



2011 TANF Priority Update Workshop

Administration for Children and Families
Office of Family Assistance
Region IV

Speaker Biographies



William Brumfield is a senior fellow in ICF International's Community and Social Programs group. For the past year he has provided technical assistance and training for TANF programs in several major metropolitan areas and two US Health and Human Services regional offices. Mr. Brumfield has served as the Human Services and Public Health Department Area Director for Minnesota's Hennepin County in the six years before joining ICF International. Along with this role, Mr. Brumfield has been recognized as a leading human services practitioner and has worked with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services on numerous taskforces relating to administration of the TANF program. He has also served on numerous Boards for organizations such as the National Association of County Human Services Administrators.

While working as a Director within Hennepin County's Human Services and Public Health Department, Mr. Brumfield oversaw the Eligibility, Child Support, and Work Supports Divisions. Services in these areas include TANF cash and SNAP benefits, Child Care, Medical Assistance, State and local medical programs, food banks, and homeless shelters. The scope of work of these areas included managing a combined budget of \$190 million dollar and the supervision of over 1000 employees managing 157,000 cases.

Mr. Brumfield has worked in the human services and employment and training areas for a total of 32 years. He was responsible for the TANF employment program for 16 years. During this time, he has served in leadership roles at the national and state levels, creating innovative solutions to employment and training problems. At ICF, Mr. Brumfield provides valuable oversight and input in the area of family self-sufficiency, as well as work in the areas of SNAP and food security.

Robert Caskey is a senior program specialist with Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, the nation's largest food assistance program. He has 34 years experience with Food and Nutrition Service. Over the years he has had a number of different assignments, but currently he is the lead staff person in the Southeast Region for certification policy. He has an MPA from the University of Georgia, and lives in Lawrenceville with his wife and three cats.

Mark H. Greenberg is the Deputy Assistant Secretary for Policy at the Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families. Before joining HHS, Mr. Greenberg directed the Georgetown University Center on Poverty, Inequality and Public Policy, a joint initiative of the Georgetown University Law Center and the Georgetown Public Policy Institute. In addition, he was a Senior Fellow at the Center for American Progress (CAP) and the Center for Law and Social Policy (CLASP). He previously served as the Executive Director of CAP's Task Force on Poverty and as CLASP's Director of Policy.

During his career, Mr. Greenberg has written extensively on issues relating to federal and state welfare reform efforts; workforce policy issues affecting low-income families; child care and early education policy; tax policy; poverty measurement; and a range of other low-income issues. In addition, he frequently provided technical assistance to state and local governments regarding poverty reduction strategies.

Prior to coming to D.C., Mr. Greenberg worked at Jacksonville Area Legal Aid in Florida and the Western Center on Law and Poverty in Los Angeles, California. Mr. Greenberg is a graduate of Harvard College and Harvard Law School.



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Dr. Earl S. Johnson is the Director of the Office of Family Assistance. Prior to joining ACF, Dr. Johnson was senior Policy Advisor to Oakland, California Mayor Ron Dellums, where he was responsible for helping set policy and program goals for the city in the areas of workforce, health and urban affairs. He also worked with the White House Office of Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnerships on fatherhood initiatives. Before serving in Oakland he had significant state and nonprofit sector experience, having served as Associate Secretary for Planning and Evaluation in the California Health and Human Services Agency, as Associate Director, Working Communities for the Rockefeller Foundation, and as Senior Program Officer for The California Endowment, a private statewide health foundation.

Dr. Johnson graduated from American University in Washington and earned a Master of Arts in Public Policy from the University of Chicago and a Ph.D in Social Welfare from the University of California. He is widely known for his work in developing programs and policy on matters related to TANF and has authored articles on needy family issues. His areas of expertise include poverty and fatherhood, both high priority issues for the Administration and HHS.

Shauna King-Simms is the Director of Transitions Programs at the Kentucky Community and Technical College System. Ms. King-Simms has 30 years of experience working with educationally and economically at-risk and non-traditional student populations. She is currently the Director of Transitions Programs at the Kentucky Community and Technical College System (KCTCS), where she works with policy and program development targeting economically disadvantaged and educationally under-prepared students.

Prior to joining the KCTCS staff in August, 1999, Ms. King-Simms administered post-secondary education TANF contracts for the Kentucky Cabinet for Health and Family Services and served as staff for the Cabinet's task force on post-secondary education. Ms. King-Simms spent 10 years as a state level administrator of Kentucky's adult basic education and literacy initiatives where she served as Deputy Commissioner and 7 years as a student services administrator in a two-year college. She was also a regional administrator for the Job Training Partnership Act program.

Ms. King-Simms' tenure at KCTCS has included implementation of a nationally recognized TANF collaboration; technical assistance and support of innovative transitioning collaborations among KCTCS colleges and local adult education providers statewide; and facilitated the KCTCS statewide Career Pathways pilots developed as Kentucky's strategy to support the Ford Foundation Bridges to Opportunity Initiative.

Ms. King-Simms has a Bachelor's degree from Eastern Kentucky University and an Master's of Arts degree from the University of Cincinnati in Organizational Behavior and Communications.



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Diane McCants joined United Way of Metropolitan Atlanta in 2000 assisting with community building efforts in Fulton and DeKalb counties. In 2002, she moved to United Way 211 as Coordinator for Basic Needs programming. In that role, she was part of the team that developed Atlanta's Blueprint to End Homelessness and served as staff to the Regional Commission on Homelessness's Women and Children's Council. She also served as a team member of the State of Georgia Policy Academy on Access to Mainstream Services for Families with Children Experiencing Homelessness.

In 2003, Ms. McCants was moved to her current position of Senior Director, Community Impact and is responsible for strategy development and implementation of key initiatives and community solutions related to economic self-sufficiency. Ms. McCants is a member of the Steering Committee for the Financial Stability Partnership, a national initiative of United Way Worldwide aimed at helping individuals and families attain and preserve assets, become more financially stable, and achieve long-term economic independence.

Rosa Ramos Morgan joined the Florida Coalition Against Domestic Violence (FCADV) in 2006, and currently leads the Economic Justice Initiative. She is responsible for developing and implementing economic strategies, including training and policy development to improve the economic stability of survivors of domestic violence in Florida. Ms. Ramos Morgan has been instrumental in developing state partnerships with Florida's Chief Financial Officer and the Agency for Workforce. She is currently a member of the Women of Color Network to develop their upcoming economic policy and leadership summit. She also serves on the Florida Association of Microenterprise and the Florida Prosperity Partnership, a statewide asset building coalition. Ms. Ramos Morgan wrote Florida's first grant to the Allstate Foundation to further support economic empowerment programs with survivors.

Before joining FCADV, her work experience in housing and community development included providing training, technical assistance and project management to a host of non-profits and local governments in the southeast with her firm, Community Assets, Inc. During her tenure with Florida state government, Ms. Ramos Morgan worked with the Governor's Task Force on Domestic Violence, as well as state and federal community development and criminal justice programs. She lives in Tallahassee and is a graduate of University of South Florida.



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Amy Shir, national asset building consultant and financial educator, has been working in the asset building field for eleven years. Ms. Shir launched the refugee IDA program for Jewish Family and Vocational Service, Louisville, in 2000. In 2005, Ms. Shir became the Director of Economic Development at the Institute for Social and Economic Development (ISED), serving as the leading provider nationwide of training and technical assistance for refugee economic development programs.

Ms. Shir oversaw ISED's IDA, MicroEnterprise (ME), Small Business, tax credit, and financial education consulting work. Funders for this work included the Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR), the Office of Community Service (OCS), the Small Business Administration (SBA), and American Express. Ms. Shir has a rich, 23-year background in banking, finance, marketing, consulting, and program management in the private, public and non-profit sectors.

Ms. Shir currently serves as a Regional Consultant for the Asset Initiative funded by OCS. Ms. Shir is the Director of "Raise KY," the statewide asset building coalition in Kentucky. Ms. Shir is also the Chair of the Kentucky Coalition for Responsible Lending (KCRL). KCRL is working to ensure that the rates of all payday loans issued in Kentucky are capped at 36%, the same rate cap that applies to our nation's military families and to the residents of 15 other states and the District of Columbia.

Ms. Shir holds an MPA from Syracuse University's Maxwell School and a BA in psychology from Wesleyan University. Ms. Shir lives in Louisville, KY.

Richard Speigman (doctorate in criminology; post-doctoral studies in public health) is Senior Research Analyst at the Child and Family Policy Institute of California. He has undertaken cross-sectional and/or longitudinal studies of TANF recipients in eight California counties. Projects include two studies of barriers to departure from TANF, a study of SSI-receiving parents with TANF-receiving children, a study of timed-out and/or sanctioned TANF parents in five counties, a seven-county study of child-only cases, and a qualitative case study of the relationship of immigrant parents ineligible for TANF and TANF support for eligible children.

Other work includes a five-wave, four-county study of SSI-receiving persons facing loss of benefits at the time that SSI benefits were cut off for persons whose benefits eligibility was based on alcohol or drug abuse or addiction. In addition, Speigman and colleagues have designed and collaborated on data analysis for the biennial Alameda County Homeless Count and Survey, conducted studies of shallow rent subsidy programs for persons with HIV/AIDS, and studied the implementation of California's Proposition 37 that provides drug treatment in lieu of incarceration for persons convicted of drug crimes.

Currently Speigman serves as one of the researchers leading an ASPE- and ACF-funded, four-state study of the TANF child-only caseload and associated programs and policies.



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Carlis V. Williams serves as the Southeast Regional Administrator for the Department of Health and Human Services/Administration for Children and Families (ACF) based in Atlanta, Georgia. The Southeast Region includes 8 states: Georgia, Alabama, Tennessee, Kentucky, North and South Carolina, Mississippi and Florida. Carlis provides executive leadership, coordination and direction for ACF human service programs that include Head Start, Child Welfare, Foster Care, Adoption, Child Care, Developmental Disabilities, Temporary Assistance to Needy Families, Child Support, and Runaway and Homeless Youth. She also serves as the lead Regional Administrator for Healthy Marriage programs and is co-lead for the African American Healthy Marriage/Relationships Initiative and the Temporary Assistance to Needy Families Program (TANF). Ms. Williams has also served as Senior Policy Advisor to the ACF Assistant Secretary for Program Integration and Corporate Initiatives in Washington, DC.

Before assuming her present position, Ms. Williams served as the Executive Assistant to the Governor for Human Services in the State of Indiana. She was the Governor's chief policy advisor in these areas and had responsibility for four major agencies: Family and Social Services Administration, the Governor's Council on Disabilities, the Governor's Council on Protection and Advocacy and the Governor's Council on Sports and Fitness. Under her leadership, Indiana registered over 120,000 children during the first year of their Children's Health Insurance Program, Hoosier Healthwise. She has served as Deputy Director for the Indiana Family and Social Services Administration, Division of Family and Children, and was responsible for programs related to family resources: Temporary Assistance for Needy Families, Food Stamps, Medicaid, JOBS, Housing and Community Services, and lead responsibility for the design and implementation of welfare reform in the state.

Among her many attributes, Ms. Williams is the recipient of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Secretary's Award for Distinguished Service and the Hurricane Disaster Response Team Award; Sagamore of the Wabash, the State of Indiana's highest Governor's award for excellence in serving the people of Indiana. Georgia State University's National Center on Grandparents Raising Grandchildren prestigious award for untiring efforts in support of grandparent-headed families; Spelman College Innovation Award for the professional development of Head Start and Child Care Teachers in Region IV;

Jackson State University College of Public Service School of Social Work Public Service Award; National Partnership for Community Leadership Judge David Gray Ross Award for Strengthening Families and Father Involvement in the Public Sector; Clark Atlanta University Dean's Public Sector Award in recognition of her extraordinary achievements for the well-being of children and families in the southeast community; Administration for Children and Families African American Healthy Marriage Initiative Award for Excellence, the Mayor of the City of Atlanta, Georgia Phoenix Award and the Mayor of Atlanta, Georgia Award for Commitment to the Children & Youth of the City.

Ms. Williams is a graduate of Ball State University with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Psychology and Master of Art Degrees in Social Psychology and Counseling and Guidance. She is a mother and grandmother and loves reading, music and the theater. If asked her philosophy of life, she will say, "Giving is better than receiving...if we all give, everyone wins!"