

*U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development
U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
U.S. Department of Labor*

Improving Access to Mainstream Services for Individuals and Families with Children Experiencing Homelessness

*American Samoa
April 13-16, 2004*

*Guam and the Northern Mariana Islands
April 20-23, 2004*

Resource Persons

Donna Aligata is President of Gold Cottage Industries LLC, a diverse team of homebased consultants committed to “Building and Sustaining the Community Through Collaboration.” Gold Cottage Industries provides its clients with a variety of technical services, including strategic planning, program design, training, facilitation, executive coaching, and technical assistance.

For the past 30 years, Mrs. Aligata has worked to facilitate cross-agency collaboration, form strategic alliances, improve program outcomes, and design programs related to the recovery community, mental health consumers, and those dealing with stigma related to HIV/AIDS and homelessness. She served for eight years as Director of Development and Chief Operating Officer for a national nonprofit health services firm. She also served as Director of the Prison Technical Assistance and Training Project for the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) for three years. Subsequently, she successfully leveraged over \$1 million to found “The Center,” a State of Connecticut addiction counselor training institute where she served as Director. “The Center” provides 250 courses annually for developing certified counselors to work in the community. Mrs. Aligata also served for four years as Project Director of a substance abuse and infectious disease Cross-Training Initiative, funded by SAMHSA’s Center for Substance Abuse Treatment, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and the Health Resources and Services Administration. On this project, she led a team of multidisciplinary trainers working in 32 States, and facilitated a Federal interagency advisory group’s collaborative process for bringing agencies together to create policy change.

Lynnette S. Araki, M.P.H., is a Senior Health Policy Analyst in the Office of Planning and Evaluation, Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) and serves as lead staff on several cross-cutting projects for the Agency, including the joint Federal agency contract to improve access to mainstream programs for people who are homeless or at risk of homelessness. Ms. Araki is the lead staff for the HRSA Work Group on Homelessness, which is responsible for developing and monitoring implementation of the Agency’s work plan to address homelessness in HRSA programs. Other cross-cutting projects for which Ms. Araki is responsible include the HRSA Pacific Basin Initiative and

the Agency's External Emergency Response Team to assure continuity of essential functions during a crisis or emergency.

Ann Denton, M.Ed., has twenty-five years experience in public mental health system and program development and is a recognized expert on housing issues for people with mental disabilities and people who are homeless. She is the Director of Housing for Advocates for Human Potential and in that capacity she directs projects and activities related to housing and residential services for people with disabilities. Ms. Denton provides training and technical assistance to states, communities, advocates and providers in the areas of housing resources, housing development, support and services, advocacy, program implementation and operation, planning, resource development, and strategic partnerships. She is former Director of the Austin Office of The Enterprise Foundation. At EF, Ms. Denton's leadership helped change state policy, targeted more than \$3 million in resources, and created access to more than 500 units of integrated housing for people with disabilities.

She served as the Director of Housing and Residential Services for the Texas Department of Mental Health and Mental Retardation for 10 years, developing a statewide supported housing/housing first program. Ms. Denton currently serves on the State Promoting Independence Advisory Committee (*Olmstead*). As chair of the Housing Committee, she helped secure a \$2 million per year commitment of housing assistance funds. She also serves on the Texas Interagency Council for the Homeless, the State's Policy Academy team and numerous boards and committees.

At AHP, Ms. Denton leads technical assistance teams for the National and Statewide Coalitions to Promote Community-Based Care (*Olmstead*) project and for the Projects for Assistance in Transition from Homelessness (PATH) program, both under CMHS contract. Across the U.S., Ms. Denton has provided technical assistance and training on all aspects of housing for people with disabilities, especially the development, financing, and operation of supported housing.

Jamie Hart, Ph.D., M.P.H., Practice Area Director at Health Systems Research, Inc., has vast experience in training, technical assistance, facilitation, systems integration, curriculum design, evaluation, and cultural competency. Dr. Hart's work has consistently focused on integrating systems and improving access to health care for underserved populations, particularly for certain racial and ethnic populations, persons facing co-occurring disorders, and persons who are homeless. In her role as Project Director for the Homeless Policy Academies, she facilitated Federal Interagency Planning Committee efforts, designed and facilitated pre-Academy site visits for a majority of the 45 States and Territories involved in the project, served as a State team facilitator at the meetings, currently manages the day-to-day operations for the contract and coordinates the provision of technical assistance to all participating States. Dr. Hart also served as the Deputy Project Director of Substance Abuse and Infectious Disease: Cross-Training for Collaborative Systems of Prevention, Treatment and Care, a collaborative project funded by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration's Center for Substance Abuse Treatment, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and the

Health Resources and Services Administration, providing resources for training, technical assistance, and systems integration to infectious disease, substance abuse, mental health, and public health practitioners. Dr. Hart holds an Master of Public Health in health behavior and health education, and both a Master of Arts and Ph.D. in African American history.

Francine Williams, M.A., is the Center Director for the National Resource Center on Homelessness and Mental Illness, operated by Policy Research Associates, Inc. (PRA) in Delmar, New York, under contract to the U.S. Center for Mental Health Services. She is responsible for managing and overseeing all of the Resource Center's technical assistance, knowledge synthesis and knowledge application activities. Prior to this, Ms. Williams served as PRA's Homeless and Housing Division Manager, with oversight and management responsibility for all of PRA's homeless and housing projects. Before coming to PRA in 1997, Ms. Williams worked in employment and residential programs for people with mental illnesses, many of whom had been homeless.