

# Speaker Biographies

## 2012 Region IX TANF Innovations in Action Forum

**Jamie Fountain**, Manager of Workforce Development at Larkin Street Youth Services, manages the workforce development staff as they assist youth in acquiring the skills and experience needed to obtain above-minimum-wage employment through job readiness classes, internships, and counseling. Previously, as the Director of Adult Services and Employment at the Ella Hill Hutch Community Center, Mr. Fountain worked with ex-offenders. Prior to that, he worked for a number of large corporations, including: Strategic Marketing and Research Technologies and AT&T as the District Manager for the Southeast Division Training Department. Mr. Fountain received his Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration from Georgia Southern University.

**Kevin Hickey** serves as the Senior Manager of High School and Bridge Programs at Jewish Vocational Services (JVS). Mr. Hickey has been at JVS since 1999 overseeing numerous education and employment programs for youth. He serves on various public advisory bodies for the San Francisco Unified School District and City of San Francisco. Mr. Hickey also teaches in the Master of Nonprofit Administration Program at the University of San Francisco. He holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Psychology from San Francisco State University and a Master of Nonprofit Administration from the University of San Francisco.

**Rob Hope**, Director of Economic Empowerment, joined Rubicon Programs as Senior Workforce Analyst in August 2009 and was promoted to Director in March 2010. Prior to serving at Rubicon, Mr. Hope was ReEntry Services Manager at Goodwill/Easter Seals Minnesota where he designed, implemented, and managed workforce development programs for formerly incarcerated people. He also worked for three years in the research department of the Vera Institute of Justice in New York and for two years as a Community Safety and Justice Fellow at Urban Strategies Council in Oakland. Mr. Hope has a Bachelor's Degree in Sociology from Vassar College and a Master's degree in Public Policy from the Goldman School of Public Policy at University of California-Berkeley.

**June Hutchison** is a Deputy Director for San Bernardino County Human Services, Transitional Assistance Department. She manages the Department's Customer Service Centers. Most recently, she served as the Regional Project Manager for Consortium IV (C-IV) for San Bernardino County, the automated eligibility system used by 39 California counties. While in this position she was instrumental in the grant writing and implementation of the C4Yourself online application system. Ms. Hutchison has been with the county for over 22 years and during that time she has been a Training Instructor, a Lead Worker, and an Eligibility Worker. She has also been a Program Specialist where her duties included developing and coordinating program material for various programs including, Medi-Cal, CalFresh, CalWORKS, and Child Care.

**Earl S. Johnson**, Director of the Office of Family Assistance, was previously 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 non-profit sector experience, having served as Associate Secretary for Planning and Evaluation in the California Health and Human Services Agency, as Associate Director for Working Communities for the Rockefeller Foundation, and as Senior Program Officer for The California Endowment, a private statewide health foundation. Dr. Johnson graduated from the 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 numerous articles on needy family issues. His areas of expertise include poverty and fatherhood, both high priority issues for the Administration and HHS.

**Jason Orta** has served as the CalWORKs Statewide Coordinator at the California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office since February 2011. Before joining the Chancellor's Office, Mr. Orta served as the Lead Researcher at the California Workforce Investment Board and was the Lead for electric utility ratepayer funded program that supports renewable energy facilities in California. Mr. Orta has an Masters in Business Administration and a Bachelor of Arts in Economics and International Relations, both degrees from University of California-Davis.

**Karen M. Roye** was appointed Director of the San Francisco Department of Child Support Services (SF DCSS) by Mayor Gavin Newsom in 2004. Director Roye has been a pioneer in introducing innovative programs and collaborations that revolutionized child support service delivery to custodial and non-custodial parents in San Francisco. Today, SF DCSS provides a variety of service models that support parents, such as CNET, Job Support, Jail Outreach, and Jobs Plus. SF DCSS has developed a parental empowerment portfolio of innovative services that includes early intervention, family violence prevention, referrals to employment, and active collaborations with local partners. Ms. Roye currently serves on the San Francisco's Reentry Council, Family Violence Council, and Sentencing Commission. She has also served on the California Board of Behavioral Sciences and holds a Masters in Public Administration.

**Noelle Simmons** is the Deputy Director of Policy and Planning at the San Francisco Human Services Agency. She previously served as Budget Director to Mayor Gavin Newsom and also has professional experience in the private and nonprofit sectors. Ms. Simmons has a Master's degree from the Goldman School of Public Policy at University of California-Berkeley.

**Damon Waters** is a technical assistance and capacity building provider, policy analyst, and program evaluation specialist with more than a decade of experience in the successful planning, implementing, managing, and evaluation of research/program activities focusing on preventative healthcare, higher education, political empowerment, economic self-sufficiency, and public policy. He has authored 12 public health, education and political empowerment curricula; developed grant proposals and program announcements; facilitated dozens of workshops; and coordinated technical assistance to potential grantees and community stakeholders.

Mr. Waters earned his M.A. in political science, M.P.P. and B.A. in political science, public policy and African American studies from Howard University.

**Melissa Young** is the Associate Director of the National Transitional Jobs Network (NTJN) at Heartland Alliance for Human Needs and Human Rights. Ms. Young's work includes managing the Network's role as a lead coalition in advancing employment solutions for people who have the most difficult time getting and keeping a job which includes managing the technical assistance team in order to strengthen existing and emerging programs, translating lessons learned at local levels into state and federal policy, and managing the development of Network communications and marketing materials for diverse audiences. In her role, Ms. Young has worked to advance the visibility of the NTJN as a national expert in Transitional Jobs in order to further support the development and implementation of employment strategies for persons with barriers to employment. Previous to her work with the NTJN, Ms. Young's efforts focused on youth poverty, income supports, and an analysis of Illinois' appropriations and funding streams for youth programs. She received her Bachelor of Arts from the University of Michigan and her Master of Arts from the University of Chicago.