

February 7, 2017

Testimony of
Char Goolsby, Principal Trainer
Service Provider for TANF Work
Programs

Good morning, I am Char Goolsby and I am the principal trainer at Strategic Training Solutions, a service provider for TANF Work Programs.

It is my pleasure to be before this honorable body to discuss the HOPE Act and the positive influences of the Work Programs requirements. As a service provider for TANF Work Programs, I am tasked with designing and delivering innovative programming that support TANF clients in finding and retaining employment. I have been a provider for nearly three years and have had the privilege of watching clients transition from government dependence to independence.

Upon my arrival in my current position, lifetime benefits for TANF were 48 months. The limit continued to decline and is now 24 months. This change alone has been a great incentive for clients to more effectively utilize TANF to become self-sufficient. This is one of the key points we stress in our programming, that time is not on their side.

As a service provider, I have been encouraged to design programming to assist clients with altering their entire lifestyles, and to see themselves as individual's worthy of living a productive and self-sufficient life. I am happy to report that we have been very successful.

STS recently performed some random polling of our clients to find that of the ones we could reach, 81% of them were employed and many were in school in a junior college or trade school. The Work Programs requirement is essential to having clients be self-sufficient. Carefully designed programs can redirect thinking and provide other common-sense resources to support families.

On Wednesday, we will be celebrating two of our clients with our corporate partner JC Penny in Lenexa. Both ladies have been high achievers and offered promotions since coming through our program and gaining employment. This is further evidence that when clients change their minds, they change their lives.

Thank you for your time and consideration

Char Goolsby, Senior Trainer
Strategic Training Solutions

Senate Public Health and Welfare

Date 2.7.17

Attachment 2