

CCWRO Welfare News

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IN BRIEF

■ **Kristin Brinks**, formerly Kristin Sanchez, is the new FSET Manager in the CDSS Employment Bureau. First she gets married and then a promotion. Congratulations Kristin.

■ **AB 643- DSS Opposed-** DSS has informed counties that it is opposed to AB 643 which would make the Food Stamp inter-county-transfer (ICT) process similar to the cost effective CalWORKs ICT process where inter-county transfers continue to receive benefits without reapplying in the new county.

■ **Dept. of Finance Blocks Expanded Face-to-Face Waiver** - Department of Finance (DOF) won't let DSS implement a federal waiver for expanding the face-to-face interview. A CWDA representative wondered under what authority is DOF blocking a federal waiver? However, Los Angeles County will be implementing this waiver effective June, 2009.

2010 Obama Budget in Brief

The Obama 2010 Budget is out. It is a novel budget. It does not launch an attack on the poor like the Schwarzenegger budget. It proposes no changes in TANF. It notes that P.L. 111-5 provides \$5 billion in emergency contingency funds for TANF. This money can be used to pay for increased costs of payments to families and the federal government would provide an 80% match. California has not availed itself to these funds even though impoverished families are living on fixed incomes of 1989.

The Budget proposes \$8.6 billion for

“Payments to States for Home Visitation.” This is about 50% of what States get from TANF. It seems like a program to fund social workers to go snooping into the homes of impoverished families who are living in deep poverty and then lecture them for not having food in the house.

Payments for Foster Care and Adoptions will be increased. This is because more and more timed out children are ending up in foster care - a product of “welfare reform”.

The food stamp program would have a \$3 billion contingency reserve because the food stamp costs are not fully predictable.

COUNTY WELFARE DEPARTMENT CLIENT ABUSE REPORT

SACRAMENTO COUNTY NOA - On 1/29/09 Ms. M.M. received an NOA stating “Effective 2/28/09, your Food Stamp benefits have been stopped. Here's why: Your gross income exceeds the Food Stamp gross income limit.” What was Ms. M.M.'s gross income? What are the Food Stamp gross income limits? These numbers should have been stated on this widely used CalWIN NOA, but were not. This erroneous form is being used in 18 California counties.

SAN JOAQUIN COUNTY PAYS 10¢ A MILE - Ms. 0611623 requested a state hearing objecting the fact that San Joaquin County was paying her 10¢ a mile. She asserted that the county pays welfare recipients 10¢ a mile for participating in a welfare to work activ-

ity and pays their county welfare director and workfare workers 45¢ or more a mile. ACL 03-15 requires that before the county implements a new change in travel reimbursement rates it shall be submitted to DSS for review and certification. The decision reveals that on September 17, 2002, San Joaquin County changed their reimbursement rate from 32.5¢ a mile to 10¢ a mile for welfare recipients. Thus, effective 9-17-02 San Joaquin County was paying 10¢ a mile in lieu of 32.5¢ a mile. On May 6, 2003, this change was submitted to DSS for review and certification. There was no evidence in this hearing decision that the change was approved by DSS.

Her fair hearing was denied because state regulations allow counties to set travel reimbursement rates simply by identifying any changes in the rate in their county and submitting the proposed changes to DSS for review and certification.

FRESNO COUNTY SANCTIONS A FAMILY WORKING 35 HOURS A WEEK

- Ms. 08352413 had a baby in December 2007 and by February 2008 was working 35 hours a week. Her income was being used by the county to reduce her CalWORKs benefits for many months. Effective June 1, 2008, she was sanctioned for not participating in WtW. It appears Fresno County has a policy of punishing impoverished families for working. She filed for a state hearing. The hearing decision provides that she would be allowed to provide verification of working 35 hours a week since 9-08 so the county can rescind the illegal sanction. However, the illegal sanction for June, July and August stands. DSS unlawfully withheld the date of the filing from CCWRO.