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IN BRIEF

Los Angeles County continues with its tradition of not filing timely reports on Homeless Assistance, Child Care and Food Stamp activities.

This shameless failure to report continues without any action from the State Department of Social Services. There is also silence from the DSS Program Integrity Bureau. It appears program integrity does not apply to county integrity.

King Arnold, wants to give \$4 billion to local government. He proposes to take it from the poor through the elimination of COLA and other mean-spirited cuts.

He does this without any appropriation action by the State Legislature; then has a photo op with police to announce his unconstitutional action.

Has anyone informed King Arnold that the California State Constitution states that the Legislature appropriates and the Executive spends? Why would King Arnold care about the Constitution when what is really important is to get a photo op with police.

Applied Research Center has issued a report asserting that counties are employing routine, illegal, and unjust use of WtW sanctions; gross miscalculations of legitimate exemptions for the 60 month time limits; and the denial of job training and educational opportunities.

Copy of the report can be found on their web page at www.arc.org.

Applied Research Center mailed a letter to Rita Seanz asking her to halt the WtW program pending an investigation of the illegal actions by counties in California.

In response, DSS said that only 30 families were reviewed and those families can ask for a State hearing. This is another example of DSS not taking responsibility for unlawful actions conducted by their agents who run the county welfare departments.

Quarterly Reporting (QR) and Child Support - One of the unanswered issues for QR is; what are the child support obligations for a parent who was absent, but joins the family during the quarter? Will the parent still have to pay child support during the quarter he or she is living with his or her family. DSS is looking into this matter.

Faxed/Scanned CA7 Acceptable - On 9/17/03 Elaine Grothmann of Contra Costa County was informed by DSS Analyst, Ruth Van Den Berg, that a scanned/faxed CA 7 shall be acceptable to CWDs. This policy interpretation was approved by Supervisor, Linda Lattimore.

CalWORKs Policy News

San Diego County Has Problems with Getting Non-Work SSN. DSS Is No Help.

On September 4, 2003, Dennis Mirabelli asked DSS why social security offices will not issue non-work social security numbers. Dennis says in his e-mail to DSS that "... several other counties that I have spoken with are also running into this same situation. If you could please provide me with any information or direct us as to whom we should contact, that would be greatly appreciated. Thanks in advance."

On September 8, 2003, @11:07 AM DSS CalWORKs specialist Beverly Thomas responded that "... 40-105.2 and 21 state that as a condition of eligibility, each AFDC-FG and U parent applicant or recipient member of the AU shall: .211 Furnish his/her Social Security Account Number (SSN) or numbers, if more than one. Within 30 days following the date of the application for assistance; or. And then it goes on to say in .212 If you should have further questions please contact me.

On September 8, 2003, Dennis e-mailed Ms. Thomas again stating: "Here is where I am a bit confused. Per I-54-01....instructs counties that in order for a noncitizens to comply with the SSN requirements, counties can assist the noncitizen in obtaining a non-work SSN. As per SSA office, they are no longer issuing a non-work SSN, is this material now obsolete and if so, how do we comply with the SSN requirements. On 9/25/03 Dennis e-mailed another letter to Ms. Thomas stating that SSA still refuses to issue non-work SSN numbers.

SSA has always agreed to provide non-work SSN's to noncitizens with a referral from the county welfare department stating that the person is eligible for public assistance except for a SSN.

Moreover, this SSA policy has been promulgated in federal regulations in Federal Register/Vol. 68, No. 186, 9/25/2003. the same day that Dennis was asking for help in this matter.

Fresno County Doing Unlawful Vouchers

Fresno County loves vouchers. Fresno County's policy for all persons on voucher/vendor payments is to pay the rent and utilities, then the remaining grant amount is issued to them in the form of "store debit cards".

On August 14, 2003, Charr Lee Metsker, Chief of Employment and Eligibility Branch informed Fresno that they have to stop the practice of issuing additional vouchers or "store debit cards" for any remaining grant amounts to felons or sanctioned voucher/vendor recipients unless a case by case determination indicates such action is warranted.

Fresno County is also putting first time-sanctioned persons on vendor payments. This is inconsistent with MPP §42-721.43 which only allows vendor payments for the second and third sanction. Fresno County was instructed to stop placing first time-sanctioned persons on vendor payments.

County Victim of the Week

Ms. S.G. of Los Angeles County did not have Christmas this year. Scrooge Schwarzenegger made sure that her children, aged 7 and 8, had a miserable Christmas while he was living it up in Idaho.

Ms. S.G. was expecting the statutory cost of living increase that was supposed to go into effect on December 1, 2003, as required by law. Governor Schwarzenegger, ORDERED no COLA for the poor. But this was not the first time Ms. S.G. has been subjected to terror by the government.

In July of 2002, she was taking care of her gravely ill mother. She received medical verification that would exempt her from the GAIN program, but the Los Angeles County sanction machine didn't care about her verification - GAIN sanctions must go forward, and thus, she was unlawfully sanctioned for 12 months.

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Statistic of the Week

This week we looked at a July, 2003 report on General Assistance (GA) in California. We are able to bring this information to you because Los Angeles County has not submitted their General Assistance reports. While refusing to submit reports on Expedited Food Stamps, ABAWDS, Homeless Assistance and others, Los Angeles County continued to terminate benefits of Food Stamp recipients for failing to report, while they refuse to meet their reporting responsibilities.

The average General Assistance Payment for July of 2003 was \$236 a month.

There were nine (9) counties that payed no cash to GA recipients. They are: Del Norte, Kings, Lake, Madera, Napa, Riverside, San Joaquin, Santa Cruz and Sonoma Counties.

The average cost for in-kind income per case for counties with over 50% of the GA recipients receiving in-kind benefits is \$293 a case. This is a over 20% higher cost for in-kind income compared to cash payments to GA recipients.

Table #1 contains the average General Assistance Grant

Amount county-by-county starting with the grinchiest counties of California.

How can a human being live on \$78 in the United States of America. It is disgraceful and shameful. This is what El Dorado County pays human beings on GA.

TABLE #1

County	Average Monthly GA Grant	County	Average Monthly GA Grant
Statewide	\$236.02	Tehama	\$226.63
San Benito	\$0.00	Tulare	\$229.04
El Dorado	\$77.94	Trinity	\$231.44
Yuba	\$93.33	Kings	\$234.65
Del Norte	\$111.00	Mariposa	\$237.63
Sierra	\$116.50	Contra Costa	\$244.11
Sutter	\$124.79	Santa Barbara	\$249.08
Alpine	\$132.00	San Bernardino	\$261.10
Lake	\$139.09	Siskiyou	\$268.22
Plumas	\$139.58	Shasta	\$268.66
Madera	\$171.83	Butte	\$275.15
Colusa	\$174.22	Inyo	\$283.02
Imperial	\$179.00	Marin	\$285.63
Yolo	\$179.05	Glenn	\$286.45
San Joaquin	\$179.48	Stanislaus	\$301.59
Nevada	\$180.32	Santa Cruz	\$305.83
Placer	\$182.99	Mendocino	\$311.18
Orange	\$189.16	Riverside	\$323.27
Sacramento	\$198.81	Amador	\$325.44
Los Angeles	\$200.86	Sonoma	\$326.36
Mono	\$203.25	Solano	\$327.74
Kern	\$207.91	Alameda	\$374.69
Santa Clara	\$211.06	Humboldt	\$376.16
Ventura	\$211.26	San Diego	\$382.19
Monterey	\$219.79	San Mateo	\$386.62
Merced	\$220.84	Fresno	\$387.07
Tuolumne	\$221.33	San Francisco	\$395.15
Modoc	\$222.09	Napa	\$452.13
San Luis Obispo	\$226.51	Calaveras	\$510.91
		Lassen	\$3,012.00

SOURCE: DSS GA 237 Report

County Victim of the Week

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This means that Los Angeles County has criminally stolen over \$1,200 from Ms. S.G. and her two children. The County now has admitted that they were wrong to impose the sanction, but still refuse to return the stolen money back to her.

Then, on August 1, 2003, while her mother was dying, the County stopped her benefits for failing to do an annual redetermination. She did not get a letter setting up an appointment for the annual redetermination, because there is no state regulation that requires such notification. The whole idea is to screw poor families, not to help them.

On September of 2003, her mother died. Finally, in October, she reapplied for CalWORKs seeking expedited service food stamps and CalWORKs Immediate Need (IN). She was given food stamps, but IN was denied because the county had to do a home visit before they could issue IN.

She had hoped that even if her COLA was withheld, at least she would get the money back from the unlawful GAIN sanction before Christmas.

Well, Christmas came and no money. It appears that the county workers were too busy to pay back what they unlawfully took from her.

All and all, Ms. S.G. and her kids had a horrible Christmas like many other CalWORKs participants in California - thanks to Scrooge Schwarzenegger.

LAW SUIT FILED **NOTE:** On January 14, 2004, A Superior Court Judge in San Francisco will entertain a motion in a law suit filed by Lawyers Committee for Civil Rights and Western Center on Law & Poverty to ORDER Governor Schwarzenegger to OBEY the LAW and issue the COLA too Ms. S.G. many other poor families of California receiving CalWORKs benefits.

If you have a victim of Governor Schwarzenegger like Ms. S.G., contact Clare at 213-487-7211 ext. #25 for JUSTICE.

STATE EMERGENCY REGULATIONS ARE BACK

For a while Schwarzenegger would not allow the State Department to file regulations. Now there are a slew of emergency regulations being filed with the Office of Administrative Law.

1. Date Submitted OAL on: 12/23/03 - OAL FILE NO. 03-1223-06E
AGENCY: DSS - TOPIC: CalWORKs and Food Stamp Program

SECTIONS AFFECTED: Manual of Policies and Procedures, MPP, Section (s): 42-207 - 63-1101

DSS AGENCY CONTACT : Anthony J. Velasquez @ (916) 657-2586

2. Date Submitted OAL on: 12/23/03 - OAL FILE NO. 03-1223-05E

AGENCY: DSS - TOPIC: Transitional Food Stamps and Face-to-Face Interview Exemptions

SECTIONS AFFECTED: Manual of Policies and Procedures, MPP, Section (s): 63-300 - 63-504

3. Date Submitted OAL on: 12/22/03 - OAL FILE NO. 03-1222-02 EE

AGENCY: State Department of Education

TOPIC: Regional Market Rate - Child Care and Development Programs

SECTIONS AFFECTED: California Code of Regulations (CCR) Title 05, Sections: 18021 - 18428

AGENCY CONTACT : Debra Strain @ (916) 319-0155

4. Date Submitted OAL on: 12/19/03 - OAL FILE NO. 03-1219-02 E

AGENCY: DSS - TOPIC: Educational Awards/Scholarships and Eligible Teens' Exemption

SECTIONS AFFECTED: Manual of Policies and Procedures, MPP, Sections: 42-712 - 44-111