

CCWRO Weekly New Welfare News

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In Brief

DSS to move. DSS located at 744 P Street will be moving next door to 714 P Street in mid-October. The 714 P Street building has housed the Department of Health Services which has relocated to 15th Street and Capitol Ave.

AB 1808 second report delayed. AB 1808 mandating that DSS submit a second report regarding how to meet the federal participation rates has been delayed. DSS has transmitted a letter informing the Legislature of this delay. Stay tune.

More people working, but no increase in child care. DSS estimates staff is working on the state budget for 2009-2010. In formulating their estimates they have noticed the number of CalWORKs recipients who are working has increased, while the number of families receiving child care has not increased. County justification was that the increase could be two-parent families, etc. The real reason is that child care is not accessible. There are a number of barriers to child care called, Trustline, a fingerprinting requirement for providers before they get paid. Thus, the word is out that the welfare department may not pay for child care. We are concerned that as a result of this Trustline, some children may be left home alone. Child care agencies also hassle exempt providers who want to do child care for less than minimum wage. These kinds of Trustline and refusal to pay retroactive child care legislation have erected barriers to deprive families access to child care.

When would a drug felon convicted after 12/31/97 ever be eligible for cash aid again? This is a question posed by a county. DSS issued a policy interpretation, dated July 14, 2008, stating that per MPP §40-034, ACL 04-59 and ACIN I-71-99 such person would only be eligible for cash aid again if their record has been expunged or the charge has been reduced to a misdemeanor.

Vendor/voucher problems in homeless assistance and WtW sanctions- Some counties have been using vendor/voucher payments for issuing permanent homeless assistance directly to landlords and in cases where the family has been in sanction for more than three months. Counties have been in violation of certain IRS rules for a long time. Counties have been chronically violating the IRS Code that requires counties to request a Taxpayer Identification Number (TIN) before issuing rent payments in excess of \$600 a year. According to DSS, IRS regulations also provide that rents are subject to a 28% withholding when there is a missing TIN. Check your county to make sure your county is not violating the IRS laws.

AB 98 Subsidized Employment Reporting form. DSS is going to publish a reporting form for counties to report AB 98 subsidized Employment Claimed Under AB 98. This is a form regarding a program that was added to the statute in 2007. See W&IC§ 11322.63. Under this program, the state would reimburse counties 50% of the wages paid to recipients in subsidized employment outside of the county single allocation. The single allocation is the amount of money each county receives annually to operate their WtW program.

Yolo County no longer eligible for refugee Social Services (RSS) Money. On August 28, 2008, DSS has informed Yolo County that they are no longer eligible for RSS money because of the county's decreased number of new refugee arrivals. However, the county does not have to return the money they received for 2007-2008 that has not been spent. They have until September 30, 2009 to find a way to spend that money.

California asks for \$13.6 million for refugee programs in FY 2009. On August 20, 2008, DSS informed HHS that California would need \$13,646,996 for Federal Fiscal Year 2009 to serve 1,900 persons and 63 unaccompanied minors. There are only 23 unaccompanied minors being served today, but California has decided to open another site in Southern California to download \$4,216.25 for each minor. This includes \$1,865 that would be provided to the foster care parents taking care of each unaccompanied minor. \$2,351 would be going to people other than the foster care parent. Who may that be?

CWD CLIENT ABUSE REPORT

LA DPSS Client Abuse: Ms. T.K. mailed a letter to her worker asking to close her case because she was being harassed by welfare fraud workers. She then changed her mind and wanted to continue to receive her cash aid. She tried to reach her worker to no avail before the end of the month. She then filed for a state hearing before the end of the month and is getting aid paid pending. DPSS is now insisting that the termination of CalWORKs should go into effect, even if she changed her mind, and if she wants CalWORKs she needs to reapply. DPSS is trying to saddle her with an Aid Paid Pending overpayment and continues the KGB-style harassment.