



TANF Rural Initiative Transportation Roundtable



SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES

Barbara Bayes has a MSW from the University of Texas at Austin with a primary concentration in nonprofit management. In May 2001, she became the first Executive Director of the newly created Good News Mountaineer Garage. Prior to this, she served as Executive Director of the West Virginia Advocates and the Legal Aid Society of Charleston.

Barbara is a 5-Year Cohort participant in the W.K. Kellogg's Rural People, Rural Policy Initiative and serves on the advisory committee on the newly formed Opportunity Car Initiative supported by the Annie E. Casey Foundation.

James D. Butler is a Family Assistance Program Specialist in the Division of State & Territory TANF Management, Office of Family Assistance (OFA), Administration for Children and Families and possesses over 14 years work experience in the behavioral sciences on the State and local level as well as the federal level. He serves as the Project lead for the Rapid Response to Technical Assistance Contract, the Individualized Training and Technical Assistance for TANF program, and various other projects within the Technical Assistance Branch. He served as co-lead to the Achieving Common Goals II conference, "Addressing Substance Abuse & Mental Health Barriers to Employment through Temporary Assistance for Needy Families in partnership with SAMHSA and OFA in 2007 and is the lead for the Rural Communities Initiatives Academy and Initiative.

Eileen Friedman is currently the Program Manager for TANF in the Administration for Children and Families in the Region III office in Philadelphia. Ms. Friedman has overall responsibility for TANF in the states in Region III which include the District of Columbia, Maryland, Pennsylvania, Virginia, West Virginia and Delaware. Before that, she was the Program Manager of the AFDC Program in the Regional Office. She began her career as a caseworker for the Susquehanna County Board of Assistance in Pennsylvania and then as a Casework Supervisor. She came to the Federal Government as a Program Specialist in the Work Incentive Program.

She has a Bachelors degree from Marywood College and a Masters Degree in Public Administration from the Pennsylvania State University. She received her certification in Conflict Resolution from the Bryn Mawr School of Social Work.

Nichole Goldsmith is the Executive Director of the National RTAP. National RTAP is the national arm of the 50 state RTAP program. Ms. Goldsmith's responsibilities as Executive Director include coordinating interactions between the Federal Transit Administration, RTAP State Managers, national and state partners. Her role also includes forwarding the initiatives of the National RTAP Review Board. Ms. Goldsmith has extensive national association experience specifically in program management, consortium building, and rural transportation programs, policies, and regulations. Over the years Ms. Goldsmith has designed and implemented successful programs and has an impressive track record of assessments, federal program management, and national technical assistance. Ms. Goldsmith has fostered alliances with organizations, agencies, states, and communities, and has used those relationships to orchestrate national, state, and local initiatives. Ms. Goldsmith holds a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science from Kent State University.



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Carolyn Hayden is the Director of Opportunity Cars, a national network of over 150 nonprofit organizations dedicated to promoting car ownership for low wage working families as a strategy for improving employment and quality of life outcomes. Opportunity Cars works with car programs, advocates, researchers, and other critical stakeholders to strengthen practice and promote policies to further car purchase and financing options. In addition to her 18 years in the nonprofit sector in senior leadership positions, Carolyn is a graduate of the Ford Motor Company Minority Dealer Development Program and previous owner of a Ford Lincoln Mercury automobile franchise. Carolyn is an Annie E. Casey Foundation Children and Family Fellow and an author and contributor to numerous publications and articles.

Peter Kilde has been executive director of West Central Wisconsin Community Action Agency, Inc. (West CAP), since 1995. West CAP operates numerous anti-poverty programs in a seven county service area, including a large low-income weatherization program: the nationally recognized JumpStart facilitated car purchase program with its companion Ideal Auto nonprofit used car dealership. Mr Kilde currently represents the upper Midwest on the national Community Action Partnership Board of Directors and serves on his regional Workforce Development Board.

Reginald Knowlton currently serves as Coordination and United We Ride Ambassador for Federal Transit Administration Region 3 (Mid Atlantic) through the National Resource Center of the Community Transportation Association of America. Mr. Knowlton additionally serves as CFO for Knowlton Aviation, LLC and Knowlton Investments, LLC as well as Treasurer for RevolutionCare and Exec Jet USA. Mr. Knowlton is the Principle of Knowlton Advisors, LLC.

Mr. Knowlton served as Executive Director of Wheels of Wellness in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania from 1989 through 2006 and had been affiliated with the company since 1979 starting as Fiscal Project Manager through 1985 and Assistant Executive Director from 1985 to 1989. Reporting to WHEELS' Board of Directors, Mr. Knowlton held responsibility for management, operation, development, and fund-raising for all of WHEELS' programs. In this capacity Mr. Knowlton was responsible for upwards of 2.5 million passenger trips per year including a fleet of over 250 volunteer, owned, and contracted paratransit vehicles.

Martin Schwartz started Vehicles for Change (VFC) in April 1999 with a \$30,000 grant from Precision CertiPro Warehouse, an auto parts distributor. The program awarded its first car in Carroll County, Maryland awarding five cars per month. Martin has directed an expansion that included Baltimore City and 12 other Maryland counties, most of Virginia, and Washington, DC. VFC has changed the lives of more than 9,000 individuals through the awarding of more than 2,900 cars. Today 40 to 60 cars are awarded monthly. VFC was selected as a "best practice" organization in a national study completed by the National Economic Development and Law Center. Martin serves as a program planner for the annual Low Income Car Ownership Practice and Policy Convening. He also serves on a national committee created to broaden the opportunity of car ownership programs for worthy families.

In 2005, Martin started Freedom Wheels, a retail used car business. A program of VFC, Freedom Wheels netted \$250,000 in 2006 and 2007 had gross sales of \$1M and provided a net income of \$314,000 for VFC. Marty was selected as the University of Baltimore 2007 Social Entrepreneur of the Year and serves on the Advisory Board for the University of Baltimore Social Entrepreneurship program.



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Robert Tassinari is a Senior Technical Manager at National RTAP. His primary function is financial administration and all technical aspects of the National RTAP. This includes data collection, tracking and outcome measurements, and management of RTAP Resource Center staff. Mr. Tassinari is also the Program Manager of the Massachusetts Statewide Access to Jobs Initiative under contract with the Massachusetts Department of Transitional Assistance (DTA). The Access to Jobs Initiative is the State of Massachusetts' transportation piece of Welfare reform. Mr. Tassinari's duties include: oversight of the day-to-day activities of the program which include the provision of transportation services to DTA clients participating in pre- and post-employment activities. In 1998, at the beginning of the program, Mr. Tassinari managed a program consisting of managing 14 Transportation Coordinators (TC) who provided transportation services to DTA recipients in 13 Regional Transit Authority (RTA) and MBTA regions; training of the TCs; fiscal oversight and reporting; marketing and outreach; and, coordination with other Welfare to Work efforts in the State. Since 2001, the program has been consolidated to a staff of three FTEs providing the same level of service throughout the State. Mr. Tassinari has also served as the Director of the Logan Airport Transportation Management Association where he was responsible for the human, fiscal, and other resources in the implementation and operation of this private nonprofit 501(c)(4) corporation. Mr. Tassinari has many years of experience in management of private shuttle bus services and implementation of transportation system management programs as well. Mr. Tassinari holds an Associate's Degree in Civil Engineering, a Bachelor of Science in Environmental Design, and a Masters Degree in Community Planning.

Lisa Washington-Thomas is Branch Chief of the Division of Self-Sufficiency in the Office of Family Administration, Administration for Children and Families (ACF). She possesses a breadth of experience in a wide array of social services programs, such as Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF), Aid to Families with Dependent Children, Job Opportunities and Basic Skills, and Emergency Assistance Group, the Rapid Response to Technical Assistance Contract, the Healthy Marriage Resource Center, and the Community Planning Grants. Ms. Washington-Thomas earned a B.A. from Georgetown University.