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Bush and Compassion

Department of Health and Human Services Office of Community Services has published a request for proposal for "compassion capital fund targeted capacity-building program." Federal Register/Vol.68, No. 132/Thursday, July 10, 2003.

The purpose of this "compassion" program to fund faith based organizations that address the needs of the youth and homeless.

DHHS alleges that this funding is authorized by Section 1110 of the Social Security Act that provides for demonstration programs and research.

We believe a good demonstration program would be to show that the Bush policies mutilate the concept of compassion and are a major contributor to the problems with poor youth and homelessness in America.

No COLA in LA County

Los Angeles County has decided to wait for September to implement the June 1, 2003 COLA. This action is rationalized by the county because certain computer codes have been frozen to start EBT in two of their 50 or more districts. The county can implement the COLA manually, but has decided not to do so.

Off course this is illegal, but then what does Los Angeles County DPSS care about the law. They would have never delayed their own wage-COLA for three (3) months. That would have been unthinkable. But when it comes to CalWORKs families living on a fixed income at a level they received in 1989 - its perfectly acceptable..

The victims of LA county's DPSS unlawful and deviant behavior are not only current recipients. The class of the victims have several subclasses:

1. Current recipients;
2. Applicants whose gross income less \$90 is more than the current Maximum Basic Standard of Adequate Care (MBSAC), but less than the MBSAC effective June 1,2003 reflected to new COLA;
3. CalWORKs families with earned income whose net countable is more than the current Maximum Aid Payment (MAP), but less than the June 1, 2003 MAP reflected to new COLA;
4. CalWORKs families with earned income whose net countable income is more than the current Maximum Aid Payment (MAP), but less than the June 1, 2003 MAP reflected to new COLA and whose benefits were suspended for two months, but on the third month they are totally ineligible.

This news was unveiled at a meeting between advocates and DPSS on July 9, 2003. A representative of DPSS categorically stated that the COLA could

not be done because certain computer codes are frozen. However in a telephone meeting with DSS and the DPSS representative it was revealed that the county can indeed implement the COLA manually, which was never mentioned during the July 9, 2003 advocates meeting.

DPSS is always telling clients that honesty is the best policy. It is time for DPSS to practice what it preaches.

TANF Reauthorization Update

The United States Senate Finance Committee plans to start considering the TANF reauthorization on July 23, 2003.

Meanwhile the Senator Grassley of Idaho and Max Baucus of Montana are meeting to agree on the bill that will be marked-up. This is how the democratic process works in America. It is all behind closed doors, away from the public.

Other Senators, who are on the Finance Committee or not on it, may influence this process by contacting Senators Grassley and/or Baucus.

The issues that the Committee will consider are:

- Increasing the weekly work requirement hours;
- Increase work hours for moms with children under six;
- Increase child care funding;
- Expand education and training opportunities;
- Restore benefits to immigrants;
- Enhance child support

Stay tuned for bad or good news.

DSS NEWS

-- **ACIN I-38-03** revises the 15 percent ABAWDs exemption available to counties based on the adjustment issued by FNS.

The prior exemption for the State of California was 68,715 exemption months. The revised number is 567,188 exemption months. This is about a 900% increase. This should mean that counties should be exempting ABAWDs from the three month limit on food stamp eligibility.

Unfortunately no one really monitors whether or not the counties are utilizing the exemptions. Many counties are unlawfully not utilizing these exemptions and thereby intentionally starving poor women and men who have no children.

-- **ACIN I-39-03** provides that counties can e-mail their IEVS reports and WtW 25 reports to the state via internet. We hope this means that DSS would share this information with the public in a timely fashion.

The last homeless assistance and expedited food stamp report available to the public was back in June of 2002.

We have heard how slow the bureaucracy works, but this is way to slow. Any one at DSS cares?

-- **ACL 03-32** provides that the Medi-Cal A&D FLP effective January 1, 2003 is #1,332.

DHS NEWS

-- **All County Welfare Director letter (ACWDL) 03-40** provides for the implementation of legislation enacted during 2002 to allow food stamp re-

ipients to request determination of eligibility for Medi-Cal.

Welfare and Institutions Code Section 10618.5 and 18925 provides that each county shall develop their own notices to inform food stamp recipients that they may be eligible for Medi-Cal. The notice is supposed to be "written in culturally and linguistically appropriate language and appropriate level.

Food Stamp recipients who are not receiving Medi-Cal will be mailed this notice with a self-addressed stamped envelope asking whether or not the household wants to apply for Medi-Cal.

This legislation was effective January 1, 2003, but it is just being implemented because it helps people. Legislation that screw the poor is implemented right away.

-- **ACWDL 03-41 - Medi-Cal Midyear Status Report.** This new requirement was a part of the so-called "midyear budget cuts".

Effective August 1, 2003, counties will implement the midyear reporting requirement. This change is designed to knock people off Medi-Cal and leave them without medical assistance.

The midyear report does not effect children getting Medi-Cal. Thus, if the parents fail to turn in the midyear report only the mama and papa lose their Medi-Cal benefits, but the kids would still get Medi-Cal.

This change also does not include:

--Pregnant women whose only eligibility is based on pregnancy;

-- Persons under the age of 21;
-- Adults getting Medi-Cal through the Adoption assistance program; (it is OK for adopting parents not to submit a midyear report, but natural parents will be punished - natural parents are considered deviants by this legislation)

-- All CalWORKs recipients because they actually do monthly reports.

If the midyear report reflects a change that may make the beneficiary ineligible for Medi-Cal, the county has to follow the SB 87 process before terminating benefits as reflected in ACWDL 01-36 and 02-59. They can be downloaded at: <http://www.dhs.cahwnet.gov/mcs/mcpd/MEB/ACLs/ACWDLs.htm>.

County Victim of the Week

On March 5, 2003, Gilbert Flores, a longtime advocate for CRLA received a hearing decision in the favor of Kern County victim.

Ms. 02323281's hearing was attended by Kern County representative Deanna Bishop and two Kern County welfare fraud investigators Mrs. BD and EA

These are welfare recipient terrorists working for the government and openly breaking the law. Well, thanks to Gill Flores of CRLA and Administrative Law Judge Elizabeth Parker of DSS the terror of Kern County against Ms. 02323281 was prevented.

The victim has two minor children and she is disabled receiving SSI benefits. The victim moved from Fresno County to Kern County.

On 10/8/02 she had a face to face interview with her Kern County eligibility worker for an inter-county transfer.

On 11/1/02 she received a NOA stating that her application for Medi-Cal was denied because she

failed to provide verification of earned income. This was an ILLEGAL act by Kern County.

On 11/4/02 Kern County mailed another notice stating that her CalWORKs application was being denied because she did not include "all spouses" on her application. This was an ILLEGAL act by Kern County.

On 11/4/02 Kern County issued another notice stopping her food stamp benefits because a person getting SSI cannot get food stamps and her whereabouts was unknown. This was an ILLEGAL act by Kern County.

Some may say that we are being outrageous when we accuse Kern County of committing illegal acts.

Any idiot with a half a brain knows that intercounty transfers are recipients and not applicants. When a CalWORKs case moves from one county to another, they remain recipients for CalWORKs and Medi-Cal purposes, but have to reapply for Food Stamps because they are living in a new county.

Off course, the county did not do a SB 87 determination of Medi-Cal before the Medi-Cal benefits were criminally and cruelly stopped for this disabled victim .

Any idiot with a half a brain knows that SSI recipients income does not affect CalWORKs, be it earned or unearned. But that must be news to Kern County.

Kern County welfare fraud goons had a conversation with the sister of Ms. 02323281 and recorded the conversation without telling her that she was being recorded. It appears criminal behavior by kern county welfare bureaucrats is the norm and not the exception.

These are welfare recipient terrorists working for the government and openly breaking the law. Well, thanks to Gill Flores of CRLA and Administrative Law Judge Elizabeth Parker of DSS the terror of Kern County against Ms. 02323281 was prevented.

But how many other victims are being terrorized daily by the Kern County welfare terrorists?

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Types of Services Offered: Litigation, Fair Hearing Representation, Fair Hearing Consultation, Informational Services, and Research Services, in depth Consultation.

Programs Covered: CalWORKs, Welfare to Work (WtW), Food Stamps, Media Cal, General Assistance and Refugee Immigration