

Webinar: Collaboration Between TANF and Child Welfare to Improve Child Welfare Outcomes

Date: Thursday, March 27, 2 to 3:30 p.m. ET – Webinar registration information can be found in the body of the email.

Panel presentation by former Children’s Bureau (CB) TANF/Child Welfare collaboration grantees:

- California Department of Social Services, Sacramento, CA, presenter: Danna Fabella, M.S.W., Senior Project Consultant, Child and Family Policy Institute of California
- Cook Inlet Tribal Council, Inc., Anchorage, AK, presenter: Cristy Willer, M.A., Senior Planning Director for Cook Inlet Tribal Council
- Jefferson County Human Services, Golden, CO, presenter: Natalie Williams, M.P.A., Jefferson County Human Services, Strategic Planning Organizational Development Manager
- Louisiana Department of Children and Families, Baton Rouge, LA, presenter: Tara DeJohn, Ph.D., M.S.W., Assistant Professor, University of Arkansas, Little Rock School of Social Work

Presenters will share highlights from their recently completed CB grant projects, discussing:

- How they brought partners to the table and kept them there
- How they changed the culture
- What worked well
- Challenges and lessons learned
- Core elements that have been sustained

For more information about these projects, see the grantee site visit reports and a synthesis of findings from the final reports:

https://www.childwelfare.gov/management/funding/funding_sources/tanfcw.cfm

Description of the Children’s Bureau Grant That Funded These Projects: In 2006, CB published a funding opportunity announcement (FOA) for Collaboration Between Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) and Child Welfare to Improve Child Welfare Program Outcomes. The FOA was based on the premise that the multifaceted needs of families and children could be better met through a collaborative response between agencies addressing CW and TANF, as well as partnerships with other social service providers (e.g., substance abuse, mental health, education, housing, and aging). Funding was available for demonstration projects to assist jurisdictions over 5 years in planning, implementing, and evaluating collaborative efforts. The projects were intended to support activities such as interagency planning, policy development, comprehensive family assessment, blending or braiding of interagency finances, development of information and data sharing mechanisms, addressing confidentiality issues, and cross-training of TANF and CW staff.



Children’s Bureau/ACYF/ACF/HHS
800.394.3366 | Email: info@childwelfare.gov | <https://www.childwelfare.gov>



Presenter Biographies



Tara Valinchus DeJohn received her Ph.D. and M.S.W. degrees in social work from Louisiana State University in Baton Rouge. She has been a licensed clinical social worker since 1992. Her professional experience includes direct practice with adolescents and adults diagnosed with severe and chronic mental illnesses in clinical and community-based, nonprofit settings. She has served as the executive director of a nonprofit organization serving foster care youth in residential and therapeutic home placements. Currently, Dr. DeJohn is an Assistant Professor at the LSU School of Social Work. She has served as an evaluator on two CB grant projects. Recently, she was selected as a member of Class 16 for LeadAR, an Arkansas statewide leadership development program and is an invited member of the Arkansas Department of Children and Families' (DCFS) Advocacy Council.



Danna Fabella received her M.S.W. from the University of California at Berkeley in 1980. Ms. Fabella worked in the field of public child welfare from 1980 to 2007, beginning as a social worker and holding positions as supervisor, manager, and director. She worked in several California counties (Alameda, Sonoma, and Contra Costa). Her last 12 years of public service employment were at Contra Costa County, where she served as the Child Welfare Director for 11 years and during her final year held the Interim Agency Director position. Ms. Fabella has worked for the Child and Family Policy Institute of California (CFPIC) since 2007 as a Senior Project Consultant responsible for managing the statewide Linkages Project, a collaboration between CalWORKs (the CA TANF program) and Child Welfare, and provides consultative support to other CFPIC projects such as the CalSWEC Aging Initiative and the California Child Welfare Practice Model.



Cristy Allyn Willer has over 25 years of experience in program management, planning, grant writing, and program evaluation. She directed substance abuse treatment and prevention programs for the Bristol Bay Area Health Corporation for 15 years (providing services for a remote area of Alaska) and more recently was the Director for Alaska's Division of Behavioral Health. Her master's degree from the University of California at Berkeley is in anthropology. She currently serves as Senior Planning Director for Cook Inlet Tribal Council, Alaska's largest Native-serving social service organization. Her strengths include many successful State and Federal grant submissions, community organizing around public health issues, program management, and writing and editing. She served on the Governor's Advisory Board on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse and was named the Outstanding Woman in Substance Abuse in Alaska in 1997.



Natalie Williams joined Jefferson County (CO) Human Services in January 2008 as a strategic planning organizational development manager. In addition to working on the department's strategic plan, Ms. Williams works in employee relations/personnel and organizational development. She is a Denver native who received her B.A. in political science from the University of Colorado at Boulder and her M.P.A. from the University of Colorado at Denver. Ms. Williams' professional career has largely been focused on engineering initiatives to facilitate individual and community impact, as well as cultivating strong community partnerships in the nonprofit and government sectors. Her work experiences include program management, grants management, program evaluation, strategic planning, employee relations, customer service, and leadership development.