

HEADLINES

-- IN BRIEF

-- NEW COURT CASE - FRY V.
SAENZ

-- STATISTIC OF THE WEEK - San
Diego County sanctions more people
than there are people participating in
WtW activities.

-- TANF REAUTHORIZATION UP-
DATE

-- CWD VICTIM OF THE WEEK

IN BRIEF

-- Tom Bates, former chairperson of the Assembly Human Services Committee and a good friend of poor families, is running for Mayor of Berkeley. His wife, former Mayor of Berkeley, Lori Hancock, is running for the Berkeley Assembly seat formerly held by Tom Bates, replacing the termed out Dion Aaroner, the current chair of the Assembly Human Services Committee.

-- On April 4, 2002, advocates were scheduled to meet with DHS and CWDA TRT Medical Care Committee to discuss a draft All County Letter regarding Inter-County Transfers. Advocates were a "no show". The next meeting with the advocates will discuss this issue at the May TRT meeting. Anybody wanting information about the ITC Draft ACL can contact Alice Mak of DHS at 916-654-0573.

-- Stanislaus County did an alleged study to see how many persons they could contact by phone for SB 87 purposes. (SB 87 requires that the county try to contact a person by phone before they terminate Medi-Cal benefits.) It appears that counties are appalled that they have to "try" to contact a person by phone before they take away the persons' or family's medical benefits. Thus, they came up with a county survey that states very few successful attempts resulted in reaching the person being called. It appears that the counties now want to use this unscientific, manipulated survey to prove that calling a person before their benefits are terminated is futile. How dishonest!

-- The CWDA Medical Care Committee states that "advocates think we are not complying with the process." (SB 87) Well dah, off course counties are not complying with the process. But DHS will be coming out with a new All County Letter containing Questions and Answers. Meanwhile, Bill Walsh of DHS is collecting County instruction on SB 87.

- CWDA CalWORKs committee suggested the elimination of vendor/voucher payments during sanctions and for fleeing felons, elimination of misuse of funds rules, and elimination of Unrelated Adult Male (UAM) rules. Good ideas. These are procedures that take up a lot of worker time for no sensible reason.

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NEW COURT CASE

On May 10, 2002, the Third Appellate District published Fry v. Saenz at <http://www.courtinfo.ca.gov/cgi-bin/opinions.cgi>. In this case petitioners asserted that children under 19, but over 18 should continue to receive CalWORKs benefits, even if they are unable to complete their high school requirements because of their disability. The lower Court denied the Writ and petitioner appealed. The appellate Court held that ADA does apply to CalWORKs disabled students, but remanded the case back to the lower court to determine the fiscal impact that this case would have if the State is required to pay aid to students between over 18 and under 19. A copy of the published case is attached hereto.

STATISTIC OF THE WEEK - San Diego County sanctions more people than there are people participating in WtW activities. DSS has finally published the first month of 2002 Welfare to Work (WtW) data.

The sanction rate is determined by dividing the number of individuals sanctioned by the unduplicated participants. The law provides that only participants can be sanctioned. The source of this information is DSS's WtW25 and WtW25A reports which are based on the monthly reports that DSS received from each county.

The report shows that the average sanction rate in the State of California is 30%. The county-by-county sanction rate is set forth below:

County	Percent-age				
	Sanctions				
San Diego	185%	Shasta	28%	San Francisco	13%
Calaveras	76%	Plumas	27%	Santa Barbara	13%
Merced	72%	Yolo	26%	Butte	13%
Fresno	72%	Tulare	26%	Colusa	12%
Glenn	60%	Sutter	26%	Amador	12%
San Joaquin	51%	Humboldt	25%	Santa Clara	11%
Trinity	51%	Los Angeles	24%	Orange	11%
Marin	43%	Lake	23%	Santa Cruz	11%
Alameda	41%	Inyo	22%	Kings	10%
Alpine	40%	Placer	22%	Tuolumne	9%
Riverside	37%	Monterey	21%	San Benito	8%
Mono	35%	Siskiyou	19%	Yuba	6%
Mendocino	35%	Ventura	19%	Lassen	6%
Contra Costa	34%	Napa	18%	El Dorado	5%
Sonoma	33%	San Bernardino	17%	Sacramento	5%
Tehama	30%	Kern	16%	Modoc	2%
Mariposa	30%	Madera	16%	Imperial	0%
San Luis Obispo	29%	Del Norte	15%	Sierra	0%
		Stanislaus	14%	Statewide Aver-	30%
		Solano	14%	age	
		San Mateo	14%		
		Nevada	14%		

The TOP TEN sanction counties are San Diego at 185%; Calaveras at 76%, Merced at 72%; Fresno at 72%; Glenn at 60%, San Joaquin at 51%, Trinity at 51%, Alameda at 41% and little Alpine County at 40%.

One may wonder how can San Diego County have a 185% sanction rate?

It is very simple. While San Diego County only has 7,096 individuals participating in the WtW activity, the county has 13,108 individuals who are being sanctioned. Thus, San Diego County has more people being sanctioned than they have people participating in a WtW activity. Proof that the Welfare to Work Program is all about SANCTIONS and not "self-sufficiency". WHY you may ask? Very simple. How is a minimum wage job going to make a family self-sufficient? What do welfare workers know about JOBS anyhow. It's all smoke and mirrors to make the public think something is happening.

TANF REAUTHORIZATION NEWS-

-- There are rumors that while the House has passed their punitive TANF reauthorization bills, the Senate has several competing proposals. Thus, not having a proposal that all Senators can agree on, Senate Majority Leader Tom Dashle may opt for a simple one-year extension of the TANF program.

-- It is expected that the House will vote on HR 4900 called "Personal Responsibility, Work, and Family Promotion Act of 2002", which is the House version of the TANF reauthorization.

This bill is opposed by most people, including the TANF-fleeing National Governor's Association and the National Council of State Legislators.

CALL TO ACTION: People are being urged to call their Congressperson at the U.S. Capitol Switchboard (202) 224-3121. Ask for your member of Congress to vote on HR 4900 because it will hurt the poor. It is opposed not only by the poor, but also by the Governors and the State Administrators of TANF.

-- CWD VICTIM OF THE WEEK

A two-parent family applied for CalWORKs and was scheduled for an appointment. The father was working, thus, did not show up for the application interview.

The county of Sacramento refused to conduct the interview and denied the application. The matter was elevated to the administration and the result was the attached memo from Sacramento County stating that both parents do not have to come to the appointments.

The memo was written in consultation with the State Department of Social Services.

Off course the victim's application was processed without the husband taking a day off of work.

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