

BIOS – PRESENTERS

National Emergency Grant Training

March 5-6, 2009

Presenter	Bio	Workshop
Mekelle Armstrong	<p>Mekelle Armstrong is a Program Policy Planner/Writer for the Ohio Department of Development (ODOD), Workforce & Talent Division. Mekelle joined the ODOD team in July 2008 to develop workforce-related policies and provide training and technical assistance to local areas charged with carrying out the mandates of the federal Workforce Investment Act (WIA).</p> <p>Prior to joining ODOD, Mekelle worked in the same capacity for the Ohio Department of Job & Family Services (ODJFS), Office of Workforce Development.</p> <p>From 2004 to 2006, Mekelle worked for both the fiscal and the administrative offices of the largest local workforce area in the state of Ohio, Area 7, where her duties included on-site monitoring of WIA program operations and providing technical assistance to WIA program grant recipients.</p> <p>Mekelle graduated from Wilberforce University with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Organizational Management and currently is a candidate for a Master's in Business Administration from Ashland University.</p>	Multi-WIB Policy Implications
Randy Briggs	<p>Shortly after being honorably discharged from the U.S. Army, Randy began his career with the state of Ohio in 1980, in the Lima Ohio Bureau of Employment Services (OBES) Local Office as an Unemployment Compensation Claims Assistant. He has held positions in the Unemployment Compensation Investigation Department and as a Field Representative on the State staff for the Job Training Partnership Act program (JTPA). As a JTPA Field Representative, he was actively involved with the programmatic design and establishment of local employment and training delivery systems. Randy's role included the performance of compliance monitoring and program analysis, as well as, the provision of technical assistance to the local areas to resolve problems encountered in the administration and operation of the JTPA program.</p> <p>He is currently a member of the Rapid Response Section. His extensive knowledge and experience in</p>	Ohio's Operating Plan Requirements

	<p>working with local entities has brought an exceptional insight to the unit on the operation and delivery of employment and training services at the local level. He has been involved in over 400 dislocation events, involving over 40,000 dislocated workers, during his tenure in the Rapid Response Section. He has the unique ability to understand how local WIA programs and One- Stop offices can maximize the benefits of using the rapid response process in dealing with large layoffs or closings in their community. Randy can explain how, through the proper integration of the Rapid Response process into the One-Stop delivery system, you can enhance the delivery of services to Dislocated Workers and reduce the negative economic impact on your community when dislocation events occur. As part of his current responsibilities, he is actively involved in the state's National Emergency Grant (NEG) application submission and oversight process.</p>	
Jeff Calhoun	<p>Jeff ran a training program for unemployed workers in the '80s for West Virginia and taught undergrad/graduate courses in Computer Science for the University of West Virginia. Later, he worked as a consultant for what was then known as Andersen Consulting and worked independently, too. In the late '90s, he was a Section Network Information Technology (IT) Manager for the Ohio Bureau of Employment Services (OBES). After their merger with the Ohio Department of Human Services (ODHS), he started and developed the current IT Inventory System. Currently, Jeff is the Office of Workforce Development's (OWD) Rapid Response Unit Manager since Jim Turner retired.</p>	Ohio's Operating Plan Requirements
Robert Cintala	<p>Bob Cintala is an Audit Manager with the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services, Bureau of Audit Unit. His primary responsibilities are overseeing audits of U.S. Department of Labor's programs, including the Workforce Investment Act. Bob has a total of 20 years of auditing experience, and 15 of those years has been experience in auditing workforce programs. He received his Bachelor's Degree from Youngstown State University and is a Certified Internal Auditor and a Certified Government Auditing Professional.</p>	Panel Two's Discussion, Part 1
Lynn Fletcher	<p>Lynn Fletcher is a National Emergency Grant (NEG) Analyst in the National Office. She was recently assigned as the NEG Account Representative for Region V and will be handling the majority of the NEG workflow originating from the states in this Region. She's looking forward to focusing on the Region as a whole and to becoming better acquainted with field operations within each state.</p>	History of NEG's in Ohio

Robert Haas	<p>Robert Haas is the Manager of Performance for the Workforce Investment Act (WIA) in the Office of Workforce Development (OWD) at the Ohio Department of Job & Family Services (ODJFS). He is also responsible for responding to policy questions for the Workforce Investment Act (WIA). He provides technical assistance and training to local area and state staff on issues regarding these areas. In addition, he is accountable for the regular WIA Management Information system as well as generating the reports in that system. He has been involved with Workforce Development Policy for 23, plus years at both the state and local level. He has helped develop state Workforce Development Law, regulation and policy, technical assistance, waiver programs, state interagency Workforce Development collaboration and Ohio's Welfare Reform Initiatives. He helped to create the initial Workforce Development Programs for the Wood County Department of Job and Family Services. Mr. Haas received his Bachelor of Arts, Political Science, from Wright State University in 1976. His hobbies are volleyball and Ohio State football recruiting.</p>	Performance Outcomes
Rick Herman	<p>Rick Herman has been employed with the State of Ohio for over 33 years. For most of the last 30 years, he has been involved with Workforce Development including Comprehensive Employment Training Act (CETA), Job Training Partnership Act (JTPA) and Workforce Investment Act (WIA). Rick has been responsible for a wide variety of projects, but his specialty is the client tracking and reporting systems.</p> <p>Rick is currently the WIA Supervisor over the SCOTI unit, which oversees the WIA portion of the SCOTI reporting system, as well as the Eligible Training Provider (ETA) portion of the system. Throughout all of the programs he has been involved in over the years, Rick has offered his trademark, on-the-spot technical assistance, to the local areas through trainings, on-site visits, and workshops.</p>	Programmatic Reporting
Keith Hyde	<p><u>Experience:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 25 years as Executive Director of Workforce Services Unlimited Inc. dba a 501(c)(3) Non-Profit • 10 years as Butler County's Department Head administering state and federal programs, County Commissioners' Office • 35 Years of diverse experience in the area of workforce, economic, and staff development • Provided guidance and leadership to current organization which have led to state and national award recognition: USDOL "Best Practice Provider"; Served to Dislocated Workers, 1998 	WIB Operating Plan Requirements

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • U.S. DOL WIA Regulation Work Team, fall of 1998 • Ohio Merger Guidance Team, 1999, DHS and OBES to become ODJFS • Ohio Workforce Development Action Team, 1999 • Director of the Mid-America Center for Excellence, 2000 to 2003 • Consultant, preparation of Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), Five-County One-Stop system (Clinton, Fayette, Greene, Highland, and Montgomery) • Rapid Response Improvement Team, Governor's Assistant for Economic Development 2008 <p><u>Education:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Graduate, the Ohio State University, Columbus, Ohio BA Industrial Sociology 1971 • Graduate, Americans Economic Development Council, Community Economic Development Course Series, 1989 • More than 120 certified, specialized, or customized workshops on various Workforce Development issues, as attendee or presenter <p><u>Professional Memberships/Affiliations:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pickaway County Literacy Council Board, 1992 to present • President, Lancaster Society for Human Resource Management (SHRM) • Ohio Management Training Institute (OMTI), Board Chair 1989 – 1992, 1994 – 1996 • Ohio Economic Development Association, 2007 	
Linda Ortolano	<p>Linda Ortolano has been with the US Department of Labor (DOL), Employment and Training Administration (ETA), Chicago Regional Office since 2000. Prior to that, Linda worked for the US Office of Personnel Management (USOPM) and later, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA). Linda's primary assignment when joining ETA was serving with the Dislocated Worker Team as a Federal Project Officer for National Emergency Grants (NEG). As punishment for her hard work, Linda became the Federal Project Officer for the State of Illinois in 2004. In response to what will now be remembered as the 2008 Summer of Floods, and the concurrent increase in Region 5 NEG activity, Linda volunteered to serve as the NEG program lead for the Chicago Regional Office.</p>	History of NEGs in Ohio
Rosie Picklesimer	<p>Rosie is currently the Director of Workforce Area # 1, which has four One-Stop locations in southern Ohio. The population is approximately 200,000, and all are rural counties. Prior to her current job, she worked as</p>	WIB Operating Plan Requirements

	<p>an Assistant Director. She also worked with the Job Training Partnership Act and the Comprehensive Employment and Training Act.</p> <p>Organizations: National Workforce Association (NWA) National Association of Workforce Development Professionals (NAWDP) National Association of Workforce Boards (NAWB) Great Lakes Employment and Training Association (GLETA) Ohio's Workforce Investment Board Directors' Co-Chair (OWIBD)</p>	
Chris Resch	<p>Chris Resch received her B.A. Degree in English Literature and earned a Secondary-Level Teaching Certification from Capital University. While Chris was working for a Master's Degree, she spent two years as a Writing Instructor at the Ohio State University. With a background in teaching and private-sector social service agencies, Chris joined Ohio public service over 16 years ago. In February 2000, she became the Supervisor of Personal Services Procurement for the Ohio Department of Human Services (ODHS), which later merged with the Ohio Bureau of Employment Services (OBES) to become the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS).</p>	Procurement
Julie Wirt	<p>Julie Wirt is a Quality Assurance Supervisor in the Bureau of Program Integrity within the Office of Research, Assessment, and Accountability (ORAA). She oversees the WIA program monitoring as well as other quality assurance reviews. She has worked for the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services since August 2000. Prior to coming to ORAA, Julie was the Program Supervisor for Child Protective Services in the Office for Children and Families. Her past experience also includes eleven years at Marion County Children Services' Board.</p> <p>Julie graduated from The Ohio State University with a Bachelor of Arts degree. She majored in Psychology and minored in Communications. In addition, Julie holds a license to work as a social worker.</p>	Panel Two's Discussion, Part 1