

CCWRO Welfare News

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In Brief

COUNTY BREAKS THE LAW AND DSS DOES NOTHING

On February 3, 2009, Mendocino County asked DSS if ACL 00-53 is correct. This ACL states that “even in cases of chronic abuse, the CWD cannot offset a recipient’s grant or child care payment without the recipient’s agreement.” However, Mendocino County adopted the practice set forth in WtW 11, which provides that “If you don’t pay the overpayment or contact the county within 10 days after the date of the overpayment notice, the county will collect the overpayment by lowering the supportive services payments.

After over 60 days, DSS has not told Mendocino County to stop their illegal procedure. How long will this lawlessness continue?

CAN STAGE 1 CHILD CARE BE DENIED FOR FAILURE TO PAY A FAMILY FEE?

A San Diego County Program Specialist asked DSS if San Diego County can terminate Stage 1 child care for failure to pay the family fee. DSS responded that paying the family fee is not a condition of eligibility for Stage 1 child care.

EBT TRANSFER TO ACS SET FOR SEPTEMBER, 2009

The Electronic Transfer of Benefits contract has been awarded to ACS State and Local Solutions, Inc. for \$69 million. ACS did not get this contract out of the blue sky. They paid dearly-ACS contributed \$50,000 to Governor Schwarzenegger. Arnold has repeatedly said that he will not take donations from government employee unions, but seems to have no problem taking money from a government contractor. ArnoldWatch is calling on Governor Schwarzenegger to return the ACS contribution and commit to never hiring the firm because of the conflict that has been created. During June, 2009 DSS will be training county trainers. The overnight cutover of EBT services to ACS is set for September 19-20, 2009.

STATE HEARINGS DIVISION INFORMATION

- County representatives want to appear by phone for out-of-county cases.
- DSS will be holding a state hearings conference in Monterey County, Asilomar.
- Counties are identifying issues which DSS will train the counties on. Advocate involvement representing the other community that DSS serves is unclear at this time.
- State hearing requests are going up due to line staff who tend to make more mistakes due to inexperience.
- Counties are looking at settling

certain overpayment/overissuances. For example, San Bernardino County would agree to suspend any overpayment over four (4) years old for a former welfare recipient with the understanding that when the former recipient comes back on aid, the county can recoup the overpayment from the grant.

- Counties also suggest that DSS have a “duty judge” who would be on call by telephone for counties to talk to when resolving issues. The suggestion includes the proposal that if the county cannot persuade claimants to drop their hearings because the county believes there is no merit to the claim, the Judge could do the trick.

Counties also suggest that the duty judge do stipulated decisions rather than waiting for the hearing to be scheduled for a stipulated decision. Would the “duty judge” be available to claimants and their representatives?

- San Bernardino and Tulare counties have stopped assigning failure to provide (FTP) cases to hearings specialists. These counties send the cases to their “Quality Review” staff who find the information and settle the case. Of the 120 FTP filings, only 2 cases had to go to hearing.

The state hearing division contemplates a new hearing location in Alameda County that lacks adequate and client-friendly public transportation that violates the American Disabilities Act.