



Administration for Children and Families
Office of Family Assistance

Speaker Biographies

Ralph J. Alvarado has 38 years of experience working in social service and fraud programs. Through his years of experience, he has served a variety of roles. Currently, he serves as the Fraud Manager with the Contra Costa County Employment and Human Services Department. While serving in the capacity of Fraud Manager, Mr. Alvarado is also the Zone Director for the United Council on Welfare Fraud (UCOWF). In addition, he is the Immediate Past President of the Welfare Fraud Investigators Association (CWFIA) and the developer of the Electronic Fraud Referral System.

Currently, Mr. Alvarado is managing the following:

- Fraud Field Investigations
- Liaison to the DA's Office
- Liaison to the Housing Authority
- Primary Contact for all public fraud complains
- Fraud Overpayment Unit
- IEVS Review Unit
- Collections
- Appeals and Evidentiary Hearings
- Civil Rights Complaints

Guy Christian serves as the Supervising Welfare Fraud Investigator for the Tulare County District Attorney's Office.

Mr. Christian was born and raised in Fresno, California. After graduating from High School he joined the Navy and was assigned to the Pacific Submarine Fleet. After his discharge from the Navy he worked for the California Department of Forestry as a Fire Apparatus Engineer in Tulare County and as a Fire Captain and Paramedic Captain in Orange County.

Mr. Christian joined the Tulare County District Attorney's Welfare Fraud Unit in 1996 and was promoted to Supervising Investigator in June of 1998. He has worked in and supervised surveillance operations, warrant operations, and Food Stamp undercover operations both as a supervisor and as an undercover agent. Mr. Christian developed and instructs a training program for the Tulare County Health and Human Services eligibility staff. The program is designed to meet the state required fraud training for Social Services staff. Included in the training are interview techniques, elements of fraud, State and Federal rules and regulations, and courtroom procedures.

He has served as a member of the 2009, 2010 and 2011 California Welfare Fraud Investigators Association's Conference Curriculum Committee. Mr. Christian was elected to the Board of CWFIA in June 2010 as a Zone 1 Director. He was appointed as Vice President of CWFIA in January 2011, and elected to that office in July 2011. He has served as Chairman of the Tulare County In Home Support Services Advisory Committee for the past nine years.



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Dana Eisenberg is a Communications Specialist at BLH Technologies, Inc., and provides communications strategy, research, and planning for the Office of Family Assistance, Administration for Children and Families, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. She serves as a member of the Welfare Peer Technical Assistance Network Team, providing training and technical assistance support services to States, counties, localities, Tribal organizations, and community-based organizations. Ms. Eisenberg is knowledgeable regarding the research design, implementation, and evaluation of health messages targeting special populations. She has conducted many literature reviews, developed survey instruments, entered and evaluated the resultant data, and contributed to journal articles and reports on health communication topics.

Ms. Eisenberg earned B.A. degrees in communication studies and psychology from the College of New Jersey and earned her M.A. in communication from Ohio State University.

Tina Olson (On Owa Zitgdna Wiya), Yaqui, has worked on issues surrounding domestic violence for over 25 years. Mrs. Olson came into the work as an advocate, working as a volunteer for the Women's Coalition, a battered women's shelter in Duluth, Minnesota in 1984. As Director for Mending the Sacred Hoop Inc. she has organized such domestic violence trainings as *Law Enforcement, Building a Coordinated Response, Creating a Process of Change for Men Who Batter, Regional Trainings, Sexual Assault Response for Advocacy, Native Women's Leadership Training, and In Our Best Interest*, a women's facilitator curriculum. She has taken various roles in the work to end violence in the Duluth community, working as a women's advocate and men's group facilitator, a group facilitator for women who are arrested, as well as one of the original founding mothers of Mending the Sacred Hoop's coordinated response in Carlton and St. Louis Counties in northeastern Minnesota that began in 1990. In 1996, Mending the Sacred Hoop was funded by the Office on Violence Against Women to provide training & technical assistance to Tribes across the country and still presently is a Tribal Technical Assistance Provider funded by the Office on Violence Against Women. She has been a board member of American Indian Transitional Housing Program and Dabinoo'lgan, a shelter for Native women, located in Duluth, Minnesota. Mrs. Olson is currently the Board Chair of the Women In Construction Company, an economic justice project developed to provide livable wages to women by training low-income women to work in the construction trades.

Ms. Olson is the proud mother of four daughters who are all working in helping field careers: law, social work, nursing, and a college student studying to become a teacher. She is also grandmother of nine grandchildren and lives with her husband in Duluth, Minnesota.