

**CCWRO Weekly New Welfare News Bulletin
#2003-12- April 15, 2003**

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NEW Public Assistance Tables Effective 4/1/03 attached in adobe acrobat format.

IN BRIEF

- It appears that counties have a hard time keeping track of what they spend. Counties overspent their CalWORKs single allocation by \$68 million during the last fiscal year.
- The 2002 Food Stamp program federal government sanction for the State's high error rate is expected to be \$80, according to DSS, which is greater than the \$45 million originally expected by DSS.
- DSS is formulating a new withdrawal form that will be known as the CW 89. This form is designed to be used to withdraw the CalWORKs, Food stamp and Medi-Cal application. The County Welfare Directors Association (CWDA) would like retroactive Medi-Cal to be added to the withdrawal form.
- DSS is working on an ACL that would allow newborns to receive Medi-Cal based on a phone call from the caretaker relative. Counties now require a CW 8A before the newborn can get Medi-Cal.
- Counties have been unlawfully using the minimum wage divided by the self-employment wages to determine the number of WtW participation hours. It seems like DSS does not want to meet the federal participation rates, thus, they do not count the actual hours of participation, rather they count a lesser number of hours. Adding insult to injury, many counties are using the state minimum wage to come up with the number of hours, rather than the \$5.15 federal minimum wage. DSS informed the counties that they should be using the federal minimum wage, rather than the State minimum wage, as required by state law. Counties have a real problem with English comprehension. Meanwhile, Legal Services of Northern California has filed litigation to halt this unlawful practice of DSS.

LITIGATION NOTICE: If you have a self-employed client, contact CCWRO; and/or. if you have clients who are getting SSI and living with a CalWORKs family, odds are, they are being cheated on their food stamps.

CCWRO is looking such families. Please contact Grace Galligher or Kevin Aslanian.

EDITORIAL-TANF Reauthorization

TANF has passed the House and is waiting for action on the Senate side. Those fighting in Iraq, many of whom are from poor families who depend on TANF or have relatives that depend on TANF, have a big present waiting for them back in the homeland - the Bush TANF Reauthorization Bill which is a barbaric attack on the poor families of America. Sure, we can afford to spend billions and billions to rebuild Iraq, but what about American children? The Bush model, Leave No Child Behind--reads more like, Leave Poor Children Behind.

DSS NEWS

•Public Hearing Regulations - We encourage people to comment on the proposed regulations.

Hearing Date: April 16, 2003

Place: State Office Building #9, 744 P Street, Auditorium, Sacramento, California

**Item #1 Definition of Entry Date for the Cash Assistance Program for Immigrants
ORD# 1202-29**

Hearing Date: May 21, 2003

Place: State Office Building #9, 744 P Street, Auditorium, Sacramento, California

**Item #1 CalWORKs Senior Parent/Minor Parent Cases - Income Availability Change
ORD# 1202-31**

Item #2 Food Stamp Reauthorization Act of 2002 ORD# 1202-26

Item #3 Minor Parent Regulations ORD# 0103-02

To look at the proposed regulations, go to: http://www.dss.cahwnet.gov/ord/PublicHear_675.htm

• New All County Information Notice: **ACIN I-18-03 (April 8, 2003)**

Summary Of Program/Policy Changes In The Food Stamp Program Since 1997 - You can download this item at: http://www.dss.cahwnet.gov/lettersnotices/2003AllCou_1227.htm

- DSS STATISTICAL REPORTS LATE- DSS statistical reports late in many cases. Even though the law requires that counties submit these reports, many counties simply ignore the law. And why not ignore the law? Nothing will happen.

DPA-266- The last DPA 266, which is the welfare fraud report, is for October, 2002. There is silence for November, December, January, February and March - five months. Maybe the welfare fraud activities have stopped in California. Could that be true. We can only hope.

CA 237HA-The Homeless Assistance reports have stopped since June of 2002. Has the Homeless Assistance program been repealed? We have heard many complaints from poor families who are not allowed to apply for Homeless Assistance. Maybe counties really think the program no longer exists. State regulations require that a CA 237HA be submitted to DSS within 20 days of the end of the month.

DFA 296X- Food Stamp expedited services report has not been available for a year. The last report available was for the first quarter of 2002.

STAT 46- This is a quarterly report regarding Able Bodied Adults Without Dependent (ABAWDS). This report shows the amount of money spent on ABAWDS and the ABAWDS caseload activities. The last report was filed for the third quarter of 2002.

It is indeed hard to get timely reports from DSS. In most cases, the late reporting is a result of the inadequate reporting or nonreporting by counties.

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Coalition of California Welfare Rights Organizations, Inc.

1901 Alhambra Blvd., Sacramento, CA 95816

Tel. 916-736-0616

After 6 PM - 916-387-8341

Road Phone (also known as cell phone or mobile phone) - 916-712-0071

FAX 916-736-2645

e-mail address: ccwro@aol.com