

CCWRO Weekly New Welfare News - #2002-06

February 19, 2002

HEADLINES

- IN BRIEF

-- PROPOSED STATE ASSEMBLY BUDGET HEARING DATED

-- TANF UPDATE -

-- CWD VICTIMS OF THE WEEK

--STATISTICS OF THE WEEK -

- IN BRIEF

-- Counties are very concerned with the State's reduction in administrative costs. The days when counties could use eligibility workers to do unannounced KGB type home visits terrorizing poor women with children are coming to an end hopefully. Many community based organizations are also concerned about the cutbacks because counties are planning to do away with contracts they had with community based organizations. However, the caseload has gone down by 50%, thus the administrative costs should also be going down.

--The County Welfare Directors Association (CWDA) is interested in revising the WtW25 report to capture information relative to welfare to work program progress and outcomes. They believe that the current reporting system does not capture enough information regarding outcomes of the welfare to work program.

-- DSS is going to recover the interest that county welfare departments have made on incentive funds received from DSS. As we reported in #2002-06, the State has been informed by the federal government that advancing money to counties in the form of incentive payments is a violation of the Federal Cash Management Act and now the State is planning to recover these overpayments from the county quarterly reimbursements. This has caused concern by counties that such recovery of an overpayment can hurt their cash flow. Well, guess how a welfare mom living on \$600 a month feels when the counties takes away %5 of the meager grants for mistakes that the county made?

-- PROPOSED STATE ASSEMBLY BUDGET HEARING DATED

All hearings are held in Room 444, which is in the old building of the capitol at 1:30 P.M., or soon thereafter. Often the hearings start after the floor session is over. To get more information you can call CCWRO or the Committee at [Phone: \(916\) 319-2046](tel:9163192046)

Fax: (916) 322-9208

March 13 - Health and Human Services Agency Data Center, Department of Social Services (Automation)

March 20 - Department of Social Services Community Care Licensing and Adult Programs (IHSS, Special Circumstances, Adult Protective Services, Cash Assistance Program for Immigrants), DSS Food Programs

April 3 - Department of Child Support Services.

April 10-Department of Community Services and Development, Department of Social Services (Child Welfare, Foster Care, Adoptions)

April 24-Department of Social Services (CalWORKs program), California Department of Education (Child Care)

May 8-Open Issues

May 14 -24 May Revise

Subcommittee Members

Committee Member
Gil Cedillo, Chair
Dem-46
(916) 319-2046

Keith Richman Rep-38
(916) 319-2038
Assemblymember.Richman@assembly.ca.gov

Darrell Steinberg Dem-9
(916) 319-2009
Assemblymember.Steinberg@assembly.ca.gov

Samuel M. Aanestad Rep-3
(916) 319-2003
Assemblymember.Aanestad@assembly.ca.gov

Dion Aroner Dem-14
(916) 319-2014
Assemblymember.Aroner@assembly.ca.gov

Tony Cardenas, Dem. Alternate
Dem-39
(916) 319-2039
Assemblymember.Cardenas@assembly.ca.gov

Juan Vargas, Dem. Alternate Dem-79
(916) 319-2079
Assemblymember.Vargas@assembly.ca.gov

George Runner, Rep. Alternate
Rep-36
(916) 319-2036
Assemblymember.Runner@assembly.ca.gov

-- TANF UPDATE - FOOD STAMP REAUTHORIZATION PASSES SENATE

On 2/13/02 the United States Senate passed Senate Bill 1731 by a vote of 58-40 authorizing \$8.9 billion for nutrition programs for 10 years, including food stamps. The House bill, H.R. 2646 authorizes \$3.6 billion for 10 years.

The next step is the convening of a conference committee to work out the differences between the Senate and the House.

The Senate bill has more money, and it includes the restoration of food stamp benefits for immigrants and other positive provisions. A more detailed report will be in our next report.

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TANF ACTION-

The National Campaign for Jobs and Income Support (NCJIS), a network of over 1000 grassroots organizations from across the country organizing to impact federal legislation from a low-income perspective, is getting ready for the TANF Campaign Roll-Out in Washington, DC. NYC-based organizing groups such as Community Voices Heard (CVH), Families United for Racial and Economic Equality (FUREE), Association of Community Organizations for Reform Now (ACORN), and Make the Road by Walking (MTRBW) are all organizing buses of members to join with others from across the country to push the federal debate in the direction low-income people want it to go.

It's time for our federal representatives to hear straight from the people who their policies impact...the real experts on welfare reform, welfare recipients!

We're excited about the accountability session, march, and action that we're organizing in DC for Tuesday, March 5th and we'd like you to join us!

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|--------|--|
| WHO? | Low-income Individuals & Allies |
| WHAT? | Accountability Session, March & Action
To Influence Federal TANF Reauthorization Debate |
| WHEN? | Tuesday, March 5th, 2002
Buses leave NYC at 6AM and return around 10PM |
| WHERE? | CVH is Planning to Send Two-Three Buses to DC:
One will leave from the Bronx,
One from East Harlem (the CVH Office), and
One from a to-be-announced location.
[Please call CVH to find out exact locations.] |

WHY? We will be demanding and marching for:
** A suspension of time limits for people complying!
** An end to workfare for mothers with young kids!
** Increased education & training, not workfare!
** Public jobs for people on welfare!
...and more...

INFO/TKTS? Call Community Voices Heard
212-860-6001

If you, members/clients that you have contact with, or other people you know aligned with our cause, would like to join us for a DAY OF ACTION...CALL NOW TO RESERVE A BUS SEAT or find out more information!

To help us confirm numbers and cover costs, tickets cost:
\$10.00 for low-income individuals,
\$ 3.00 for children, and
\$25.00 for non-low-income individuals Included in the price is: your seat on the bus, snacks & meals, a CVH cap and more!

Hope you'll join groups from all around the country to make a stand and move the debate!

Sondra Youdelman, Public Policy Coordinator, Community Voices Heard
170 East 116th Street, Suite #1E, New York, New York 10029

Tel. 212-860-6001 x 108 Fax 212-996-9481 - Email sondra@cvhaction.org
Web www.cvhaction.org

NEW ANNUAL FEDERAL POVERTY GUIDELINES - 2002 (Other than Hawaii and Alaska)

Famly Size	100%	125%
1-	\$8,860	\$11,075
2	11,940	14,925
3	15,020	18,775
4	18,100	22,625
5	21,180	26,475
6	24,260	30,325
7	27,340	34,175
8	30,420	38,025

STATISTICS OF THE WEEK -

CWD VICTIMS OF THE WEEK –

Mr. 2001032221, was forced to sign a release of information form so San Bernardino County could contact his child's school and verify attendance. This is a blatant violation of MPP § 19-007.11 that reads:

**“19-007.1 Collateral Contacts in AFDC and APSB
19-007.11 Permission**

If the applicant or recipient does not wish the county to contact a private or public source in order to determine eligibility, the applicant or recipient shall have the opportunity to obtain the desired information or verification himself or herself.”

It appears that the county wants to make sure that school administrators know who is on welfare and who is not. Moreover, when Mr. 2001032221 started getting SSI, San Bernardino County for five months did not delete him from the budget. Thus, because the incompetence of San Bernardino County, Mr. 2001032221 was overpaid. The county proposed to collect this overpayment from the children's share of the CalWORKs grant. Mr. 2001032221 filed for a hearing seeking relief under equitable estoppel because the county erred and now his family is being punished for the county's incompetence. But as we have heard, "government could do no wrong", even though the county was fully aware that Mr. 2001032221 was getting SSI and was not entitled to a CalWORKs grant, not only did San Bernardino ignorantly overpay Mr. 2001032221 in June, but they did the same stupid thing in July, August, September and October of 2001. The decision holds that the "county's error was not egregious or grossly negligent, and was discovered in a reasonable period of time. " So now Mr. 2001032221 has to pay this money back from his children's CalWORKs grant, which is less than 75% of the poverty level. Now that is egregious to say the least. But then they call that Justice DSS style.

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, Research Services, In depth Consultation.

Programs Covered

CalWORKs, Welfare to Work (WtW), Food Stamps, Medi-Cal and Refugee Immigration Problems

Coalition of California Welfare Rights Organizations, Inc. 1901 Alhambra Blvd Sacramento, CA 95816

Tel. 916-736-0616

After 6 PM - 916-387-8341

Message/cell number 916-712-0071

FAX 916-736-2645

e-mail address: ccwro@aol.com