



WELFARE PEER TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE NETWORK IMPROVING OUTCOMES FOR RELATIVE CAREGIVERS IN TANF CHILD ONLY CASES

Columbia, SC
January 26-27, 2006



JANUARY 26, 2006

9:00 – 9:30 AM

Registration and Networking

9:30 – 10:15 AM

Welcome and Opening Remarks

Jon Margolis, TANF Program Manager, ACF Region IV

Kim S. Aydlette, State Director, South Carolina Department of Social Services

Lisa Washington-Thomas, Federal Project Officer, Welfare Peer TA Network

10:15 – 11:30 AM

Setting the Context: TANF Child Only Cases and Relative Caregivers

This session includes two presentations designed to establish a common baseline and shared language around the issues facing relative caregivers and children in TANF child only cases.

Understanding the TANF Child Only Caseload: A National Overview

Courtney Barthle, Welfare Peer TA Network

Understanding Relative Caregivers: Findings from the SC Needs Assessment

Linda Martin, South Carolina Department of Social Services

Marilyn Edelhoach, South Carolina Department of Social Services

This session will afford participants an opportunity to begin dialogue around issues of importance to relative caregivers. Topics might include interaction with older children and teens, the important of respite care, and the challenge of providing “extras” such as club dues or field trip costs on fixed income.

11:30 – 11:45 AM

Break

11:45 – 12:45 PM

Spotlight on South Carolina: Successes and Challenges in Serving Relative Caregivers

This session will provide participants an opportunity to describe the needs and challenges of relative caregivers from their own perspectives. This dialogue will inform future action planning and coalition building activities.

12:45 – 2:00 PM

Views from the Frontlines, Part I: Grandparenting and Advocacy

*Roni Spaulding, Community Programs Manager, Adult Services/Community Programs Division, El Paso County Department of Human Services
Diana Wills, Grandparent Advocate, El Paso County Department of Human Services
Lisa Washington-Thomas, Federal Project Officer, Welfare Peer TA Network
(moderator)*

Ms. Spaulding will set the context of the El Paso County program and then introduce the primary speaker, Ms. Wills. Ms. Wills will provide insightful comments regarding her role as Grandparent Advocate for grandparents who are the primary caregivers for their grandchildren, as well as share first-hand knowledge of the challenges and the rewards of being the primary caregiver for her grandchildren.

2:00– 2:15 PM

Break

2:15– 3:30 PM

Views from the Frontlines, Part II: The Daily Lives of Relative Caregivers

*Panelists, TBD
Marilyn Edelhoach, South Carolina Department of Social Services (moderator)*

During this panel presentation, participants will have the opportunity to hear from caregivers about the joys and challenges of relative care giving. This glimpse into the everyday lives of these families will enrich the dialogue around service design and effective partnerships.

3:30 – 4:00 PM

Day 1 Wrap-up & Day 2 Preview

*Courtney Barthle, Welfare Peer TA Network
Lisa Washington-Thomas, Federal Project Officer, Welfare Peer TA Network*

This session will conclude Day 1 and introduce the activities for Day 2. Action planning exercises will be introduced. Participants are encouraged to consider the questions posed on the action planning materials as they listen to the presentations of Day 2.

JANUARY 27, 2006

8:30 – 10:30 AM

Promising Practices: Relative Caregiver Models

*Roni Spaulding, Community Programs Manager, Adult Services/Community Programs Division, El Paso County Department of Human Services – AND –
Sonya Jackson, Kinship Director, New Jersey Department of Human Services
Lisa Washington-Thomas, Federal Project Officer, Welfare Peer TA Network
(moderator)*

During this panel presentation, participants will hear from representatives of two models for serving relative caregivers. Presenters include representatives from El Paso County, Colorado, and the State of New Jersey. Following their presentations, participants will have an opportunity to engage in an interactive dialogue with presenters and assess the extent to which the lessons learned in these two models are applicable to the specific circumstances of South Carolina.

10:30 – 10:45 AM

Break

10:45 – 12:00 PM

Action Planning

Marilyn Edelhoich, South Carolina Department of Social Services (facilitator)

This session will re-introduce the action planning activities and provide time for participants to ask clarifying questions.

Participants will break into working groups to address the action items deemed most critical by the group. Teams will be provided action-planning tools to support and facilitate their discussions. These tools will ask participants to capture their current strengths, challenges, opportunities, and resources -- both available and needed -- on the given topic. Participants will also be asked to commit to timelines and to serve as team member leads on specific goals.

The Action Planning exercise will also include specific focus on identifying and reaching out to a broad array of potential partners -- including those not present at the Roundtable.

12:00 – 12:30 PM

Action Planning Updates

Courtney Barthle, Welfare Peer TA Network (facilitator)

During this final action planning session, participants will provide the larger group with a brief overview of the plans formulated within each smaller working group. This serves three purposes: 1) to share the information with the group of stakeholders; 2) to secure additional project team members, as appropriate, and; 3) to allow the working group recommendations to benefit from the collective wisdom of the larger stakeholder group. Representatives from the highlighted programs will reflect on the proposed plans and next steps.

12:30 – 12:45 PM

Closing Remarks & Evaluation

*Lisa Washington-Thomas, Federal Project Officer, Welfare Peer TA Network
Linda Martin, South Carolina Department of Social Services
Courtney Barthle, Welfare Peer TA Network*