



CCWRO Welfare News

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Segregated WtW 24-Month Clock OK

For a long time, we have been critical of the WtW-24-month time clock. We have now changed our position. We have concluded that the 24-month clock is not one of the most evil provisions of the WtW “segregated” program in California.

The major difference between the WtW policy before the 24-month clock and post 24-month clock, is that Self-Initiated Program (SIP) students are generally limited to 36-months of school, whereas before they were allowed to attend school for 48-months.

Post 24-month clock requirements excuse welfare-to-work (WtW) recipients from meeting the federal core program requirements for the first 24 months. Before the 24-month clock if they did not meet the federal core requirements within the first 24-month, they were sanctioned. The only exception generally were SIPs and participation in programs to address substance abuse, mental health and domestic violence issues. Participation in substance abuse, mental and domestic violence issues were always minimal – counties rarely, if ever, used all of the funds that they received for substance abuse mental health treatment.

So in essence rather than being subject to the “core” participation requirements from day 1, participants are subject to the core requirements from day 1 of the 25th month. The statute has some exemptions, but those exemptions are very nebulous and incomprehensible.

The post 24-month promise of flexibility thus allowing more choices for WtW participants, has never materialized. Neither DSS nor the counties were serious about affording participants’ real choices. DSS was not serious because they deferred to the counties and counties were not serious about it because it would impede counties ability to meet the federal work participation rates for which they would be fiscally liable. Meanwhile, transportation took a dive in 2015 from 60% to 58%.

SANCTIONS GO UP - Sanctions are climbing and fewer CalWORKs recipients are allowed to get a college education to achieve self-sufficiency. DSS statistics show that sanctions increased because 200,000

cases with children under 6 were asked to participate in a WtW activity without verifying that supportive services, child care and transportation, were actually available so they could participate. A large number of sanctions were a result of lack of supportive services that has always been the case.

SB 1041 has successfully driven up the sanction rates for unduplicated WtW participants from 42% in 2012 to 51% in 2015. In human terms this means that in 2012 there were 50,000 sanctioned families living in deep poverty, while in 2015, there were 60,000. That is 10,000 more families and an estimated 20,000 kids, many under 5, who were shoved deeper into poverty by the changes in SB 1041.

CALIFORNIA’S 48-MONTH CLOCK

As of 2013, the majority of states and the District of Columbia (40 out of 51) apply the full federal 60-month limit to their TANF programs (as California did initially until from 1998 to 2011). Four other states match California’s 48-month time limit, while the remaining six states apply a 24- or 36-month limit. *Source: Rand Report- September, 2015*

COUNTIES NOT PAYING TRANSPORTATION TO FAMILIES LIVING BELOW 30% OF THE FEDERAL POVERTY RATE

Year	WtW Unduplicated Participants	Receiving Transport.	Percentage Receiving Transportation	Estimated Dollars Not Paid to WtW Participants
9/12	117,372	63,310	54%	\$6.2 million
9/13	119,946	64,915	54%	\$6.4 million
9/14	123,637	73,600	59%	\$7.2 million
9/15	116,709	67,182	58%	\$6.6 million

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County Client Abuse Report

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✓ **LOS ANGELES COUNTY WRONGFULLY DENIES CHILD CARE** - Ms. 2015048446 began working on November 5, 2014 in Los Angeles County. Her mother provided childcare services for her daughter beginning November 5, 2014. On that same day, Ms. 2015048446 informed the social worker that she was employed. The social worker accepted her request for childcare service and told her that he would contact her in two weeks and provide her with form(s) for her employer to complete. The social worker did not contact her in two weeks, nor did the social worker provide her with any form(s) for her employer to complete. She went to the county's office on December 4, 2014 and made a second request for childcare services, but the social worker did not provide her with any form(s). The county finally provided her with form(s) and a Request for Employment Verification in January 2015. Los Angeles County then decided to pay child care from January 22, 2015 rather than November 5, 2014. She asked for a hearing and the judge ordered the County to pay child care for the period of November 5, 2014 through January 22, 2015. **During 2014-2015 Los Angeles County received \$108,300,103 from the state to pay for child care. Los Angeles returned \$27,816,235 to the State as they were not able to spend the child care money.**

✓ **CalWORKs MOM PREVENTED FROM SELF-SUFFICIENCY BY STANISLAUS COUNTY** - Ms. 2015082254 attends school to become self-sufficient. Her morning starts at 6 am. It consists of making breakfast for her children aged 14 and 8. She drives them to school at different locations. Both children are "A" students. In addition, she helps her father, who has Parkinson's disease, to go to medical appointments and running errands etc.

When Ms. 2015082254 went to her WtW Orientation and Appraisal she was told she would have to participate in the activity of Job Retention. She told the appraiser at that time that she was attending school. She was told she would have to engage in a certain amount of WtW Program hours and was told verification was needed for the school program. She faxed to her school, verification forms given to her by the county and assumed the school submitted them to the county, in October 2014. Ms. 2015082254 was told that a number of hours were needed for her to complete her WtW participation and she was assigned to Job Retention for that purpose. She did not choose this activity but was given a paper in which her activity was job retention and was told to sign it.

Before she was assigned to this activity, the claimant told the county worker who assigned this activity that she was attending school and that she was taking care of her kids who had to be taken to and picked up from school. She had no one else

to do this for her. Child care expenses were not offered to her at that time. No one explained to her what the activity of Job Retention entailed. She was not told that the schooling could be part of her WtW activities at that time. However, later this was explained to her by her county worker, but not on the day she signed the WtW activity form. She called her worker subsequently, about 2 days later, and was then told the school might be allowed as credit toward her WtW activity but she had to submit verifications.

When she signed the WtW Activity Plan for Job Retention no one explained to her the option of having a third-party neutral evaluation.

On February 24, 2015 Stanislaus County issued a notice of action proposing to impose a sanction by reducing her meager monthly benefit of \$515 down to \$331 a month.

The county testified that it was aware that she was already enrolled in a Pharmacy technician program and requested verification. The county noted that the enrollment verification for the Pharmacy Technician Program that the claimant submitted to the county was insufficient for verification purposes. The county never told her what was insufficient.

The hearing decision held: "The claim is granted in that as the county failed to properly determine the claimant's eligibility to a SIP, the county's sanctioning of the claimant for non-participation in the WtW Program is not sustained. The county shall rescind its February 24, 2015 NOA sanctioning the claimant for non-participation in the WtW Program and restore the claimant's CalWORKs Program grant to \$515 per month effective April 1, 2015.

The claim is remanded to the county to determine the claimant's eligibility for a SIP given her enrollment and continuing classes in her Pharmacy Technician Program. Upon remand, the county shall further determine whether the claimant is eligible to a WtW Program exemption based on her care of a disabled person in her household. The county shall issue NOAs to the claimant informing her of the county's determinations of her eligibility for a SIP and her eligibility for an exemption from the WtW Program due to her care for a disabled individual in her household. The claimant's right to file a timely request for hearing disputing these county determinations is expressly reserved."

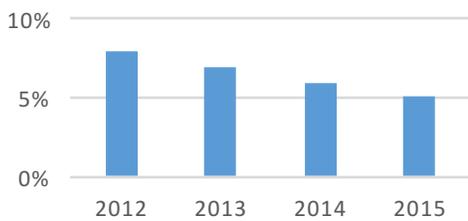
✓ **LOS ANGELES COUNTY SANCTIONS AN INDIVIDUAL ON DIALYSIS** - On May 6, 2015, Los Angeles County mailed a notice of action reducing the benefits of Mr. 2015138142 from \$561 down to \$342 a month. Mr. 2015138142 is very ill and he is on dialysis. But that did not stop the county from trying to sanction Mr. 2015138142. The county not only issued a notice, but refused to acknowledge good cause and revoke the notice of action. The county went to the hearing, forcing this severely disabled person to appear in person and explain that he is on dialysis. At the hearing the county finally capitulated and agreed to reconsider their good cause determination. The county still refused to admit that being on dialysis was good cause. The county only agreed to make Mr. 2015138142 come to the welfare office again so the GAIN worker can decide if a person on dialysis can be sanctioned. It is possible that this person could again be sanctioned again - not having transportation and being too sick to go to the Los Angeles County GAIN office to see a worker.

WtW Update plus SB 1041 Impact Analysis July, 2015 California SEGREGATED Welfare-to-Work Program Outcomes REPORT

	September 2012	September 2013	September 2014	September 2015
Number of Unduplicated Participants Participating in a WtW Activity	117,372	119,946	123,637	116,709
Sanctioned Previously and Currently	49,870	51,876	62,973	59,348
PERCENTAGE Unduplicated Participants being sanctioned this month	42%	53%	60%	62%
Secondary Education	414	122	110	100
Self-Initiated Program (SIP)	10,241	8,204	7,457	5,893
TOTAL Participants in Secondary Education - College	10,655	8,326	7,585	5,993
Percentage of Secondary Education	9%	7%	6%	5%
Dollar Loss to CalWORKs Families Due to Sanctions this Month Estimates at \$125 Per Sanction	\$6,233,750	\$7,953,	\$9,240,875	\$9,013,375
Number of Unduplicated Participants Who Entered Employment That Resulted In Termination of CalWORKs	4,286	4,108	3,336	4,240
Percentage of Unduplicated Participants Who Entered Employment That Resulted In Termination of CalWORKs	4%	3%	3%	4%

Source: State Department of Social Services WtW 25 reports

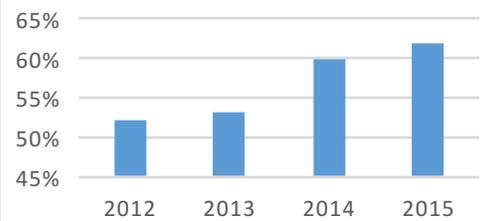
WtW Secondary Education



Welfare-to-Work or Welfare-to-Sanction?
Sanctions = 42%
Jobs = 4%

FACT: California leads the nation in child poverty. \$2.2 billion could be better used to lift California's children out of poverty rather than more sanctions.

Percentage of WtW Unduplicated Participants Sanctioned



California's Employment Program for CalWORKs is SEGREGATED- We Need to END SEGREGATION of California's Poor Families!!

QUESTION : Why is California's Welfare-to-Work Program "SEGREGATED"?

ANSWER: Congress authorized over \$3.3 billion a year to operate employment programs for Americans in the most recently reauthorized WIA act P.L. 113-128. In California there is another estimated \$5.6 billion employment programs for Californians.