 4, Employment and Training Administration, Department of Labor**

Bernarda "Bernie" Cutter was born in Panama City, Republic of Panama, and is a graduate of Park University. Ms. Cutter retired from the United States Air Force after serving over 26 years in the human resources field. In 2005, Ms. Cutter joined the Department of Labor, Employment and Training Administration as the youth program lead, overseeing youth programs for the Dallas Regional Office 11-state region. Since then, Ms. Cutter has served as the Work and Opportunity Tax Credit and the National Dislocated Worker Grants Program Lead and also as the federal project officer for the states of South Dakota and Montana. Ms. Cutter is currently serving as the federal project officer for the state of Louisiana and as the regional monitor advocate for the Migrant Seasonal Farmworkers' Program.

## **John Disque, TANF Program Specialist, Region VI, Office of Family Assistance, Administration for Children and Families, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services**

John Disque is currently the Region VI TANF program specialist assigned to the states of Louisiana and Oklahoma, as well as to the tribes that operate Tribal TANF or Native Employment Works (NEW) programs in Oklahoma. He is responsible for providing technical assistance to the states and tribes with regard to TANF and NEW program grants,

and for helping to maintain the integrity of program data. Duties also include responding to public inquiries about TANF benefits and working with the Office for Civil Rights to assure that benefits are administered in compliance with applicable civil rights laws. Mr. Disque is a member of the Federal Partners Collaboration Workgroup, the Hispanic Initiative, and the Emergency Response Readiness Force. He deployed to Louisiana to assist the recovery effort following Hurricanes Gustav and Ike. Mr. Disque earned a B.A. in anthropology from the University of Texas at Austin in 1971 and a juris doctorate from the Regent University School of Law in 1989. Prior to entering federal service he worked for the state of Texas as an underwater archeologist, for the state of Alaska as a computer programmer/analyst, and practiced law for fifteen years, representing people with disabilities in every area of need. He was the first attorney to receive the Professional of the Year award from the ARC of the Pikes Peak Region and was honored by the Children's Advocacy Center as Defender of the Defenseless.

## **Susan Golonka, Acting Director, Office of Family Assistance, Administration for Children and Families, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services**

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 a master's degree in Public Administration from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and a bachelor of arts degree from the University of Virginia.

## **Phil Harris, Assistant Director, Arkansas TANF Program, Arkansas Department of Workforce Services**

Phil Harris serves as the assistant director for the Arkansas Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program at the Arkansas Department of Workforce Services (ADWS). Under Mr. Harris' leadership the office oversees the development and implementation of program policy, staff development, program integrity and quality assurance, and external contract administration. He is responsible for developing partnerships that provide employment, training, and other services for Arkansas's TANF customers. Mr. Harris has extensive experience with organizational change and has worked to improve client services and build external support of the department's efforts by working closely with advisory groups of advocates, legal aid staff, and other key external stakeholder groups. Prior to joining ADWS, Mr. Harris spent 13 years in higher education as a business developer, and continues his passion for teaching as an adjunct faculty member at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock. Mr. Harris holds a B.A. degree in business from Philander Smith College and earned an M.B.A. from the University of Arkansas at Little Rock. He has numerous awards and certifications for his work in education, economic development, and public service.

## **Gwendolyn (Gwen) Jones, Region VI, Regional Program Manager, Office of Child Care, Administration for Children and Families, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services**

Gwendolyn (Gwen) Jones is currently the regional program manager for Office of Child Care, Administration for Children and Families (ACF) in the Dallas Regional Office, a position she has held since 2006. Ms. Jones has been with the ACF since 1988, initially with Region V in Chicago. She worked with the Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG) Program since it was initially funded in 1991. She has served as a program specialist with the TANF and Child Welfare Programs. Prior to entering federal service Ms. Jones completed a 20-year career in the Indiana state government, working in numerous programs that provided services to low-income children and families. Her positions in Indiana were public assistance caseworker and supervisor; manager of Hearing and Appeals; and manager of licensing child care facilities, including family child care homes, child care centers, residential child care

institutions, group homes, foster homes, and child placing agencies. Gwen is native of Arkansas and a graduate of Henderson State University in Arkadelphia, Arkansas.

## **Jennifer A. Jones, Director of Child and Family Systems Innovation, Alliance for Strong Families and Communities**

In 2015, Jennifer Jones, M.S.W., joined the Alliance for Strong Families and Communities as director of child and family systems innovation. In this newly created position, Ms. Jones leads the Alliance's efforts to bring to scale what works in promoting the health and wellbeing of children and families through programs, services, and systems innovation with an emphasis on decreasing the number of people living in poverty, increasing the number of people living safe and healthy lives, and putting more people on the pathway for education and employment success. A key responsibility of the position is managing a three-year grant from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation to infuse, align, and accelerate brain science research into nonprofit agency practice, policy, and systems. Prior to her position with the Alliance, Ms. Jones served as the Associate Director of the Wisconsin Children's Trust Fund (CTF), the state's leading child abuse prevention agency. Ms. Jones led the agency's efforts on adverse childhood experiences, which including advancing the strategic recommendations made in the publications "Adverse Childhood Experiences in Wisconsin: Findings from the 2010 Behavioral Risk Factor Survey," and "Wisconsin ACE Brief: 2011 and 2012 Data." Ms. Jones also co-led the state's efforts with Children's Hospital of Wisconsin in integrating the Positive Community Norms model into child abuse prevention efforts. Ms. Jones was also responsible for CTF's strategic planning, public policy, and communications efforts. For the last two years, at the Board's request, Ms. Jones served as interim executive director of CTF. In that role, Ms. Jones provided leadership and vision for the agency and coordinated all activities related to the governor-appointed Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention Board. Preceding her positions with the Children's Trust Fund, Ms. Jones served as the communications specialist in the Secretary's Office at the Department of Children and Families and as a child welfare policy advisor in the Division of Children and Family Services. Ms. Jones also served as director of marketing with the Alliance for Children and Families, the grants manager with the Massachusetts Bar Foundation, and the executive director of the National Student Campaign Against Hunger and Homelessness. Ms. Jones is currently on the board of directors of the Hunger Task Force. Ms. Jones received a bachelor's degree in social work from Marquette University and a master's degree in social work from the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

## **Nicholas Lalpui, Region 4 Administrator, Employment and Training Administration, U.S. Department of Labor**

Nicholas E. Lalpui serves as the regional administrator at the U.S. Department of Labor's Employment and Training Administration (ETA), Dallas Regional Office. As an ETA public servant since 1997, Mr. Lalpui has served in various capacities partnering with state and local workforce organizations to achieve ETA's mission of providing high quality job training, employment, labor market information, and income maintenance services through state and local workforce development systems. Mr. Lalpui has received several Secretary Achievement Awards and ETA recognition for his leadership on national taskforces that renovated the workforce system, including the Workforce Investment Act Regulations and Implementation teams, such as the Employment Service Performance Measures team, the National Business Learning Partnership team, and the Innovate ETA team. As regional administrator, Mr. Lalpui oversees and partners with an 11-state region which includes Arkansas, Colorado, Louisiana, Montana, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oklahoma, South Dakota, Texas, Utah, and Wyoming. Throughout his tenure with ETA, he has demonstrated a strong commitment to move the needle for ETA investments and exceed customer service. His commitment stems from his own personal life experiences as an operations manager at the Roadway Package System, and his service in the U.S. Army as an M-1 Abrams Main Battle Tank Crewman, serving in Operations Desert Shield and Storm. Mr. Lalpui has a B.A. in political science from the University of North Texas.

## **Dawn McDaniel, Associate Director, Little Dixie Community Action Agency**

Dawn McDaniel has proven her dedication to "Helping People, Changing Lives" by building relationships, trust, and rapport within the community. Ms. McDaniel began her career with Little Dixie Community Action Agency in 1990 as a program secretary in Head Start. She received a Child Development Associate Credential in 1996 and in 1997

# Biographies

earned a Family Services Mentoring and Administrative Credential from the National Head Start Academy. Ms. McDaniel then went on to receive a bachelor of business administration cum laude in 2000 from Southeastern Oklahoma State University and a masters of human relations from the University of Oklahoma in 2004. Through many years of dedication and hard work, Ms. McDaniel received various promotions including family service worker, social service specialist, assistant head start director, and head start/early head start director. She was promoted to associate director of Little Dixie Community Action Agency in October 2015 overseeing early childhood, housing, Child and Adult Care Feeding Program, Smart Start, Healthy Start, and the Rural Impact initiative. Ms. McDaniel is an excellent agent of change and has a documented track record of accomplishments, including the Guy Davis Leadership Award in 2010, Little Dixie's Head Start program being named as a National Center of Excellence, and achieving a record of full compliance during numerous federal reviews. Known for coordinating work teams with an enthusiastic and genuinely friendly attitude, Ms. McDaniel has built long-lasting relationships with members of the community, partners and staff.

## **Larry McDowell, Acting TANF Regional Program Manager, Region VI, Office of Family Assistance, Administration for Children and Families, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services**

Larry McDowell is currently the acting TANF regional program manager with the Office of Family Assistance (OFA), Administration for Children and Families (ACF), U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). He is currently assigned to the Region VI Office in Dallas, Texas and began his current role in January 2016. His primary duties include providing leadership, direction and technical guidance for the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) and Native Employment Works (NEW) programs in Region 6 Office of Family Assistance. With a team of children and families program specialists, Mr. McDowell works with all five Region 6 states, which include Arkansas, Louisiana, New Mexico, Oklahoma and Texas, as well as three tribes that administer their own TANF program, and seven tribes that operate Native Employment Works programs. He is also still serving as the regional TANF program specialist for the states of Arkansas and Texas and the regional lead for the HHS/ACF/OFA homeless initiative. In that capacity, he provides information and technical assistance related to these programs and other family strengthening initiatives. Prior to his work with the TANF program, he worked as a child support program specialist and served as the family life and healthy marriage program specialist for the region. Mr. McDowell came to the ACF regional office from Colorado, where he spent 25 years administering and managing human services and workforce development programs at the county government level, and provided research and consultation services to the Colorado Departments of Human Services and Labor. Mr. McDowell has been married to Nancy for 27 years and is the father of two adult daughters living in Colorado.

## **Marjorie McColl Petty, Region VI Director, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services**

Prior to her appointment as HHS Regional Director in 2009, Marjorie McColl Petty served as director of public affairs and consumer protection for the Kansas Corporation Commission for six years. She also served as chair of the board of directors of Delta Dental of Kansas, beginning in August 2008, after serving on the company's board of directors since 2001. From 2006-2008, she was president of the board of directors of the Delta Dental Foundation, where she reviewed and granted \$2.9 million for oral health projects for Kansans. Previously, she served as a subcontractor for two regional offices of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services as a public policy manager. The Honorable Marjorie McColl Petty has also served as a state senator in Kansas and a member of the Topeka City Council. She received a J.D. from Washburn University School of Law and a master's in education/counseling from the University of Kansas.

## **Rose Prochazka, Section Chief, Wisconsin Shares Policy Unit, Wisconsin Department of Children and Families**

Ms. Prochazka is the Section Chief of the Wisconsin Shares Policy unit which directs policy development of the child care subsidy program in Wisconsin. She has been in the Section Chief position for 2 years and with the Department since 2006. Prior to becoming the Section Chief, Rose was a policy analyst within the Wisconsin Shares program and also previously in Wisconsin's TANF program, Wisconsin Works. Rose's career began nearly



30 years ago with experience in the employment and training field, domestic violence, and child abuse prevention.

## **Rebecca Reynolds, Executive Director, Little Dixie Community Action Agency**

Rebecca Reynolds' career with Little Dixie Community Action Agency, Inc. began in 1994, and over the course of the past 22 years, her commitment, hard work, and dedication have resulted in numerous promotions—from bookkeeper to administrative assistant to housing director. In 2003, she was promoted to the position of associate director. In this role, Ms. Reynolds oversaw numerous programs including self-help housing, apartments, residential and business lending programs; the Retired and Senior Volunteer Program, Training and Service Learning Program, and many more. Ms. Reynolds has received numerous achievement awards over the years, such as the Fred Tucker Memorial Award, Ted Allen Memorial Award, and the Guy Davis Leadership Award from the Oklahoma Association of Community Action Agencies; the Friend of Affordable Housing Award from the Oklahoma Housing Finance Agency; and Employee of the Year Award from Little Dixie CAA. In 2014 she completed an 18-month program at the Harvard School of Business where she graduated with a certification in "Achieving Excellence in Community Development." Ms. Reynolds became executive director of Little Dixie in October of 2014. She currently serves as the board secretary for the Oklahoma Association of Community Action Agencies and on the public relations committee for NeighborWorks® America. She is recognized as a leader locally within her community, among peers, and by funders across the nation.

## **Kisha Russell, TANF Program Manager, Region VIII, Office of Family Assistance, Administration for Children and Families, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services**

Kisha Russell is the TANF regional program manager within the Office of Family Assistance (OFA) for Region VIII. Ms. Russell has been in her current position since November 2013. Prior to coming to OFA, Ms. Russell 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. Ms. Russell began her career determining eligibility for public assistance programs within the state of Oklahoma and has since gained 15 years of experience working programs including TANF, SNAP, Medicaid, child care, long term care, and adult financial. Ms. Russell holds a bachelor of science from Oklahoma State University and a master's degree of science from Colorado State University.

## **Jody Schanilec, Employment Services Manager, Anoka County WorkForce Center**

Jody Schanilec is an employment services manager at the Anoka County WorkForce Center in Blaine, Minnesota. As a licensed social worker, she has more than 20 years of experience working in employment services and currently oversees Anoka County's low income worker programs which include the Minnesota Family Investment Program (MFIP), the Diversionary Work Program (DWP) Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), the Senior Community Service Employment Program (SCSEP), and Anoka County's current career pathway training model, "Career Connections." Additionally, Ms. Schanilec has experience working with at-risk youth and currently oversees a special initiative providing services to youth of TANF families.

## **Rachel Schumacher, Director, Office of Child Care, Administration for Children and Families, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services**

Rachel Schumacher is the director of the Office of Child Care, where she is committed to increasing access to quality child care that promotes early learning and development of children — from birth through school age — in partnership with their families and communities. She leads the Office of Child Care's work to implement the Child Care and Development Block Grant Act of 2014 and enhance the quality and continuity of infant and toddler child care, including through collaboration with the Office of Head Start for Early Head Start - Child Care Partnerships. Before coming to the Office of Child Care, Ms. Schumacher was an independent early childhood policy consultant. She has advised and provided policy analysis on behalf of national organizations and public agencies to identify and amplify strategies to enhance the lives of young children and their parents by strengthening early childhood systems and services. As a consultant, she supported the development and launch of Early Childhood-LINC (Learning and Innovation Network for Communities), a project co-sponsored by the Center for Study of Social Policy and the

# Biographies

2016 Regions VI - VIII Tribal Technical Assistance Meeting

Children's Services Council of Palm Beach County, to support families and improve results for young children in communities across the country with a focus on accelerating the development of effective, integrated, local early childhood systems. Prior to launching her consulting business, Ms. Schumacher was a senior fellow in child care and early education at the Center for Law and Social Policy (CLASP). While at CLASP, she led policy research and provided technical assistance to policymakers on a range of topics including infant and toddler child care and Early Head Start policies, state early childhood systems, enhancing child care quality standards, state prekindergarten programs, and federal law and regulation for the Child Care and Development Fund and Head Start/Early Head Start. Before CLASP, Rachel served as an early childhood policy analyst at the Children's Defense Fund, Greater Cincinnati Project and as a legislative aide in the Massachusetts House of Representatives. Ms. Schumacher has a bachelor's degree from Brown University and a master's in public policy from the Irving B. Harris School of Public Policy at the University of Chicago.

## **Julie Starns, TANF Manager, Division of Programs Economic Stability Section, Louisiana Department of Children and Family Services**

Julie Starns is the TANF manager of the Division of Programs Economic Stability Section in the Louisiana Department of Children and Family Services. As TANF manager, Ms. Starns assists the TANF director in the management of a wide array of TANF programs administered by the department and is responsible for policy development and issuance, automated system support, policy interpretation, program compliance with federal and state laws and regulations, and contract negotiation and monitoring. She has over 20 years of experience in the social service industry and is a graduate of Northwestern State University.

## **Kathy Szafran, President and CEO, Crittenton Services of West Virginia**

Kathy F. Szafran, MA, LPC, is the president and CEO of Crittenton Services of West Virginia. She has over 30 years of behavioral health experience encompassing senior level management, program and policy development, quality improvement, budget management, training and consulting, marketing, grant writing, clinical supervision and group, and individual and family therapy. She is a qualified expert witness for legal proceedings regarding the clinical treatment of abused children. Ms. Szafran participated as a member of Governor Manchin's Transition Team and holds an appointment to the Comprehensive Behavioral Health Advisory Board serving the governor and the state of West Virginia. She serves on the home team for the National Governors Association Three Branch Institute on Child Social and Emotional Wellbeing. Ms. Szafran has presented workshops at numerous national conferences, and she has presented at Congressional briefings related to gender responsive-trauma focused care for marginalized girls. She successfully integrated the ARC (Attachment, Self-Regulation and Competency) framework into both residential and rural community-based behavioral health services. Ms. Szafran is the past president of the West Virginia Child Care Association, and is currently a peer reviewer and team leader for the Council on Accreditation. She is active with the National Crittenton Foundation, advocating for best practices specific to trauma-focused gender-responsive services for multi-system-involved girls. Ms. Szafran is a recipient of the Commissioner's Award from the US Department of Health and Human Services Committee on Child Sexual Abuse. She holds a master's degree from West Virginia University and is a licensed professional counselor. She has also completed the Multi-System Integration Program from the Center for Juvenile Justice Reform at Georgetown University.

## **Sisifo (Sifo) Taatiti, Assistant Director, Program Training Division, Utah Department of Workforce Services**

Sisifo Taatiti (Sifo) currently works for the Utah Department of Workforce Services as the assistant director in the Program Training Division that oversees TANF and WIOA programs for the state of Utah. Ms. Taatiti was most recently the TANF program manager and has been involved in Utah's TANF programs for the last four years. She began with the Department of Workforce Services in 2008 as an eligibility specialist working with newly arriving refugee groups. Ms. Taatiti has also worked for the Utah State Department of Human Services as a juvenile justice counselor. Prior to working for the state of Utah, she worked for the American Samoa Government in federal programs including Special Education and Early Childhood Intervention Services. She has a bachelor's degree in

# Biographies

2016 Regions VI - VIII Tribal Technical Assistance Meeting

social work from Brigham Young University and a master's degree in social work from the University of Utah. She has been a certified social worker since 2012.

## **Jason Wutt, Policy Initiatives Advisor, Division of Early Care and Education, Wisconsin Department of Children and Families**

As the Policy Initiatives Advisor for the Division of Early Care and Education, Mr. Wutt is deeply involved in Wisconsin's Early Childhood Advisory Council and Read to Lead Development Council; is the liaison for county and tribal agencies contracted by the Department of Children and Families to administer CCDF programs; and has numerous other roles and responsibilities in supporting key early care and education projects and initiatives. Mr. Wutt has presented at numerous national, state and local conferences and meetings; participated in a national child care website expert panel; and authored a feature article on Wisconsin's efforts to modernize child care regulation in the August 2015 edition of Policy and Practice, the professional magazine of the American Public Human Services Association.