

CCWRO Weekly New Welfare News Bulletin - #2002-27

July 22, 2002

HEADLINES

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•• WELFARE NEWS

•• STATISTIC OF THE WEEK -

•• TANF REAUTHORIZATION BILLS IN CONGRESS

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IN BRIEF - Commentary

Ellen Goodman, a Boston Globe columnist, correctly points out that finally, folks are talking about “corporate fraud” and not “welfare fraud.” It is about time. However, given the fact that we have a “big business” government, we believe the whole thing will be swept under the rug and forgotten. In the meantime, welfare fraud prosecutions up to and over \$400 will continue in California, while corporate bosses who defrauded in the millions will go scott free. This is equal justice – American style.

STATE WELFARE NEWS

ACL 02-49 – Food Stamp Program – This ACL eliminates the \$25 limit on Food Stamp work program reimbursement for transportation and ancillary services based on the 2002 Food Stamp Reauthorization Act, Public Law 107-171.

60-Month Notices Mailed Out – This month CalWORKs recipients received notices that their 60 months will expire effective January 1, 2003. The notice fails to notify the family that only the parents will be taken off aid and that the aid of the children will continue to be paid. In addition, the notice fails to inform the parents that even though they will be deleted from the assistance unit, they will continue to get the \$225 and 1/2 work deductions if they have earned income.

60-month time limit NOAs are being prepared for an October 2002 mailing. DSS has mailed a copy of the proposed NOA to the Turner Review Committee. The NOAs perpetuate the myth among many CalWORKs recipients that at the end of the 60 months, all benefits will be terminated. The Notice fails to state that the benefits for the assistance unit will be reduced by a certain amount. **Thus, this is not an adequate notice of action.** Secondly, the NOA fails to state that the minor children will continue to be aided, even after the 60 months. The NOA also fails to inform working CalWORKs recipients that the adults will continue to receive their work incentives of \$225 plus 1/2. This is important for working parents to know that not all of their earned income will be counted against the kid's grant. Many may stop working because often the work incentives barely cover their actual work related expenses.

--OFFICE OF ADMINISTRATIVE LAW EMERGENCY REGULATIONS – Child Support

EMERGENCY REGULATION ACTION SUBMITTED TO OAL ON: 07/16/2002

AGENCY: DEPARTMENT OF CHILD SUPPORT SERVICES

TOPIC: Bonding of Employees

SECTION AFFECTED: California Code of Regulation (CCR), Title 22, Section: 111550

Unless OAL approves or disapproves the regulations sooner, the last day for public comment is 07/22/2002

OAL DECISION DUE: no later than 07/26/2002

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TANF REAUTHORIZATION UPDATE

Brookings Forum: Living On and Off Welfare

On August 1, 2002, from 9:30 - 11:45 a.m. at 1775 Massachusetts Ave., N.W. in Washington D.C., the Brookings Institute will make a presentation on "living on welfare – a family experience and ethnographic research". To attend you must RSVP by calling 202-797-6105.

Hilary Clinton and TANF – Hilary Clinton, the alleged advocate for the poor, ended up supporting the punitive Senate Bill by Senator Bayh and others. Folks in New York picketed her house and now, she has come out in support of more childcare.

_STATISTIC OF THE WEEK – CalWORKs Transportation Supportive Services

Statewide 56.5% of the CalWORKs participants are being denied transportation supportive services by county welfare departments.

Statewide only 10 counties issued transportation benefits above the statewide average. They are Santa Clara-80%; San Diego-69%; Marin – 67%; Contra Costa – 63%; Sacramento – 62%; Santa Cruz – 57%; Los Angeles – 50%; Orange – 47%; Monterey – 45% and Alameda –44%. Even the counties above the statewide average are blatantly denying eligible WtW participants transportation assistance to which they are entitled. In Los Angeles County, 50% of the participants are denied benefits. That is 28,219 what Los Angeles County calls GAIN participants who are being unlawfully underpaid.

Siskiyou County only provided 1.44% of the CalWORKs participants with transportation supportive services. This means that out of a total of 277 participants-only 4 of them were lucky enough to get transportation supportive services. Lassen county had 209 participants, and they only gave transportation to four (4) lucky persons. What happened to the other 205? Napa County had 129 participants and only 3 individuals received transportation from Napa County.

Stanislaus County only provided transportation to 5% of their participants. Stanislaus County had 3,388 participants during the month of March, 2002, and only 181 were provided with transportation. During March, 2002, Stanislaus County welfare bureaucrats unlawfully denied 3,207 individuals transportation supportive services. Stanislaus County neighboring County of San Joaquin provided transportation to 41% of its participants.

In San Mateo County, 445 individuals were required to participate in WtW activities during March, 2002. Only 10% of its participants (46 persons) received transportation supportive services, while 399 persons were unlawfully denied these services. Comparatively, San Mateo's neighboring county of Santa Clara issued transportation to 80% of its participants.

Attached is a Microsoft Excel worksheet of the march , 2002 WtW25 and WtW25A reports showing the unduplicated WtW participants in each county and the number of participants who received transportation.

COUNTY WELFARE DEPARTMENT VICTIM OF THE WEEK

“Don’t Know Where You are Living Now” San Bernardino County Terminates Benefits - Ms. C.R. received a notice of action (NOA) from her worker in San Bernardino County stating that her CalWORKs benefits were being terminated because she allegedly failed to tell them what her address was. The NOA was received by Ms. C.R., so the county must have had a way to reach her. Ms. C.R informed her welfare worker that she had moved and was receiving housing assistance from HUD since 11/01. Again, on 4/30/02, she provided her worker with the verification of the housing assistance. Then, on 7/15/02, out of the blue sky, she gets a NOA stating that her benefits were terminated for failing to tell the county where she was living. Ms. C.R. is only guilty of not being able to provide San Bernardino County with a hologram of her family

living at their current residence, but unfortunately there is no such technology at this time.

Los Angeles County Underpays and Refuses to Rectify Their Mistakes – Ms. B.A. ‘s family consists of three children on CalWORKs and herself. The only reason she is on welfare is because the “government” has failed to do their job – collect child support. Had government done their job and collected the child support, she would have never been on welfare. She is participating in GAIN where she is told that work is more important than her family and her parental duties. A family of four (4) in Los Angeles County receives \$809 a month. Ms. B.A received \$679 on 4/02; \$769 on 5/02; \$646 on 6/02 and \$646 on 7/02. She has talked to her worker about the fact that she is being ripped off by the county. This fraud committed by the county against her is sociopathic behavior that goes unchecked. Her worker promised her weeks ago to release the unlawfully withheld money, but as of 7/22/02, she has been deprived of \$496. Now that would have been a felony crime for a welfare recipient. For the county? Nothing. A mistake. Oversight. Overworked. Too many cases. Just bureaucratic excuses.

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