



IN BRIEF

✓ The California County Welfare Directors Association (CWDA) Fiscal Committee is concerned that while the Schwarzenegger budget proposes to force all CalWORKs applicants to conduct job search before getting CalWORKs benefits, there is no additional child care and transportation money in the budget that this new mandated activity would require. The governor has now revised his proposal to give the counties the option to force applicants to do job search before they can get any public assistance benefits.

✓ Tulare County asked DSS on 1/12/04 whether or not the county could provide child care to WtW participants at the WtW activity site. DSS response on 1/23/04 was that the county could do this, but it could not interfere with the participants' right to choose licensed or license-exempt providers as provided in MPP 47-301.2.

A Child Care Program Policy Interpretation issued on 1/22/04 by Alana Lee stated that child care is to be paid for a child that is living with the participant and is needed for the participant to participate in a WtW activity, even if the minor child is not a member of the assistance unit. See MPP§ 47-201.122 and 47-201.123.

✓ On 2/17/04, San Diego County asked if the county could reject an expired California driver license (CDL) to verify the age of the provider. On 2/18/04 Margo Chiu of DSS responded that; "Since the expiration of the CDL does not change the age of the person

and is needed for initial verification of age only, there is no requirements to update the CDL when it expires."

✓ On 1/12/04, El Dorado Department of Social Services asked whether a client whose 60 months has expired is still be eligible for Stage Two child care. A response approved by K. R. on 3/2/04 states that; "Clients are eligible for up to 24 consecutive months of CalWORKs child care from the moment they become former recipients [MPP§47-230.14; 5 CCR Section18408(b)], so long as they are working or participating in an acceptable Welfare-to-Work activity and remains income-eligible. This client is eligible for Stage One if services are not available in Stage Two."

STATE BUDGET UPDATE

The State Legislature has wrapped up the budget subcommittee hearings for the 04-05 state budget. It has been a rocky road, and the final outcome is still unclear.

The Schwarzenegger January 2004 proposed budget proposed to:

➤ Deny COLA for CalWORKs recipients for 03-04 and 04-05,

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➤ Reduce by 5%, CalWORKs benefits which are at the same level that similarly situated families received in 1989;

➤ Requires all applicants to participate in job search while applications for aid are pending.

➤ Requires all aided adults not meeting work requirements to complete and sign a welfare-to-work plan within 60 days of the receipt of aid.

➤ Requires all nonexempt recipients to engage in 20 hours per week of more narrowly defined "core" work activities within 60 days of entering program.

➤ Reduces grant for cases that have been in sanction status for more than one month by an additional 25 percent.

➤ Reduces grant for safety-net cases with a nonworking adult by an additional 25% if the parent is not working after 30 days of going off aid because of the 60 month limit.

➤ The budget proposed to set up a county block grant for Healthy Families Program (HFP) for immigrants, Cash Assistance Program for Immigrants (CAPI), California Work Opportunity and Responsibility to Kids (CalWORKs) for legal noncitizens, and the California Food Assistance Program ([CFAP] state-only Food Stamps for immigrants). The budget then combined the funding for these programs and proposed a 5% reduction in funding. The enrollment of each program would be capped in the first part of calendar year of 2004. This means that if the county had 100 persons on CAPI during the first part of calendar year 2004, then a new applicant would have to wait until the caseload was

reduced to 99 before he or she could get her CAPI benefits.

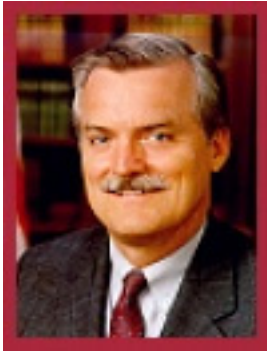
➤ The budget also proposed major reductions in IHSS services for the needy aged, blind and disabled of California.

During the budget hearings the Administration revealed that they will scale down the cutting of IHSS services and would delete their proposal to repeal the Transitional Food Stamp Program.

THE MAY REVISE - In May, the Governor released his revised budget based upon new revenue assumptions - this is known as the "May Revise". A copy of the May revise for the Department of Social Services can be downloaded at http://www.dss.cahwnet.gov/cdssweb/LocalAssis_1705.htm. The May revise also deleted the proposal for block grants to immigrants in addition to deleting transitional food stamps and scaling back the IHSS cuts.

DEMOCRATS RESPOND- The State Senate Budget Subcommittee on Health and Human Services Chaired by Senator Chesbro and Assembly Budget Committee's subcommittee on Health and Human Services chaired by Merv Dymally approved a budget that rejected each and every proposal submitted by the Governor.

WHAT'S NEXT - The Subcommittee reports have to go to the full committee for approval. Then it has to pass each floor. There is also the wheeling and dealing of the Big Five, which includes the Governor, the President Pro Tem, the Senate minority leader, the Speaker and the Assembly minority leader. They will get together like they have been doing for years and come up with a final budget.



**SENATOR
CHESBRO**



**ASSEMBLYMAN
DYMALLY**

Statistic of the Week

**Child Welfare
Services in California**

This month we look at the child welfare system in California. The numbers are retrieved from the Department of Social Services webpage called "CWS/CMS2 - Child Welfare Services/ Case Management System - Characteristics of Children in Out-of-Home Care"

This monthly report provides information on children in out-of-home care statewide and for each county. It shows the characteristics of the children, including age, gender, ethnicity, type of placement home, funding source, agency responsible, number of cases that were terminated and reason for termination. The data for the report are drawn from an extract that is created on the last day of each month from the Child Welfare Services/Case Management System (CWS/CMS). This web page also has a county-by-county data for cases in your county. For more information go to: http://www.dss.cahwnet.gov/research/Children`s_405.htm

**California- Statewide
December 2003**

Cases Open on the Last Day of the Month	91,755
Federal AFDC-FC	49,287
State AFDC-FC	15,315
Non AFDC-FC	27,153

CCWRO COMMENT: A high percentage of the caseload are not even eligible for federal financial participation. A lot of the money comes out of the TANF program which should be used to cover poor families with children and not group homes getting over \$3,000 a month for each kid.

AGENCY RESPONSIBLE (LENGTH OF STAY IN MONTHS)

County Child Wel. Dept.	84,177
Average Length of Stay	(23.2 Months)
County Probation Dept.	6,698
Average Length of Stay	(10.5 Months)
Other Departments	880
Average Length of Stay	(20.0 Months)

GENDER

Male	47,666
Female	44,073
Unknown.	16

ETHNICITY

Black	29,061
Hispanic	31,291
White	27,264
American Indian	1,407
Asian or Pacific Islander	2,732

CCWRO COMMENT: It is no secret that the child welfare program has targeted minorities since they are the least capable of fighting the closed juvenile court system. Minorities being held in foster care represent 66% of the

caseload, while whites are only 30%. 60% of California's population is white. Meanwhile, 6.7% of California's population is black while 34% of the children in foster care are black.

It should also be noted that 75% of the children in the foster care system are there because their parents are poor - which in social worker language, means "neglect".

AGES

Under 1 year old	4,022
1-5 years old	19,866
6-10 years old	20,559
11-14 years old	22,624
15-18 years old	23,523
19 years old	622
Unknown/Missing	539

(The average age is 9.9 years old)

CCWRO COMMENT: Based on these statistics, it appears that 539 children in the system are missing. We have serious concerns that allows 539 children to go missing, 66% of which are minorities.

PLACEMENT TYPES

Relative Home	31,236
Foster Family Agency	22,515
Foster Family Home	13,846
Group Home.	13,965
Guardian Home	7,777
Unspecified Home	1,339
Other Homes.	1,077

CCWRO COMMENT: 66% of the children are not placed with relatives. 25% are placed in what is called foster family agencies. These agencies get about \$1,500 a month for each child, then they find a foster care parent who gets \$500 a month and actually takes care of the child, while they put \$1,000 a month in their pockets.

Then there are 1,339 children living in what is called "unspecified homes". We are unsure as to what this means. Are these children whose foster care parents receive money while they live in "other homes" or "unspecified homes"? Maybe the foster family agency or group homes receive money for the children living in "other homes" or "unspecified homes". Is anyone concerned about this?

TERMINATIONS

Cases Term. During the Month	2,070
Reunited with Parents	1,352
Adopted.	113
Other Terminations (Aged Out)	603
Unknown/Missing.	2

CCWRO COMMENT: Only 5% of the children freed from foster care were adopted - and majority of those adopted must have been the kids under 5 years old.

Of the children who were terminated, two were classified as "unknown/missing". The State has no idea where 539 children are - only 2 children are not getting foster care payments. The remaining 537 kids are still getting money while no one knows where they are.

CCWRO SERVICES AVAILABLE TO LEGAL SERVICES PROGRAMS & WELFARE RECIPIENTS REFERRED TO US BY LEGAL SERVICES PROGRAMS

Types of Services Offered: Litigation, Fair Hearing Representation, Fair Hearing Consultation, Informational Services, and Research Services, in depth Consultation.

Programs Covered: CalWORKs, Welfare to Work (WtW), Food Stamps, Medi-Cal. General Assistance and Refugee Immigration Problems