

PRESENTERS

ROBERT ANTONACCI

Robert joined the Program Integrity Unit within the New York State Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance in 2007. For the past year, he has been responsible for overseeing the Lottery Intercept Match. The purpose of this match is to recover money from clients' lottery prizes for the Temporary Assistance they received during the last ten years that has not been repaid. Prior to accepting a position with OTDA, Robert was employed by the New York State Department of Taxation and Finance as a Taxpayer Services Representative II. Robert has a Bachelor of Science degree in Finance and Management from the State University of New York at Albany, School of Business.

STEVE BACH

Steve Bach has worked at the New York State Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance for 6½ years, in the Program Integrity Unit. Prior to his State service, he received a Bachelor of Arts degree in Criminal Justice from the State University of New York at Albany. For his first three years, he was the Project Coordinator for the AFIS Project. For the last 3½ years, he has been the PARIS Project Coordinator and responsible for computer matches, the quarterly Performance Measurements and assists with FEDS. He works with the regional A&QI offices and local districts to resolve all matches and serves as a point of contact for these areas. He currently serves as the Secretary for the PARIS Board of Directors.

DEBRA BRIDGES

Debra Bridges is the Accounting Supervisor for the St. Lawrence County Department of Social Services which oversees their Day Care Unit. She has held this position for almost two years. Debra has a Master of Business Administration and Bachelor's Degree in Accounting from Clarkson University. Prior to her current employment she was Executive Director of a not-for-profit agency that provides alcohol and substance abuse prevention programs.

VICKI BUCHANAN

Ms. Buchanan joined OTDA in April 1995 as a Legal Affairs Specialist I in the CIU Department. In 2002, she transferred to the Administrative Disqualification Unit. She presently reviews disqualification packets submitted by the local districts to determine if sufficient evidence exists to schedule a hearing. Upon completion of review and acceptance of the evidence, she also schedules all cases state wide. Ms. Buchanan began her career with the Rensselaer County Department of Social Services in 1985 as a social welfare examiner and was promoted to senior welfare examiner in 1989. She also served as the fair hearing representative for Rensselaer County.

CHRISTINE BURKE

Christine Burke has been a member of the Nassau County District Attorney's Office, Government and Consumer Frauds Bureau, since June 2006 handling investigations and prosecutions of welfare recipients charged with committing fraud. Prior to joining the Nassau County DA's Office, Christine was a member of the Queens County District Attorney's Office from 1991-2006. From 2001-2006, Christine worked as a Senior Investigative Attorney assigned to the investigation and prosecution of government fraud (housing fraud, unemployment fraud and welfare fraud) within the Economic Crimes Bureau. Christine attended St. John's University School of Law and resides in Nassau County with her husband and three children.

GEORGE CIEZKOWSKI

George has over 30 years experience with the New York State Office of Children and Family Services and the former Department of Social Services. He started his career with Audit and Quality Control and held positions in several offices. Since 1990, he has been the manager of the child care subsidy program. The child care subsidy program serves over 210,000 children annually and provides social services districts with over \$710 million in federal and state funds.

TAMMY COMPO

Tammy Compo has an Associates Degree in Criminal Justice and has been an Investigator with St. Lawrence County Department of Social Services since 1989. Prior to her current employment, she worked in eligibility in St. Lawrence County and Galveston, Texas.

WILLIAM DONNELLY

Bill has worked at the New York State Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance for 31 years. For the first ten years, Bill worked on provider audits and then moved on to Medicaid fraud until 1994 when he was assigned to the Audit and Quality Improvement/Program Integrity Unit. Bill has worked on many recipient and retailer fraud projects, such as:

- SLEB (State Law Enforcement Bureau)
- SFARS (Specialized Fraud and Abuse Reporting System)
- Intentional Program Violations
- PARIS Prison and Felon matches.

DANIEL HAUGHNEY

Daniel Haughney is a Senior Investigator with the New York State Department of Motor Vehicles Division of Field Investigations, currently assigned to the Fraud Unit. He joined the NYS DMV as a Field Investigator in March 2003. Prior to the DMV, Mr. Haughney served as a police officer for the New York State University Police beginning in November 1996. He worked two and a half years at the Plattsburgh campus and four years at the University at Albany specializing in traffic safety matters. While working for the State University Police, Mr. Haughney received certifications in the following areas: Accident Investigator, Child Safety Seat Technician, Field Training Officer, Breath Test Operator, Standardized Field Sobriety Testing, Radar Operator, and Police Mountain Bike Patrol Officer. He is also a NYS Municipal Police Training Council Certified Police General Topics Instructor and Instructor Evaluator. Since working for the Division of Field Investigation, Mr. Haughney has been certified as a Chief Trainer in Fraudulent Document Recognition for the American Association of Motor Vehicle Administrators, and currently serves as the Region 1 representative on the AAMVA Fraudulent Document Advisory Council. In addition to conducting criminal investigations regarding fraudulent documents and identity theft, Dan regularly instructs classes on Fraudulent Document Detection for Federal, State, and Local Law Enforcement agencies throughout the United States. Mr. Haughney received his Bachelor of Arts Degree in Criminal Justice from the State University of New York, Plattsburgh in 1995.

JOSEPH HAZARD

Joseph Hazard is an investigator with the NYS Office of the Medicaid Inspector General and has over twenty-seven years of experience in fraud detection and prevention. He has worked as an auditor and investigator for various state agencies that are responsible for administering social services programs. Presently at the Office of the Medicaid Inspector General, Joe works in a newly created unit responsible for statewide Medicaid beneficiary fraud investigations.

JUDY IEMMA

Judy has worked at the New York State Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance for 26 years. For her first five years, she worked in the Office of Systems Development as a computer programmer. Her next five years were spent working in A&QC's EDP Audit unit. For the last 16 years, Judy has worked in the Program Integrity Unit in the area of Intentional Program Violations (IPVs), and is responsible for maintaining the Food Stamps and Public Assistance IPV databases. In addition, she compiles and summarizes recipient fraud data submitted by the districts. Judy has a Bachelor of Arts degree in Mathematics from Russell Sage College.

RICHARD J. KEDDY

Sergeant Richard J. Keddy began his law enforcement career with the Nassau County Police Department in 1997. In 2004, he was assigned to the Nassau County Police Academy academic staff where he became a certified New York State Instructor and gained extensive experience in law enforcement training. In 2006, he was promoted to Sergeant and returned to the Academy where he is now the supervisor in charge of academics for the Nassau County Police Department. With his experience prior to law enforcement, Sergeant Keddy has over 15 years experience as a trainer and instructor.

DIANE LEY

Diane Ley has worked with the New York State Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance, and the former NYS Department of Social Services for 28 years. She has been with Audit and Quality Improvement for most of her career, with twelve years conducting local district operational and financial audits. For the next three years, Diane represented Audit and Quality Improvement in the Office of Field Operations where she was responsible for the production of five statewide teleconferences. For the past thirteen years, she has been with the Audit and Quality Improvement, Program Integrity Unit as Project Manager for the Automated Finger Imaging System (AFIS). In this capacity, Diane is a liaison to both the AFIS contractor and the local districts.

Currently, Diane is the Chairperson of the Sagem Morpho Civil AFIS Users Group.

JAMES T. LYONS, JR.

Special Agent Lyons is a 1990 graduate of Saint Peter's College, Jersey City, New Jersey. Upon graduation, Special Agent Lyons was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in the United States Air Force. In 1993, while serving on active duty, Special Agent Lyons earned his Masters Degree from the University of Arkansas. Special Agent Lyons served in the United States Air Force for six years and separated as a Captain/Special Agent with the United States Air Force Office of Special Investigations. In 1997, Special Agent Lyons joined the Federal Bureau of Investigation and was assigned to the FBI's Albany Division/Binghamton, New York resident agency. While assigned to the FBI's Binghamton resident agency, Special Agent Lyons has conducted a variety of criminal investigations to include gang, drug, bank robbery, and computer crime investigations.

Special Agent Lyons is the FBI coordinator for the Southern Tier Cyber Predator Task Force.

JAMES MARITATO

James Maritato currently works as an Investigator III with the Suffolk County Department of Social Services Special Investigations Unit. He has been with Suffolk County DSS since April 1980. Presently, James is responsible for supervising investigative staff dealing with FEDS, EVR and back end investigations.

LISA McLAIN

Lisa McLain has spent over two years at OTDA working in the Program Integrity Unit implementing the National Directory of New Hires computer match. This match seeks to identify unreported employment and increase New York State's Work Participation rate. She also manages all reporting associated with the Front End Detection System (FEDS) and Eligibility Verification Review (EVR). Prior to OTDA, Lisa served in the Development Department at the Preservation League of NYS and as Development Officer at the National Museum of Racing and Hall of Fame. Lisa has an Associate in Applied Science degree in Fine Arts from Russell Sage College, a Bachelor of Arts degree in Art History and Classical Archeology from SUNY Albany, and is a Master of Arts candidate in the History of Decorative Arts, Design and Material Culture from the Bard Graduate Center for the Studies of the Decorative Arts.

NICOLE McNAMEE WICKS

Nicole McNamee Wicks has been a Special Agent for the Social Security Administration, Office of the Inspector General, Office of Investigations (SSA OIG) since 2000. She is currently assigned to the New York State Intelligence Center in Latham, New York. Her duties include investigations relating to fraud, waste, and abuse against the Social Security Administration and the programs it administers. She is the SSA OIG New York Field Division Training Coordinator and regularly trains SSA and SSA OIG employees on document and imposter fraud. Nicole previously worked as a Special Agent for the agency previously known as the Immigration and Naturalization Service. She obtained her MBA in International Business from Iona College and is currently pursuing her Ph.D. from Northcentral University.

DENNIS J. MOESSNER

Dennis has 28 years of service with the New York State Police. Since 2001, he has been assigned to the New York State Police Academy in Albany, NY as a Senior Investigator responsible for curriculum development and implementation of In-Service Training for NYSP Investigators statewide. Prior to that, Dennis was an investigator with the Violent Crimes Investigation Team for seven years. His duties included management and investigation of homicide and high profile cases in the ten counties surrounding the Capital District. Dennis has also worked as an investigator in Fishkill and Guilderland, as a Uniform Trooper in Albany and Syracuse handling complaints, patrol, and highway traffic enforcement. Dennis holds a Master of Arts/Public Administration from Marist College in Poughkeepsie and an undergraduate degree from SUNY Oneonta.

JANICE M. MOLNAR

Janice M. Molnar, Ph.D., is Deputy Commissioner of the Division of Child Care Services in the New York State Office of Children and Family Services (OCFS). Throughout her career, which has included work in the public and non-profit sectors, she has concentrated on program and policy issues affecting children, youth, and families. Trained as a developmental psychologist, she has a background in research and evaluation, and has experience in organizational development and organizational learning, cross-sector planning and process facilitation, and evaluation and assessment of educational and human service activities both in the U.S. and internationally.

KATHLEEN MURPHY

Kathleen Murphy has worked for New York State for 29 years. Kathleen came to the Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance in January 2008 from the Office of the Medicaid Inspector General where she worked as an Associate Medical Facilities Auditor in the Bureau of Medicaid Audit. Now assigned to the Program Integrity Unit in OTDA, she is responsible for the National Directory of New Hires Computer Match (NDNH) and the recording and resolution of Fraud Allegations. Kathleen is also a member of the Association of Certified Fraud Examiners (ACFE).

RICHARD NAWROT

Richard M. Nawrot is the Director of Program Integrity for the NYS OTDA Bureau of Audit and Quality Control. He has served in this capacity since 1995. His responsibilities include the development, implementation and oversight of statewide fraud prevention and detection program and systems. These include the Automated Finger Imaging System (AFIS), the Front End Detection System (FEDS) and various other computer matches and Program Integrity initiatives. Prior to 1995 he managed Medicaid provider fraud detection and prevention projects. Rich also served as a Managing Auditor for the US Department of Health and Human Services, Office of the Inspector General. He is the current Vice-Chairperson of the National Association of State Welfare Fraud Directors and serves on the Board of Directors of the National United Council on Welfare Fraud.

DON NICKLAS

Don has 29 years experience in the fields of auditing and investigations with most of that spent in various management level positions. In his current position as Director of the Bureau of Upstate Audit in the Office of Children and Family Services, Don is responsible for managing a bureau that performs various types of internal and external audits, as well as investigative audits. Don's responsibilities include the review and approval of child care subsidy FEDS plans submitted by local social services districts. Before coming to OCFS, Don served as Chief Investigator at the New York State Office of Inspector General. During his tenure at that agency, Don supervised hundreds of white collar crime investigations, many of which resulted in successful prosecutions. While serving in that position, Don had the opportunity to work jointly with numerous federal, state and local investigative and/or prosecutorial agencies include the FBI, the US Attorney's Office, the New York State Attorney General's Office and local District Attorney's Offices. Don has spoken at a number of conferences regarding investigative and auditing techniques.

KRISTIN NITCHER

Kristin Nitcher has been with the New York State Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance for three years, and is the Project Coordinator on the AFIS (Automated Finger Imaging System) Project in the Program Integrity Unit. Prior to working at OTDA, Kristin spent seven years as a General Manager for Borders Group. She has a Bachelor of Arts degree in Psychology from SUNY Albany.

BRUCE PLOTSKY

Bruce Plotsky has been with the New York State Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance for approximately 2 ½ years. He was brought in as a Data Processing Systems Auditor to assist with the distribution and tracking of the National Directory of New Hires data. During this time he acted as the Project Manager on the rollout and maintenance of the tracking and storage Metalx application that he created, as well as on the movement of this information into the Resource File Integration subsystem of the Welfare Management System. Prior to working with NYS, Bruce was a Systems Analyst at Albany Medical Center College, assisting with the transition of technology between multiple platforms. Prior to that, Bruce was an Information Specialist for a number of years at AT&T, supporting all facets of computing requirements. Bruce has been an adjunct teacher in the Technology Department of Schenectady County Community College and substitute instructor at Russell Sage College.

THOMAS RYAN

Tom has been the Supervising Investigator at the Cayuga County Department of Social Services, overseeing the FEDS and fraud programs for approximately five years. Tom has been with Cayuga County since 1994 serving as a Social Services Investigator and Senior Investigator. Tom previously served for ten years as a police officer in central Florida and instructor at the police academy. Tom is also a Regional Representative to the New York Welfare Fraud Investigators Association and a Certified Welfare Fraud Investigator. Tom has a Bachelors degree in Organizational Management and is presently completing his Masters Degree in Management.

MARIA SCHOLLENBERGER

Maria Schollenberger is in her 26th year at the New York State Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance. Her first 21 years were spent in the Division of Temporary Assistance, in the areas of Food Stamps, the Welfare Management System and the Child Assistance Program. She also represented OTDA for five years in New York City while working with the NYC Human Resources Administration on numerous program-related issues. Since 2004, Maria has worked in A&QI's Program Integrity Unit as Project Director for the Front End Detection System, the National Directory of New Hires match and other Program Integrity initiatives. She serves on the Board of Directors for the United Council on Welfare Fraud and is the Secretary for the National Association of State Welfare Fraud Directors. Ms. Schollenberger has a Bachelor of Arts degree in English from Russell Sage College and a Master of Arts degree in English from the College of Saint Rose.

JANICE SEVERSON

For 25 years, Janice Severson has worked in the Child Welfare and Adult Learning fields. Beginning her public service career as a caseworker and then foster home finder and trainer at a local district social services office, her interest in teaching grew. She moved to the New York State Office of Children and Family Services working as a training manager for 13 years. In the late 1990's, Ms. Severson joined the New York State Division of Criminal Justice Services (DCJS), Office of Public Safety. During her tenure there, Ms. Severson worked extensively on developing curriculum for the School Resource Officers, Crime Prevention and Juvenile Officers training programs. She is a DCJS certified Master Instructor. In 2002, Ms Severson joined the Research Foundation of SUNY where she developed and now coordinates the Mandated Reporter Training Project for the Center for the Development of Human Services. The Center for the Development of Human Services (CDHS), in partnership with the NYS Office for Children and Family Services provides no cost training for all mandated reporters of child abuse throughout New York State.

KAREN STERN

Karen Stern has been with the New York State Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance for 5 ½ years. She began her career with the State on the Automated Finger Imaging System (AFIS) project in A&QI's Program Integrity Unit where she developed the quarterly Performance Measurements reports and worked with a team on the recipient fraud matches. For the past 2 ½ years, Karen has worked in A&QI's Technical Systems Audit Unit as the Recipient Fraud Matching System (RFMS) Project Manager. In addition, Karen has teamed with Program Integrity on other initiatives, such as the National Directory of New Hires (NDNH) and Unemployment Insurance Benefits (UIB) matches. Karen has a Bachelor of Science degree in Economics from SUNY Albany.

CHARLES TESTO

Charles Testo is a Senior Investigator with the Office of the Medicaid Inspector General, Recipient Fraud Unit. He is jointly responsible for the development of recipient fraud policy, procedure, and investigations. He has held various supervisory and investigative positions over the past sixteen years on both the state and local level.

JAMES THOMPSON

James Thompson is an Assistant Director of the Broome County Government Security Division. Mr. Thompson oversees the administrative functions of the agency, serves as the Training Director, and is the Director and Chief Investigator of the Computer Analysis and Technical Services Unit (CATS). CATS provides video and computer forensic services for all law enforcement agencies in Broome County and central New York. Jim was the recipient of the 2004 "Southern Tier Award for Excellence in Law Enforcement" presented by the United States Attorney, Northern District of New York, U.S. Dept. of Justice. Jim was recognized for his management of the CATS team and computer forensic abilities. Jim instructs "Digital Evidence Techniques" at the Broome County Police Academy, and "Investigations by Peace Officers" at the Broome County Peace Officer and Corrections academies. He is a frequently requested speaker on Internet safety at area schools and community associations, and instructs a community education course on Computer Forensics at Broome Community College.

MARIA VIDAL

Maria Vidal is a Supervising Administrative Law Judge with OTDA. Ms. Vidal graduated from Catholic University of Puerto Rico in 1976. In 1978, she graduated from Florida State University, receiving a Master's degree in Political Science. Ms. Vidal was a member of the Catholic University of Puerto Rico faculty, moving to Albany, N.Y., in 1982. In 1986 she became employed by the then NYS DSS as a compliance unit staff member, until she was promoted to the Administrative Law Judge position, becoming a supervisor in 1997. Ms. Vidal is admitted to the practice of Law in New York and Puerto Rico.

VINCENT W. VERSACI

Hon. Vincent Versaci has been a Judge in the Schenectady City Court since January 2003. Judge Versaci presides over criminal, traffic, and civil matters. He has preliminary jurisdiction over felony prosecutions, and adjudicates misdemeanor and violation cases from arraignment to sentence. Judge Versaci also presides over the Schenectady City Drug Court, which serves as an alternative to incarceration for defendants grappling with alcohol and drug addiction. Judge Versaci serves as the Supervising Judge for town and village courts in Saratoga, Schenectady, Montgomery and Fulton counties. In this role, he oversees and assists the eight-five Town and Village Courts in these four counties with coordinating resources, providing training and serves as a conduit between the local courts and the Office of Court Administration. Prior to his judicial career, Judge Versaci was in private practice in Schenectady, concentrating in the areas of matrimonial and family law, criminal law and real estate. He is a graduate of Albany Law School and the University of Rochester.

ANDREW WEISS

Andrew Weiss is an Assistant District Attorney and the Chief of the Medicaid Fraud Unit with the Nassau County District Attorney's Office. Prior to joining the Nassau District Attorney's Office, Andrew was the Deputy Inspector General for the NYS Office of the Welfare Inspector General and designated as a Special Assistant Attorney General with the NYS Attorney General's Criminal Prosecutions Bureau. He has been prosecuting welfare fraud cases since 1998. Andrew serves on the Board of Directors of the New York Welfare Fraud Investigators Association (NYWFIA). As part of his work with NYWFIA, he writes a legal column in the Association newsletter and lectures at conferences. Andrew started his legal career in private practice in Albany. He is a graduate of Albany Law School and admitted to both the New York State Bar and Federal Bar.

MARK WIERZBICKI

Mark Wierzbicki has been employed by Onondaga County for 30 years and currently serves as the Coordinator of Investigations. Mark started with the Office of Child Support as a Support Enforcement Officer in 1976, and became a Social Services Investigator in 1989. Mark was promoted to Welfare Fraud Investigator in 1999, and then promoted to Supervising Investigator in 2002. Mark has held his current position since 2004.