

# CCWRO Welfare News

Coalition of California Welfare Rights Organizations, Inc.  
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## California Welfare-to-Work Update

During 2010-2011 there was \$1,368,351,845 appropriated for welfare to work activities. What did counties spend each month to get one person a job that resulted in termination of CalWORKs benefits?

December , 2010 - \$33,866    January, 2011 - \$33,410    February, 2011 - \$34,596

What is the ratio of number of participants sanctioned versus participants who got jobs that made them self-sufficient?

December 2010 - 21 sanctions to 1 self sufficiency job  
 January 2011 - 21 sanctions to 1 self sufficiency job  
 February 2011 - 22 sanctions to 1 self sufficiency job

**SOURCE:** The source of this information and the chart below is from the CDSS WtW 25 reports:  
<http://www.cdss.ca.gov/research/PG276.htm>

	Feb. 2011	Jan. 2011	Dec. 2010
Unduplicated Participants (WtW 25 Part B. 30)	139,362	138,960	136,803
Participants First Sanction ( WtW 25 Part C. 31)	25,982	24,480	25,407
Total Sanctions ( WtW 25 Part A.3a & Part C.31)	73,477	71,901	71,438
Dollar Loss Due to Sanctions This Month Estimated @ \$125.00 per sanction	\$9,184,625.00	\$8,987,625.00	\$8,929,750.00
Participants who got jobs that lead to self-sufficiency WtW 25 Part A. 5)	3,296	3,413	3,367
Not getting transportation (WtW 25 Part B. 30 minus Part D. 33)	69,302	69,756	69,170
Dollar Loss For Participants Not Getting Transportation Estimated @ \$100 each	\$6,930,200.00	\$6,975,600.00	\$6,917,000.00
Percentage of Unduplicated participants sanctioned this month	19%	18%	19%
Percentage of Unduplicated participants getting self-sufficiency jobs	2%	2%	2%
Percentage of Unduplicated participants getting transportation	50%	50%	49%

**By not paying for transportation expenses counties are fleecing welfare recipients who are forced to participate in WtW activities out of \$7 million dollars each month with impunity.**

**Sanctions, which research shows are mostly due to lack of supportive services, such as transportation, resulted in another monthly \$9 million dollar loss to impoverished families.**

See a brief description of the victims of the California's Welfare-to-Work Program on Page 2

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## COUNTY WtW CLIENT ABUSE REPORT

**Alameda County Victim** - In October 2009, Ms. 2010299230 applied for CalWORKs for herself and two children in Alameda County. The County determined that one child was a MFG child. The county granted benefits for one child and immediately sanctioned Ms. 2010299230 because she was previously sanctioned. The County issued no notice of action stating why she was excluded from the assistance unit. At the hearing, the County insisted that it was appropriate to exclude a parent without any evidence that she continues to refuse to cooperate with the Alameda County Welfare-to-Work program.

**Santa Clara County Victim** - On May 18, 2010, Santa Clara County issued a notice of action imposing a sanction against a parent who has been a victim of domestic violence, homeless and suffers from mental health problems. The County received verification of these problems existed on June 6, 2010, but did not identify the onset dates for these conditions. Thus, Ms. 20102871889 was sanctioned. The County refused to contact the doctor to obtain clarification of the onset dates. Ms. 20102871889 later filed a state hearing request and obtained another CW61 that showed that the onset date was June 2005. The sanction was reversed.

**San Bernardino County Victim** - Ms. 2010272550 received a notice of action dated September 15, 2010 from San Bernardino County imposing a sanction effective October 1, 2010 for failure to do job club. DSS Regulation § 42-721.23 states: "Upon determination that an individual has failed or refused to comply with program requirements, the CWD shall send the individual a notice of action effective no earlier than 30 calendar days from the date of issuance." San Bernardino County failed to follow the law and issue a 30-day notice of action.

At the hearing, the County insisted that their unlawful sanction should be upheld. Ms. 2010272550 submitted evidence that she was remote which is good cause for not being sanctioned. The County countered that remoteness does not apply to community services. The good news is that the ALJ reversed the County's sanction.

**Merced County Victim** - Merced County imposed a sanction against Mr. 2010237412 for failure to provide verification of the WtW exemption. The County did ask for exemption verification that had expired. However, the County never asked Mr. 2010237412 to participate. A person who is not exempt should be required to participate. The law only allows for sanctions if a person fails to participate. If a person fails to verify their exempt status, then they are nonexempt and required to participate.

When the victim did not provide the verification, the County issued a notice of action dated August 16, 2010, imposing a sanction effective September 1, 2010. This unlawful notice of action and the unlawful imposition of the sanction was upheld by ALJ. This victim was not only victimized by the county, but also by the State.

### NEW CDSS DIRECTOR UPDATE

On May 10th, 2011, the Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors ratified an agreement with the State of California. Santa Clara County agreed to assign Will Lightbourne as an "Executive on Loan" to the State of California from May 2, 2011 through December 31, 2014. The maximum amount of the agreement is for \$1,257,018.24. The services will be performed at 744 "P" Street, Sacramento, CA 95814. The services shall be provided during normal State agency days and hours excluding designated holidays.

Under the contract, Mr. Lightbourne "will recuse himself from making decisions on any material issues that specifically relates to or impacts the County of Santa Clara or which impact the County of Santa Clara in as to such issues, Lightbourne will defer any needed decisions on which he might potentially have a conflict to Diana Dooley Secretary of the Health and Human Services Agency or her designee."

The Board has approved this agreement and Will Lightbourne started working on May 11, 2011.

Effective May 11 former Director John Wagner has moved to the State Community Services Department.