

Using Executive Skills Concepts and Principles to Help TANF Recipients Achieve Their Goals

Timing and Location:

Thursday, February 19, 2015 | 9:00 am – 5 pm

Friday, February 20, 2015 | 8:30 am – 3 pm

Mathematica Policy Research

1100 First St. NE, 12th floor. Washington DC 20002

Conference purpose:

This conference is intended for TANF administrators and their employment service partners to learn about Executive Function Skills (hereinafter referred to as “executive skills”) principles and concepts and generate practical ideas about how we – as individual programs and as a collective – may work with these insights to craft more effective programs and learn from these experiences.

Invitees:

There will be approximately fifty-five (55) participants at this two-day meeting including:

- TANF administrators and partners from eight (8) states (CO, MI, MN, MT, PA, OR, RI, and WA) and the District of Columbia. We expect 3-5 representatives from each state, each with a keen interest in – and practical perspective on – how attention to executive skills may fortify work programs and how building evidence from these efforts can inform future policy and practice.
- Staff from the Office of Planning, Research and Evaluation (OPRE) and the Office of Family Assistance (OFA) at the Administration for Children and Families (ACF), U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS)
- National Experts: Richard (Dick) Guare, Director of the Center for Learning and Attention Disorders in Portsmouth, New Hampshire and coauthor of four books (with two more on adults on the way) on executive skills, including *Smart But Scattered* and *Coaching Students with Executive Skill Deficits*; and Gabriele Oettingen, Professor of Psychology, New York University and author of *Rethinking Positive Thinking* and creator of “WOOP”, a rigorously tested goal-setting strategy with proven success.
- Staff from the Center for Budget and Policy Priorities, Mathematic Policy Research, Abt Associates, and Global Learning Partners

The meeting has been designed by, and will be facilitated by, staff from:

- Center on Budget and Policy Priorities (LaDonna Pavetti)
 - Mathematica Policy Research (Michelle Derr)
 - Global Learning Partners (Valerie Uccellani)
 - Abt Associates (Karin Martinson and Karen Gardiner)
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Using Executive Skills Concepts and Principles To Help TANF Recipients Achieve Their Goals Agenda

Day One: February 19, 2015

Executive Skills: Concepts, Principles and Evidence

- 9:00 – 9:15 **Welcome and Framing for the Conference**
- 9:15 – 10:00 **Executive Skills Profiles: What Are They and What Can We Learn From Them?**
Presenter: Dick Guare, Director, Center for Learning and Attention Disorders
- 10:00 - 10:45 **Goal Achievement and Executive Skills: What Is the Relevance and Implications for the Design of TANF Employment Programs?**
Presenter: LaDonna Pavetti, CBPP
- 10:45-11:15 Break & Networking
- 11:15-12:15 **Goal-Setting and Planning: How Can We Get It Right?**
Presenter: Gabriele Oettingen, New York University
- 12:15 -1:15 Lunch (provided, open for networking and reflection)
- 1:15-2:15 **How Can We Use Executive Skills Concepts and Principles in Practice?**
Presenter: Dick Guare, Director, Center for Learning and Attention Disorders
- 2:15 – 3:30 **How Can We Use Executive Skills Principles and Concepts to Create a New Approach for Providing Employment Services for TANF Recipients? Learning from Ramsey County (St. Paul) MN**
Presenters: Kate Probert and Larry Timmerman
- 3:30 – 4:00 Break and Networking
- 4:00 – 4:45 **What Have We Learned? Reflection and Synthesis**
- 4:45 - 5:00 **Wrap-Up of Day One, Preview of Day Two**
- 6:30 Optional Group Dinners
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Day Two: February 20, 2015 Putting New Knowledge into Practice and Building Evidence

- 8:30 – 8:45 **Welcome and Framing**
Bringing it Home and Growing the Field
- 8:45 – 10:00 **What Are Other Options for Using Executive Skills Principles in TANF Work Programs?**
- Learning from Washington State:**
Presenter: Lindsay Blanding, The Prosperity Agenda
- Prototype for an Executive Skills Informed, Goal-Oriented Job Search/Job Readiness Program**
Presenter: Michelle Derr, Mathematica
- 10:30 - 12:00 **How Can We Build an Evidence Base? The Job Search Assistance (JSA) Evaluation and Other Evaluation and/or Knowledge-Building Opportunities**
- Presenters:
Karin Martinson, Abt Associates – Job Search Assistance Evaluation
Alexandra Resch, Mathematica – Opportunistic Experiments/Rapid Cycle Evaluation
Chuck Carter, Harvard Center on the Developing Child – Rapid Cycle Learning
- 12:00 -12:45 Lunch (provided, open for networking and reflection)
- 12:45 – 2:15 **State Planning: How Will We Use What We’ve Learned?**
- 2:15 – 3:00 **State-level and Collective Intentions**
- 3:00 Closing
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