



IN BRIEF

✓ **Senate Bill 2830 - Santorun and Bayh:** Healthy Marriages and Responsible Fatherhood Act of 2004 includes the continuation of the TANF program. This is a Republican initiative that gives welfare bureaucrats and social workers about \$600 million dollars to run programs promoting marriage and fatherhood. However, not one penny of this money is mandated to help newly formed low income families remain intact.

✓ **CDSS fails to request waiver for 10,000 ABAWDS recipients:** ABAWDS (able bodied adults without dependents) recipients are eligible for food stamps only 3 months out of a 36 month period. During 2004, all ABAWDS were eligible for a waiver which would have lifted that requirement. However, CDSS refused to ask for a state-wide waiver of the ABAWDS rule. As a result, CDSS staff will have plenty of food on their Thanksgiving tables, while over 2,500 poor persons this quarter will have nothing to eat.

✓ **SSI Representative Payee New Regulations:** On October 7, 2004, the Social Security Administration published final regulations regarding representative payments under Title II, VIII and XVI of the Social Security Act. See: http://www.access.gpo.gov/su_docs/fedreg/a041007c.html.

The revised regulations codified changes required by a long list of Public Laws 101-508; §5105(a)(1) and (2) and (c); 103-296 - §201; 104-121- § 105; 105-33 - § 5525(b); 106-169 - §251; 106-170 - § 401; and 108-203 - § 101.

These regulations set forth the process for determining the need for a representative payee; the process for selecting the payee; the responsibilities of the selected payee and restitution of misused benefits.

Dennis Boyle Appointed Director CDSS

On October 13, 2004, the Governor appointed Dennis Boyle as Director of DSS. Dennis Boyle served as Chief of the CDSS AFDC Bureau during the eighties. He provided key leadership to do away with the 100 rule for two-parent families. He was then appointed Deputy Director for DSS. His next step was to be Director of Riverside County Department of Public Social Services. Dennis is the first director since the early seventies who has moved from being a CWD director to State Welfare Director. Dennis will start in his official capacity on December 1, 2004. Legal Services now has a new respondent - DENNIS BOYLE.

BOB SERTICH, CDSS Chief Deputy Director

Robert Sertich, who used to work for DSS as Deputy Director for Administration has returned to CDSS as Chief Deputy Director. He has worked in a number of other state human services departments.

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**Charr Lee Metsker
Appointed Acting Deputy Director
for Welfare to Work Division**

In September of 2004, a new Acting Deputy Director was appointed for the CDSS Welfare to Work Division. For the past eight (8) months Bruce Wagstaff has had the title of Deputy Director for the Welfare to Work Division and the Family and Children's Services Division. Charr Lee has been doing a lot of the division work.

Charr Lee began in the Department as a clerk. She soon moved up to the CDSS Business Services. She then worked for Foster Care Rate settings. From Foster Care Rate settings she joined the Wagstaff group implementing the GAIN program.

Charr Lee is a pioneer at CDSS in that she is the first female deputy director for welfare programs that many can recall. She is preceded by Dennis Flatt, Gary McComber, Kyle McKinsey, Bob Horel, Mike Genest and Bruce Wagstaff. Dennis Flatt was in charge welfare programs under the Reagan Administration.

**Los Angeles County
Boasts a WtW Success**

The Los Angeles County September 2004 DPSS Newsletter presents a GAIN success story - Mr. "A" completed Westwood College and got a real job that paid a real wage and got off welfare. The article boasts about this one individual getting a job saying, "Hope, help, and hard work pay off many times over in GAIN".

One would think that going to college through GAIN and getting a real job that got you off of welfare was the real face of the Los Angeles

County GAIN program. We did some research and bumped into Los Angeles County's own monthly WtW 25 reports. They are part of the statewide reports posted on the internet. The address is: http://www.dss.cahwnet.gov/research/CalWORKsDa_388.htm.

We figured we would examine the latest report - July, 2004. The report reveals that only 12% of the GAIN participants were lucky enough to go to college and get real jobs like Mr. "A".

The reports also show that in July of 2004, less than 3% of the DPSS unduplicated participants found employment that got them off of welfare. This means that for 97% of the caseload, DPSS failed to meet the goal of the GAIN program - self-sufficiency and independence.

Thus, Mr. "A" who was presented in the newsletter represents less than 3% of the DPSS caseload.

The newsletter failed to boast about the fact that Los Angeles County sanctioned 23,567 persons during July of 2004, while only 700 individuals stopped receiving CalWORKs due to employment during the same month.

**79% of CalWORKs
Recipients
Do Not Own A Car**

The Federal Fiscal Year 2002 Food Stamp Characteristics report by DSS reveals that only 21.3% of PAFS (public assistance food stamps) recipients own a car. This is bad news, since public transportation in California is inefficient to say the least and creates the biggest obstacle to self-sufficiency.