

# 2010 ACF Regions V & VII Tribal TANF Meeting

## August 11-12, 2010 | Mystic Lake, Minnesota

### Speaker Biographies

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**Bonnie Clairmont** is a citizen of the HoChunk Nation of Wisconsin and member of the Bear Clan, resides in St. Paul, Minnesota where she is employed with the Tribal Law and Policy Institute (TLPI) as the Victim Advocacy Program Specialist. Prior to her employment with the TLPI, Bonnie was Outreach/Client Services Coordinator for Sexual Offense Services of Ramsey County, a rape crisis center. While employed with SOS, she provided leadership in the development of Sexual Assault Response Teams and provided guidance with multi-disciplinary sexual assault protocol development. She's worked for more than 20 years advocating for victims of sexual assault and domestic violence, providing multidisciplinary training/collaboration on the needs of women and children who are raped and battered. She has dedicated much of her work to providing and improving services for victim/survivors of sexual assault, battering and child sexual abuse, particularly those from American Indian communities. For 4 years she coordinated the Strengthening the Circle of Trust conference, a conference focusing on sexual assault and exploitation perpetrated by American Indian "spiritual leaders/medicine men." Bonnie co-edited a recently published book, "Sharing Our Stories of Survival" an anthology of writing by Native women who've experienced violence. Bonnie provided technical assistance to research conducted by Amnesty International USA and the report, "Maze of Injustice: The failure to protect Indigenous women from sexual violence in the USA." Bonnie, and her partner Jim, have two children, Lakota Hoksila and April Rainbow and 5 grandchildren.

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**Geene Felix, M.A.**, was involved in the planning, negotiation, and implementation of the South Puget Intertribal Planning Agency (SPIPA) TANF Program. She was also instrumental in the development and implementation of the SPIPA One Stop Career Center (WIA program). Geene has more than 23 years of experience in human services and has worked in the area of program development for 12 years. She specializes in mediation, domestic violence, and substance abuse. She is currently the program coordinator of client services for the SPIPA TANF Program.

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**Lonna Hunter** is the Director of the Sheila Wellstone Institute. Lonna is an Alaska Native of the Tlingit Nation in Southeast Alaska and Sisseton Wahpeton Oyate Dakota Nation. Lonna began her work in the battered women's movement in 1996, serving as a children's advocate at a shelter program in Juneau, AK. She is the former lobbyist at the Minnesota Coalition for Battered Women on state, federal, and tribal levels (2001-2006), a role in which she was instrumental in restoring funding for shelters, domestic and sexual assault programs, and transitional housing. Lonna is passionate about advocating for Native

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women and children sees her lifetime work as fighting for safety and sovereignty at state, federal, and tribal levels. Lonna has also been a strong advocate for criminal and civil policies that create greater safety and in 2005 developed and lobbied Minnesota state legislators making domestic assault strangulation a felony in Minnesota.

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**Salama Maloney** is the former Employment and Training Coordinator for the Hoopa Valley Tribal TANF program. She has successfully assisted many TANF participants in securing jobs in both private and tribal business through education, training and subsidized employment. Salama holds a Master of Social Work degree and works from a strength-based perspective with her clients.

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**Jennifer Rackliff**, a member of the Cherokee Nation, is a technical assistance and capacity-building specialist with a focus on self-sufficiency, workforce development, asset-building, education, and health for ICF International. Jennifer has years of experience working in human services, particularly with the American Indian and Alaska Native population, conducting policy analysis on a range of issues including health, education, head start, financial education, and child welfare. Prior to her current position at ICF, Jennifer served as a Legislative Associate for the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) promoting the health and education of American Indian and Alaska Natives. At NCAI, she implemented grassroots education and mobilization strategies and facilitated tribal leader work groups to develop consensus positions. Additionally, Jennifer was responsible for conducting and directing policy research and analysis across a broad range of tribal issues, including health, education, welfare, economic development, and tribal-state relations. Jennifer received her bachelor's degree from Dartmouth College in Government and Native American Studies.

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**Michael E. Rawley** has specialized, for the past five years, in Native Entrepreneurship Development and the establishment of a Community Development Financial Institution (CDFI) to enable Native Business people access to start-up and expansion capital. He is also a commercial fisherman. Mr. Rawley is Chairman and Treasurer of the 13th Regional Corporation(ANC), Member of the Western Coalition of Alaska Natives, Member of the Alaska Federation of Natives, and member of the Board of Regents for the Ho'oulu Lahui Hawaiian Traditional School. He is a U.S. Marine Corps Veteran. Mr. Rawley received his associate's degree from Northwest Indian College in Bellingham Washington in Public Administration; his bachelor's degree at Western Washington University in Bellingham Washington in Business Administration; and an advanced certificate from the American Institute of Banking.