

CCWRO Weekly New Welfare News Bulletin - #2002-22

June 15, 2002

HEADLINES

•• IN BRIEF

•• DSS News -

•• STATISTIC OF THE WEEK - HOMELESS ASSISTANCE - See attachment

•• TANF REAUTHORIZATION BILLS IN CONGRESS

IN BRIEF - Commentary

1. **The State Budget** has trailer bill language that would deny retroactive child care benefits to CalWORKs recipients who sign a piece of paper, under duress, stating that they understand that if they do not claim child care within 30 days, then they can't claim it at all. At this time, the language is limited to Los Angeles County, but there is a movement to impose this denial of underpaid child care benefits to all CalWORKs recipients in order to get more money for Stage III. **This action can send people to jail** because often overpayments are reduced by underpaid child care expenses, thus avoiding doing jail time. There is also widespread deception by counties against CalWORKs recipients, telling them that they cannot claim child care unless the provider has been certified by Trustline, WtW participants are being told they cannot get child care, when they are eligible for child care. This new law would enhance the deceptive acts of county workers to discourage parents from getting child care.
2. **Aged & Disabled Poverty Levels.** Medi-Cal ACL 02-24 raises the A&D FPL to \$989 for single persons and \$1,352 for couples. This means that if a person is getting SSA and some pension money which together, is less than \$989, then that person can get Medi-Cal with no share of cost. CCWRO will be adding to our next publication of our Public Assistance Tables.
3. **Income From a Roamer is "self-employment".** On October 29, 2001, Sean McAdams of Santa Cruz e-mailed a question to DSS as follows: Since regulations state that income from a "roamer" is treated as earned self-employment, can the household elect the flat 40% self-employment income deduction instead of actual self-employment expenses. On November 2, 2001, Rosemary Akhidenor of DSS responded as follows: "Income from a roamer is considered self-employment income to the household; therefore, yes, the household can choose either the actual or standard deduction of 40% as specified in MPP 63-503.413."

STATE WELFARE NEWS -

1. Child Support Department Emergency Regulations Adopted

OAL FILE NUMBER: 02-0520-01E

AGENCY: DEPARTMENT OF CHILD SUPPORT SERVICES

TOPIC: Barnes Notice

SECTION AFFECTED: California Code of Regulation (CCR), Title 22, Section 119184 & Manual of Policies and Procedures (MPP), Section 12-225.3

AGENCY CONTACT: Lucila Ledesma @ (916) 464-5087

APPROVED ON 5-29-02

STATISTIC OF THE WEEK - Homeless Assistance

California started February 1, 2002, with 3,852 homeless assistance requests at hand that was carried over from January of 2002.

During February of 2002, counties received 4,514 homeless assistance requests.

During February of 2002, counties processed 4,362 requests. They granted 3,209 requests and denied 1,153 requests.

Clearly the counties processed less requests than they received, and they never touched their backlog. It should be noted that state law and regulations require that homeless assistance requests shall be acted upon the date of application for temporary homeless assistance and no later than the next working day for permanent homeless assistance. Something seems very wrong. Clearly, the state laws are being violated if there are so many cases backlogged and not being processed timely.

This week, we are going to take a look at counties that have the highest rate of denials. Leading the pack is San Francisco County at 89%; next is Glenn County at 77%, then San Bernardino county, at 72%. San Bernardino County has made a career of denying homeless assistance to families and children eligible for homeless assistance. They have figured out every trick in the book to deny homeless assistance to eligible families.

Then there are counties like Riverside, Santa Clara, Santa Barbara and San Mateo, who have 0% of denials. One may wonder how do they get 0% of denials? It is amazing, if you think about that Riverside County had 165 requests and denied none, while neighboring San Bernardino County had 863 requests. Santa Clara County had 36 requests and denied none, while little Santa Cruz County had 10 requests. The answer is very simple. Counties like Riverside, Santa Clara, Santa Barbara, et.al. are prescreening people before they are allowed to apply for homeless assistance. If the screener decides that the requester is eligible for HA, then he or she is allowed to request HA.

Attached, in Microsoft Excel format is a table showing how many requests were received by each county during 2/02, how many were denied, how many were pending at the end of 2/02, and the percentage of denials sorted.

TANF UPDATE

The following is a list of various bills in the hopper for TANF reauthorization.

1. The bill introduced by Rep. Pryce (R-OH) that passed in House of Representatives (H.R. 4737) on May 16, 2002. This is the House TANF Reauthorization Bill.
2. The Democratic substitute to H.R. 4737 offered in the House of Representatives by Reps. Cardin (D-MD), Woolsey (D-CA), and Kind (D-WI). This can be found in the Congressional Record.
3. Tri-Partisan Consensus Provisions released by members of the Senate Finance Committee in the form of a letter to Senators Baucus and Grassley.
4. Principles released by a group of Senators on the Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions (HELP) Committee and other Senators in the form of a letter to Senators Baucus and Grassley.
5. A bill (S. 2052) introduced by Sen. Rockefeller (D-WV) and referred to the Senate Finance Committee.
6. A bill (S. 2058) introduced by Sen. Lincoln and Rep. Levin (H.R. 4057), which include the same provisions found in the Rockefeller bill related to partial credit toward participation rates for part-time work and an employment credit.
7. A bill (S. 2524) introduced by Sen. Bayh, Sen. Carper, and others, and referred to the Senate Finance Committee.
8. A bill (S. 2552) introduced by Sen. Snowe (R-ME), Sen. Baucus (D-MT), and Sen. Bingaman (D-NM).
8. A bill (S. 2548) introduced by Sen. Bingaman (D-NM) and Senator Wellstone (D-MN).

As you can see there are a lot of bills floating around and most of them are anti-family and anti-child. None of them remove time limits on children. They all violate the principle of Leave no Child Behind- They all leave thousands of Children Behind . They impose time limits, even on newly born babies. How cruel.

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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