



2011 ACF/OFA Region IX Tribal TANF Meeting

Administration for Children and Families
Office of Family Assistance

Speaker Biographies

Glen Basconcillo is the Chief Operations Officer with the Owens Valley Career Development Center (OVCDC), a Tribal organization providing social services, education, language, and literacy services in central California. Prior to being appointed Chief Operations Officer, Mr. Basconcillo served as the Deputy TANF Director and TANF Director at OVCDC. Currently, Mr. Basconcillo facilitates a quarterly workgroup of the California Tribal TANF programs and participates in numerous, local, state, regional, and national forums on TANF. Before Mr. Basconcillo's time at the OVCDC, he was Program Director for the Kern County Department of Human Services where he was responsible for the planning, program development, and implementation of the welfare reform legislation of 1996. His duties included facilitating numerous groups within the county for implementation of TANF and testifying to the Legislature regarding public policy and program development of welfare reform.

With over 30 years of public and Tribal social services policy development, program development, program evaluation and compliance, Mr. Basconcillo brings a wealth of knowledge and experience in human services delivery systems. Mr. Basconcillo's career reflects a dedication to developing integrated programs and systems to achieve the best outcomes for children and families with an emphasis on collaboration and partnership.

John Bausch is a Grants Management Specialist for the Administration for Children and Families in Region IX.

Robin Bear Child is an enrolled member of the Blackfeet Tribe of Montana and the coordinator of the Department of Public Health & Human Services-Health Professions Opportunity Grant Issksiniip Project at Blackfeet Community College in Browning, Montana. The Blackfeet Community College is the open and inclusive higher education institution of the Blackfeet Reservation and surrounding communities. Blackfeet Community College provides education in a caring, student-focused, and intellectually stimulating environment. Ms. Bear Child has played an integral role in the successful implementation of the Issksiniip Project at Blackfeet Community College in the areas of academic program development and enhancement, participant recruitment, coordinating cooperative agreements to secure community and university partnerships, financial planning and management, as well as comprehensive program evaluation to assure the continuance and success of the Issksiniip Project.

Katelin Conway is currently the Issksiniip Project Placement Counselor, a position that has allowed her to aid in the successful implementation of the Health Professions Opportunity Grant (HPOG) at Blackfeet Community College. Ms. Conway serves as the primary director and point of contact between The Blackfeet Community College, higher education institution partners, and community partners. She currently serves as Issksiniip Project External Advisory Board member, Issksiniip Project Internal Advisory Board member, and Higher Education Partnerships Advisory Committee member. Ms. Conway has also developed an Issksiniip Project Career Development Center to house speakers, workshops, forums, and other events aimed at enhancing the professional development and career placement opportunities for Issksiniip Project students.



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Ms. Conway earned an MBA at The University of Montana in 2010. Prior to her MBA, she earned a Bachelor of Science in Management from Arizona State University in 2008. She is currently enrolled in the Master of Public Health program at The University of Montana.

Bonita “Bonnie” DeWeaver is the Workforce Development Program Coordinator at the Phoenix Indian Center, Inc. The Phoenix Indian Center is the oldest urban-based nonprofit organization serving the needs of American Indians and provides services for both youth and adults along with targeting the family structure as a whole. Ms. DeWeaver provides technical assistance for Federal Project Consolidation as authorized by Public Law 102-477, the Employment, Training and Related Services Act of 1992. Much of the technical assistance that Ms. DeWeaver provides involves planning, proposal writing, and implementing services under Tribal administrative requirements for various training and employment programs serving low-income families and youth.

Prior to her technical assistance for 477 Federal Program Consolidation, Ms. DeWeaver served as a Coordinated Services Manager for the Cook Inlet Tribal Council. As Coordinated Services Manager, Ms. DeWeaver managed programs that provided and enhanced skills for unemployed or undereducated youth, teens, parents, and adults. Before her position as Coordinated Services Manager, Ms. DeWeaver served as the Supported Work Services Manager for the Cook Inlet Tribal Council from 1995-2000.

Ms. DeWeaver is currently pursuing her Masters degree in Human Development at Northern Arizona University. She has completed graduate studies in Public Administration at Syracuse University and earned her Bachelor’s Degree from Alaska Pacific University in Human Resource and Education, with an emphasis in psychology.

Walter Hillabrant is a citizen of the Potawatomi nation and has over 30 years of experience in conducting research in Indian country. This work includes survey and evaluation research, policy analysis, and clinical outcome studies. He is both a statistician and a psychologist. Mr. Hillabrant has been an expert witness in statistics and data analysis for the Departments of Justice, Health and Human Services, and Education both in federal courts and in administrative hearings. He is also the co-author of a widely cited article on conducting responsible research in Indian country.

Since 1980, Mr. Hillabrant has worked at Support Services International (SSI), a consulting firm specializing in research, evaluation, and training in the areas of welfare, business and economic development, housing, health, and education. Before founding SSI, Mr. Hillabrant was a professor in the psychology department at Howard University from 1970 to 1980. Mr. Hillabrant has a doctorate in psychology from the University of California, Riverside.

Mr. Hillabrant possess a broad experience in job creation and economic development in Indian country; he serves on the boards and cofounded Native American Capital, LLC, Native American Water Management, LP, and the Lower Brule Community Development Enterprise, LLC.. Mr. Hillabrant has conducted research that informs and reveals the complexity underlying the welfare to work truism.



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David Madison is a Grants Management Specialist with the Administration for Children and Families for Region IX.

Andrew (Andy) Miritello has been a Vocational Instructor with the Gila River Indian Community Employment and Training Department for the past 13 years and a Building Trades Vocational Instructor with at -risk Tribal and multicultural youth for the past 20 years. Mr. Miritello has also served as a staff management team member for the Gila River Indian Community, as a team member and program developer of the Career Pathways Initiative, as well as a presenter for the GRIC Employment and Training Programs. Additionally, Mr. Miritello is currently the equine specialist for the Tribal equine programs with youth in the Gila River Indian Community.

Racquel S. Morrison is the Outreach Services Coordinator for Native American Communities in the Breaking Down Barriers Program at Mental Health America of San Diego County. Breaking Down Barriers' purpose is to increase access to mental health services for un-served and underserved persons from culturally diverse populations who have severe mental illnesses. The term "culturally diverse" here refers to both ethnic and non-ethnic cultural groups. The former group includes Latinos, Native Americans, and Asian Americans, peoples from the Pacific Islands, African Americans and other historically un-served and underserved groups. The latter group includes –but is not limited to –gay, lesbian, bi-sexual, trans-gendered persons, transitional age youth, older adults, Veterans and their families and groups with disabilities such as blind and vision impaired, deaf and hard of hearing, as well as the physically challenged.

Rondii Nieto is the Site Project Coordinator at the Owens Valley Career Development Center (OVCDC). OVCDC is a dedicated American Indian organization operating under a consortium of Sovereign Nations. OVCDC is a multifaceted business reaching into all aspects of social services and educational services, as well as economic development markets, providing Native American communities with a mechanism for bettering quality of life. OVCDC provides opportunities to improve quality of life by focusing on education and self-sufficiency while protecting, preserving, and promoting Native cultures in the spirit of positive nation building for Native people of today and generations of tomorrow.

Debra Powless is the TANF Director at the Owens Valley Career Development Center. Owens Valley Career Development Center (OVCDC) is a dedicated American Indian organization operating under a consortium of Sovereign Nations. OVCDC is a multifaceted business reaching into all aspects of social services and educational services, as well as economic development markets, providing Native American communities with a mechanism for bettering quality of life. OVCDC provides opportunities to improve quality of life by focusing on education and self-sufficiency while protecting, preserving and promoting Native cultures in the spirit of positive nation building for Native people of today and generations of tomorrow.



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Sierra Solomon is an Associate at ICF Consulting with five years of experience with community development, asset building, and the Assets for Independence program. In her work with the AFI Resource Center, she designs and delivers asset building training, provides technical assistance to grantees, and produces the AFI newsletter. As resource coordinator for HHS Region IX, she regularly engages with all AFI grantees in California, Nevada, and Arizona, serving as their first point of contact and supporting the growth of strong programs. She also organizes community outreach conferences in order to develop and foster potential grantees in Region IX. Ms. Solomon recently won an "HHS Partnering for Excellence" award for her work coordinating an outreach event in Sacramento, California.

Carolyn Stalcup is an enrolled member of the lipaay Nation of Santa Ysabel, residing with her husband and two children on the Santa Ysabel Indian Reservation. She has been employed with SCTCA for 11 years, working with the TANF program for 6 years. Ms. Stalcup is the TANF Sites Director Assistant and works with the Executive team to oversee 5 TANF offices and implement the Tribal TANF Program for the consortia Tribes.

Denis Turner is the Executive Director of the Southern California Tribal Chairmen's Association. Tribal TANF is a program designed to replace the public assistance previously provided by the counties in Southern California under Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC). American Indians living on North and East County reservations are now receiving services from Southern California Tribal Chairmen's Association. Tribal TANF was designed by Indian people to meet the special and different needs of Indian people in Southern California. Tribal TANF has the flexibility to focus on and address cultural needs specific to Native populations.

James Whelly is the Manager of Employment and Business Services at the San Francisco Human Services Agency (SF-HSA). San Francisco's innovative and nationally recognized JOBS NOW! program is administered by the SF-HSA and was launched in May 2009 with Federal funds made available through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA).

Yvette Yazzie is the Southern California Tribal Chairmen's Association (SCTCA) Tribal TANF Site Manager, Tribal Member of the Navajo Nation, and descendent of the Pala Tribe (Cupeno). She grew up on the Pala Indian Reservation and has had the privilege of over 10 years working with the Tribal TANF program (4 and a half years as a Site Manager) on the Pala Reservation. Her previous job was working as a Career Development Specialist assisting participants to reach their career goals.