

CCWRO Weekly New Welfare News - #2002-01

January 1, 2002

HEADLINES

IN BRIEF -

FOOD STAMP FEDERAL LEGISLATION NEWS

CWD SANCTION VICTIMS OF THE WEEK –

STATISTICS OF THE WEEK- Annual WtW Report

IN BRIEF–

- Youth Law Center Monitoring Annoys County Welfare Officials

The Youth Law Center filed a lawsuit for the unlawful operation of children's shelters in several counties. They have been requesting data to monitor what the counties are doing. This does not sit well with the counties. The shelter counties are planning to meet with shelter counties and CDSS licensing (Colleen Anderson) to see how they should address this monitoring effort of Youth Law Center. It's simple-obey the law!

- Counties do not want clients to know how many months remain of their 60-month limit

At the County Advisory Committee meeting (also known as "CAT") county welfare department staff were told by CDs that they would like to see quarterly notifications informing individual clients on the amount of time remaining on their 60-month clock. Counties see problems with quarterly notification. They would prefer to notify the individual clients of their time limits at intake or annual redetermination meetings assuming the county does one and upon request of individuals. Stay tuned to see who wins. The county welfare department bureaucrats, or the people in charge of the CalWORKs program- CDSS.

- Counties Fail to Act of Reports of Earned Income Causing Overpayments

-- On September 10, 2001, Gale Wright, Chief of the CDSS Fraud Bureau mailed a letter to Los Angeles County Interim Director about the county's failure to process EAVS matches. The letter reveals that offices which have converted to LEADER, the new Los Angeles County computer system, "...have not received IFD/ECS abstracts since the June 2000 run, which contained earnings from the fourth quarter 1999."

The letter further reveals that "As a result, numerous OPs that occurred during those months have not been identified and many of those ineligible recipients remain on assistance. It is important that the IFD/ECS abstracts are processed timely to meet the 45 day federal requirements for completing, regardless of LEADER's ability to process the match data, to prevent more OPs/OIs being left unidentified."

Many of these individuals will be persecuted by Los Angeles County for "welfare fraud", while the people responsible for these overpayments, the bureaucrats who are paid good money to prevent overpayments will continue to collect their monthly paychecks for a lousy job done.

We talked to Raul Diaz of the Los Angeles County welfare fraud section, who assured us that they would not prosecute overpayments caused by delays in processing the various IEVS abstracts.

-- Santa Clara County was reviewed by CDSS who discovered that the county has 981 open cases where the county has an abstract identifying an overpayment, but has failed to take action. Some of these cases go back to 1998, according to a September 6, 2001 letter mailed to Will Lightbourne, Director of Santa Clara County Welfare Director.

-- Tulare County was mailed a letter on July 3, 2001, informing the county that they have failed to process 38,000 abstracts. The letter also states that "...Tulare County is not in compliance with Federal and State requirements for processing IFD/ECS abstracts within 45 days from the time the county receives the abstracts."

FOOD STAMP FEDERAL LEGISLATION NEWS

Last year, Congress acted on the Food Stamp and the Farm Bill. At this time, there are three pieces of legislation being considered:

House Bill, H.R. 2646 has passed the House and Senate Bill, S 1731, has passed the Senate Agriculture Committee. The Lugar Amendment will be offered on the Senate Floor as a substitute to the S 1731.

The House bill does no harm to the Food Stamp program, except that it authorizes the program until 2011. The Senate version authorizes the program until 2006. The Senate version and the Lugar version have a host of changes that are beneficial to food stamp recipients.

For more information click on: <http://www.cbpp.org/11-6-01fs.pdf> the Center for Budget Policies and Priorities (CBPP) at 820 First Street, NE, Suite 510, Washington, DC 20002 Tel: 202-408-1080 Fax: 202-408-1056 center@cbpp.org <http://www.cbpp.org>

CBPP has wonderful information and they are the most effective representatives of the views representing food stamp recipients in Congress.

CWD SANCTION VICTIMS OF THE WEEK –

There were at least 25,000 WtW families who received Christmas presents from the County Welfare Department - sanction notices. On the average, each family has about 2 kids. Thus, county welfare department bureaucrats victimized 50,000 innocent children. Counties, in most cases, unlawfully reduced the already meager CalWORKs benefits of these kids. An average sanction results in a reduction of at least \$100 a month or more.

STATISTICS OF THE WEEK –

Welfare to Work Sanctions-June, 2001

In the past, CDSS provided monthly reports revealing year-to-date numbers how many WtW participants were sanctioned. The new reports are monthly, not year-to-date which hides the actual impact of the mean-spirited WtW sanctions in California.

It is now January 1, 2002, and finally the June, 2000 WtW data has been published by DSS. It takes six (6) months to get information to the public.

What does the information reveal?

Statewide there were 178,432 unduplicated welfare to work (WtW) participants.

During June of 2001, 26,630 individuals were sanctioned. This is a statewide 15% sanction rate.

During June 2001, only 14,803 individuals entered employment. This is a 92% employment failure rate.

15% of individuals were sanctioned while a mere 8% entered employment, revealing that counties know how to sanction, however, they are not very successful at playing "employment office". Maybe someday policy makers will understand this.

During June 2001, only 11,200 individuals were participating in a SIP. This does not reveal how many new persons enrolled in a SIP during June of 2001. This is a meager 6% SIP rate.

During June, 2001, only 65,656 individuals were provided with transportation services. This means 112,776 persons were not provided with transportation services. As a result, 73% of the WtW participants were unlawfully denied transportation services and had to use their own money to meet their transportation needs.

Next week we will reveal the percentage of sanctions county by county.

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