

CCWRO Weekly New Welfare News - #2002-20

May 28, 2002

HEADLINES

- .. IN BRIEF**
- .. DSS News**
- .. STATISTIC OF THE WEEK -**
- .. TANF REAUTHORIZATION UPDATE**
- .. CWD Victim of the Week-Corporate Victims**

IN BRIEF - Commentary

Marriage Provisions of the TANF Reauthorization Battle

One of the major bones of contention in Welfare Deform Reauthorization of 2002 is Bush giving \$300 million to States to encourage marriage. Not one penny of this money will go to the poor; instead, bureaucrats will get the money. Now, this is a fine republican BIG GOVERNMENT idea; give money to welfare bureaucrats so poor people can get married. Moreover, the marriage incentive money will most likely be fleeced by the States because TANF has zero effective accountability, just as States are currently fleecing the TANF money by using the money for reasons other than direct benefits to the TANF eligible people.

Maybe the politicians who are proposing marriage incentives should look at their own lives and fund another program to maintain marriages for the Legislative and Executive Branches of our government. We wonder what the divorce rate is for the United States Legislative and Executive Branches?

Tommy Thompson, Secretary of HHS Lies

On or about May 20, 2002, Secretary of HHS stated: "Despite the soft economy and the tragic events of Sept. 11, the national welfare caseload did not increase. Our reformed welfare system rose to the challenge. It continued to help recipients move toward work, and it continued to provide aid when needed."

This is a blatant LIE; and like a habitual liar, Thompson did not even blink an eye when uttering these false statements. To contend that a family who is off of welfare means they must be working is FALSE. The reason the caseload has not gone up is because many families with children, in dire need of assistance, are not allowed to get the aid needed because they have "timed out". These families have been sentenced to a lifetime of poverty and misery by Bill Clinton's Welfare Reform of 1996.

Mr. Thompson should read the Joyce Foundation report which reveals that at least half of former welfare recipients were unable to buy food for themselves and their children, could not pay for utilities and phone services where terminated on numerous occasions.

STATE WELFARE NEWS -

TREATMENT OF RETROACTIVE TRANSPORTATION PAYMENTS

On 9/4/01 Kern County asked DSS how to treat retroactive payments for transportation.

Julie Kimura and Doris Bowers of DSS responded "For purposes of the food stamp program, such payments are not counted as a resources or as income..."

CAR REPAIR - ANCILLARY SERVICE OR TRANSPORTATION?

On 12/19/01, Monterey County asked DSS "Are Car Repairs considered Transportation or Ancillary?"

DSS Response: On 12/21/01 Diamond Longjel stated: "Car repairs are considered under transportation, not ancillary...Attachment #8A of the PCAB (Director Employment Services Delivery Cost) stated that car repairs come under transportation."

STATISTIC OF THE WEEK - CalWORKs Applications Withdrawn & CalWORKs Application Procedural Denials 1/02.

State regulations provide that applicants can withdraw their application, if they wish to do so. This week we looked at the top 10 counties where applications are withdrawn and the top 10 counties where the least number of applications are withdrawn. This is based upon the DSS CA 237 CW report.

The top 10 are: Inyo with 29%, Lassen at 26%, Plumas at 24%, San Benito at 20%, Sacramento at 20%, Imperial at 20%, Mono at 19%, Glenn at 16%, Madera at 16% and Santa Clara at 16%. Most of these are small counties, except Sacramento and Santa Clara.

At the bottom are Sierra and Alpine which have no applications withdrawn, then there is Merced with 2%, Fresno, Modoc, Santa Cruz and Sonoma at 3% withdrawals, then Riverside, Contra Costa, Yolo, Colusa, Alameda, Stanislaus and Mariposa at 4%.

One may wonder why is that Sacramento has a 20% withdrawal rate, while Fresno has a 3% rate? It appears that there is something happening in Sacramento that should not be happening. The statewide withdrawal rate is 7%.

1/02 CalWORKs Application Procedural Denials

One of the oldest tricks used to deny eligible persons public assistance benefits is known as the "procedural denial". These denials are tabulated in the monthly CA 255CW reports known as the CalWORKs Report on Reasons for Denials and Other Non-Approvals of Applications for Cash Grant.

"Procedural denial" means there is no evidence that the applicant is ineligible, however, the application is denied because the applicant failed to comply with the variety of paperwork requirements that counties impose on applicants to deny benefits to families who are eligible for public assistance. The TOP 10 counties denying applications based on procedural requirements are: Modoc and Plumas at 100%; Humboldt at 94%;

Los Angeles at 92%, Imperial at 91%; Tuolumne at 85%; Kern at 84%; Alameda and Colusa at 83% and Lake at 80%.

If you want to know how your county ranks, just e-mail us the question and we will give you your county rankings and the numbers we used to reach the rankings.

At the bottom of the pack are counties that used "procedural requirements" the least to deny cases, they are; Alpine, Lassen and Sierra at 0%; Sacramento at 14%; Placer at 19%; Santa Clara at 20%; Merced and Santa Barbara at 21%; Orange County at 24% and Mono at 25%.

TANF REAUTHORIZATION NEWS-

Senator Kennedy and 20 other Democrats have mailed a letter to the Democratic Chairman of the Senate Finance Committee asking that, any bill passing the Senate Finance Committee include \$11.3 billion for child care; opportunities for participants to engage in education and training programs to become self sufficient; benefits for legal immigrants; maintaining the current participation hours for families with children over six years old; and make the primary goal of the TANF program the reduction of poverty. Meanwhile, another group of Democratic and Republican Senators have proposed to maintain the 30 hours-a-week participation requirements, which conflicts with the Bush proposal of 40 hours-a-week, and the House Republican Bill, which also provides for 40 hours-a-week.

-- CWD Victim of the Week

This time we have another kind of victim. It was reported that there is a widespread practice in Corporate America where corporations buys life insurance for their employees (unbeknownst to the employee) and lists themselves as beneficiaries. It appears that when an employee dies, the corporation collects the life insurance. The family of the deceased cannot afford funeral expenses, while the corporation collects hundreds of thousands of dollars and gets a big tax break; the family never sees the money. Now that is corporate power.

CCWRO SERVICES

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. General Assistance 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