

CCWRO Welfare News

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IN BRIEF

● **Penelope Clarke**, who used to be the Director of Sacramento County Welfare Department recently retired. She is now working for CWDA on Child Welfare Computer issues.

● Public Law No. 111-3 allows states to meet the Medi-Cal citizenship documentation requirements by getting verification from SSA. This provision is effective January 1, 2010. **John Zapata and Cheryl Dobbins** of DHCS is working on this matter.

● **AFSCME** has proposed a list of taxes that would balance the California State Budget. The proposal includes such majority vote revenues as "switch the gas fee to tax" for \$6 billion; establish a 3% withholding on independent contractors for \$2 billion; Changed ownership for commercial property loopholes - \$1.5 billion and more.

WASTEFUL SPENDING ON FINGERPRINTING STOPPED

On June 4, 2009, the Budget Conference Committee eliminated the ill-conceived, wasteful statewide finger imaging system (SFIS). SFIS is not a federally required program. Many of the cuts proposed by the Department of Finance (DOF) are justified by the fact that they are not federally required. But when **Senator Leno** proposed to eliminate this wasteful program, that was not federally required, DOF opposed this suggestion. The spokesperson for DOF, **Nick Buchen**, alleged that fingerprinting saves a lot of money and stated that Los Angeles County saved \$30 million when they implemented this system for their General Assistance cases.

SFIS was implemented from December of 1999 through 2001. Mr. **Buchen** did not assert that when SFIS was implemented for CalWORKs and Food

Stamps it saved any money. Why not? Because it did not save any money! Finally Mr. **Todd Bland** from the Legislative Analyst Office alleged that by repealing SFIS the caseload would go up by 1%. Mr. **Bland** provided no basis for this conclusion. The Conference Committee approved SFIS which has a cost taxpayers \$8 million, not including the cost of 100 welfare workers needed to process these fingerprints.

Stay tuned for new developments. The proponents of SFIS, at the DOF and Legislative Analyst Office, are still fighting to preserve this wasteful spending program.

Child Care Agency Client Abuse Report

Ms. S.D. is a self-employed single mother who is financially challenged. She receives CalWORKs and child care from **Child Development Resources (CDR)**, a nonprofit organization getting TANF money for child care in Ventura County. In January 2009 CDR developed a form that requires all recipients of child care, as a condition of receiving child care government benefits, to provide all of her clients names and phone numbers along with the vendor names and phone numbers so that the CDR workers can call and verify that the person is working. The form is signed each month under penalty of perjury along with bank records and tax returns verifying all her income, etc.

CDR recently called one of her business clients to verify her whereabouts. CDR told the client why CDR was calling, to check up on the person getting welfare child care. Ms. S. D. lost a client this month, that provided over \$300 a month in income to her family, solely based on this call to the client. She said "My personal life and financial woes are being shared with

my business clientele and vendors (who are) required to participate in the program. I have attorney friends questioning the legality of this and I am in-between a rock and hard place wondering if their help is really help or a way to keep me poor forever. I feel my rights have been violated. Where do I start or do I just start taking my kid to work with me?" The form that she signed stated:

I authorize CDR to contact one or more of my listed clients on this form for purposes of verifying my reported work activity for this month. I understand that this is required for me to participate in any of the Subsidized Child Care program."

The form says that this information will be used to determine if the signer is "eligibly" for ant of the Subsidized Child Care Programs.

After making calls for two days we were able to reach Jack Hinojosa of CDR who informed us that this form is based upon with State Department of Education Child Care Regulation Section 18086 (c)(2)(B) reads as follows: "If the self-employment occurs in variable locations, independently verifying this information by contacting one or more clients whose names and contact information have been voluntarily provided by the parent." (Our emphasis added). What do you think?

LATEST WELFARE BUDGET NEWS

On June 16, 2009, the Budget Conference Committee rejected the Governor's proposals to eliminate the CalWORKs program and mutilate the IHSS program. The Conference Committee actions are attached hereto.