

CCWRO Weekly New Welfare News - #2002-10

March 13, 2002

HEADLINES

--IN BRIEF

-- DSS NEWS

-- DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES NEW ALL COUNTY LETTERS

-- TANF UPDATE

-- CWD VICTIMS OF THE WEEK

--STATISTICS OF THE WEEK - OCTOBER, 2001 TRANSPORTATION SUPPORTIVE SERVICES RECEIVED BY CALWORKS RECIPIENTS

• IN BRIEF

Bruce Wagstaff, Deputy Director of Welfare Programs of DSS has formed a work group of persons appointed by Legal Services Project Directors and others to work on welfare issues. The first meeting is scheduled for 3/22/02 @ 1:30-3:30 P.M.

• DSS NEWS

-- NEW ALL COUNTY LETTERS (ACLS)

ACL 02-20 (February 25, 2002) - Instructions On Remedies Related To Improper County Policies Regarding California Work Opportunity And Responsibility To Kids (CalWORKs) Welfare-To-Work (WTW) Program Assignments

ACL 02-21 (February 25, 2002) - Changes To August 1, 2001, Recipient Claim Establishment And Collection Standards- Effective January 14, 2002, And Clarification Of LOMELI V. SAENZ Court Case

ACL 02-22 (February 25, 2002) - California Food Assistance Program, Effective October 1, 2001

ACL 02-23 (March 1, 2002) - Direct Deposit Of Public Assistance Benefits

-NEW ALL COUNTY INFORMATION NOTICES

ACIN I-13-02 (February 20, 2002) - State Minimum Wage Increase And FSET Participation Requirements

ACIN I-14-02 (February 27, 2002) -The Treatment Of Child Support Arrearages In The Food Stamp Program

ACIN I-16-02 (March 6, 2002) - Transmittal Of New Forms For Learning Disabilities Screening And Evaluation In The California Work Opportunity And Responsibility To Kids (CalWORKs) Welfare-To-Work (WTW) Program

• DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES NEW ALL COUNTY LETTERS

ACWDL 02-11 (March 4, 2002)

Medi-Cal Liaison List for the Disability Quarterly Status Report and Disability Issues

ACWDL 02-12 (March 4, 2002) - Presumptive Eligibility (PE) Program

ACWDL 02-13 (March 5, 2002) -New Federal Poverty Levels, Effective April 1, 2002

ACWDL 02-14 (March 8, 2002) - Questions and Answers Regarding Continuous Eligibility for Children

■ EMERGENCY REGULATION PROPOSED

EMERGENCY REGULATION ACTION SUBMITTED TO OAL ON: 03/12/02

AGENCY: DEPARTMENT OF CHILD SUPPORT SERVICES

TOPIC: Interstate Cases

SECTION AFFECTED: California Code of Regulations, (CCR) Title 22, and Sections 110250 - 117600

Unless OAL approves or disapproves the regulations sooner, the last day for public comment is 03/18/2002

OAL DECISION DUE: no later than 03/22/2002

AGENCY CONTACT: (916) 464-5087

• TANF UPDATE

The following is a memo from Bob Erlenbusch regarding TANF

"3/12/02

FROM: Bob Erlenbusch

RE: Rep Herger position on TANF Reauthorization

As you may know, the House Ways and Means Committee's subcommittee on human resources held a hearing on TANF reauthorization yesterday.

The Senate Finance Committee has its hearing this morning (10 am) and the full House Ways and Means Committee has its hearing at 2:30 today (March 12, 1100 Longworth Bldg).

Herger Wants To Increase Numbers Working On Welfare

House Ways and Means Human Resources Subcommittee Chairman Wally Herger, R-Calif., said Monday he wants to increase the percentage of welfare recipients who are working as part of this year's welfare program reauthorization.

Currently, 58 percent of people on the dole are not working at all, 25 percent are working up to 30 hours per week, and 17 percent are working more than 30 percent, Herger said, citing HHS data.

Herger said he supports President Bush's proposal for welfare program reauthorization to increase to 70 percent the welfare beneficiaries that states must have working. Bush has proposed increasing from 30 to 40 hours the number of hours a week that welfare recipients must work, while allowing them to spend 16 hours of that time in educational activities.

Herger said he hopes that upcoming hearings will uncover ideas for increasing work activity.

The subcommittee chairman said his goal is to produce a bill by April, then pass it through the full Ways and Means Committee and have it on the House floor for a vote by May.

Herger said he hoped that a bill would get bipartisan support, but Republicans would not sit down with Democrats to write the legislation. He said he would include some Democratic ideas, but then he criticized some of the main components of a bill introduced recently by committee Democrats led by Rep. Benjamin Cardin, D-Md.

Herger distributed to reporters a chart arguing that the Democratic bill would raise welfare spending by an estimated \$30 billion to \$40 billion over five years and dilute the "successful work first" approach of the 1996 Welfare Reform Act.

Although Herger had told National Journal that he did not see any need to increase the state block grant funding child care, he said Monday that he was open to the possibility. Cardin proposed tripling the current block grant money for child care."

• STATISTICS OF THE WEEK - WtW Transportation for October, 2001

Last week we revealed that more people are being sanctioned, than the number of individuals who gets jobs that make them self-sufficient.

This week we, again, expose the highway robbery of county welfare departments against WtW participants- robbing them of their transportation supportive services. If you think for a minute that the welfare fraud investigators will be checking this out, don't hold your breath. It is not a crime to rob welfare recipients by welfare bureaucrats in California.

A classic comment was from Ms. Abbott, a CalWORKs recipient, who said "What about equal justice? Why is it that when we are overpaid \$400 it is a felony, but when the welfare workers steal over \$400 from us, we can't even get our money?" She is absolutely right.

Modoc County and Plumas county do not pay transportation - period. Stanislaus County, a large county, could only pay 3% of the participant's transportation. This is about 97% rate of fraudulently denying benefits to WtW participants by Stanislaus County welfare bureaucrats.

Napa County, which was one of the first counties to embrace welfare work programs, is unlawfully denying transportation supportive services to about 96% of the WtW participants.

The top 10 counties who are not paying transportation are:

Modoc, Plumas, Siskiyou, Stanislaus, Napa, Imperial, Ventura, Sutter, San Mateo, Kern and Glen counties.

Top 10 counties paying transportation are:

Santa Clara, Santa Cruz, Sacramento, San Diego, Contra Costa, Marin, Fresno, San Francisco, Yolo and Alameda.

The following is county-by-county percentage of unduplicated participants receiving transportation assistance during October, 2001.

Modoc	0%	Inyo	23%	San	43%
Plumas	0%	Trinity	24%	Bernardino	
Lassen	1%	San Benito	24%	San Luis Ob	43%
Siskiyou	3%	Solano	26%	San Joaquin	44%
Stanislaus	3%	Humboldt	26%	Los Angeles	44%
Napa	4%	Butte	27%	Sonoma	45%
Imperial	8%	Kings	28%	Orange	46%
Ventura	9%	Riverside	28%	Alameda	47%
Sutter	10%	Mariposa	30%	Yolo	48%
San Mateo	10%	Tulare	30%	San Fran-	49%
Kern	11%	Mono	31%	cisco	
Glenn	12%	Mendocino	31%	Fresno	50%
Madera	16%	Nevada	32%	Marin	62%
Lake	16%	Santa Barb.	32%	Contra	64%
Tehama	16%	Amador	36%	Costa	
Del Norte	18%	Monterey	38%	San Diego	65%
Yuba	19%	Calaveras	39%	Sacramento	67%
Sierra	20%	Tuolumne	39%	Santa Cruz	74%
El Dorado	21%	Alpine	40%	Santa Clara	75%
Merced	21%	Placer	41%		
Shasta	23%	Colusa	42%		

• CWD VICTIMS OF THE WEEK

"Ms. Undocumented Mom" applied for CalWORKs for her citizen child in Imperial County. The county welfare department referred her case to an "early welfare fraud detection worker". The welfare fraud worker went to the house of "Ms. Undocumented Mom" and told her that if she did not withdraw her application, he would turn her and her citizen family members over to the INS Border Patrol. Being afraid of being turned over to the INS Border Patrol and having her child taken away and placed in foster care (costing taxpayers over \$25,000 a year) she signed the application withdrawal given to her by the welfare fraud goon. Luckily, her aunt, who is a US citizen, took her to California Rural Legal Assistance (CRLA) where community worker/director, Lupe Quintero jumped all over the welfare department. "Ms. Undocumented Mom" is now receiving the benefits to which her baby is entitled. Good work Lupe!

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