

CCWRO Welfare News

Coalition of California Welfare Rights Organizations, Inc.
1901 Alhambra Blvd. Sacramento, CA 95816

CCWRO.ORG

August 2, 2011
Issue # 2011-12

CHARRLEE METSKER, DSS DEPUTY DIRECTOR FOR WtT DIVISION, TO RETIRE OCTOBER 28, 2011

On July 19, 2011, CharrLee Metsker, the Deputy Director of the Welfare-to-Work division announced her retirement effective October 28, 2011. Like many state workers CharrLee has been losing money by working. She has also been working late hours given the severe shortage of DSS staffing these days.

CharrLee started at the DSS mailroom. She worked in Business Services and then moved to program. She was part of the small group that started up the GAIN program with Bruce Wagstaff in the eighties at the penthouse of 744 "P" Street.

CharrLee received a master's degree in public administration while working for DSS.

On July 19, 2011 CharrLee meet with DSS Director Lighbourne and informed him that she will officially retire on Wednesday, November 2, 2011. Her last day of work will be Friday, October 28, 2011. CharrLee has a vacation planned that starts October 31, 2011. Charrlee has agreed to continue to work at DSS as a retired annuitant as many state workers do these days. Retired annuitants can work 90 days a year.

MORE DSS RETIREES

Yvonne Lee, Division Chief for the DSS Integrity Division has also called it quits. Yvonne came from the Department of Health Services. She was in charge of the Food Stamp program until she went was appointed to this position.

Teri Ellen of the Employment Division is also baling out. She started the CalLearn Program, one of the few work programs that did not harm participants.

COUNTY CLIENT ABUSE REPORT

CalWIN Computer System Refuses to Issue Aid paid Pending in Santa Clara County. Mr. R.G. received a notice from Santa Clara County terminating his CalWORKS benefits because she allegedly had received aid for 48 months. He requested a state hearing before the action became effective on June 30, 2011. The notice of action she received said that if she requested a hearing before the effective date of the proposed action, her aid would stay the same. However, as of July 27, 2011, Santa Clara County has not issued aid paid pending because CalWIN has not allowed the worker to issue aid paid pending.

Sacramento County Issues a Notice Reducing Benefits with a Notice that Cites Has a Buffet of Reasons. On June 15, 2011, Ms. K.K. 1BOQO83, Sacramento County issued a notice of action stating: "As of 07/01/2011, your CAPI payments are changed from \$835 to \$5.40. Here is why: Your income, or the income of your spouse, parent or sponsor changed. Your benefit rate amount has changed. A state law passed which resulted in a reduction of CAPI benefits." Here is a great notice of action. It is a buffet of choices: (1) income; (2) income of spouse; (3) parent changed; (4) sponsor changed; and (5) state law changed. The notice is form NA 692 (09/98) Benefit Change - CAPI- Various reasons. This is a CalWIN notice of action.

In Sacramento County CalWIN Computes an 8% Grant Reduction of \$661 to be \$171. On June 11, 2011, Ms. MK B248207 received a notice of action stating that "As of 07/01/11, the County is changing your cash aid from \$661 to \$490.

Here's why: State law has changed. The maximum aid you can get was cut by 8 percent." This is a NA 200 (4/11) NOA. It appears that for CalWIN 8% of \$661 is \$171. In fact, the reduction should only have been \$53.

Sacramento County Issues a Five-Day Reduction of IHSS Hours Notice of Action. On May 25, 2011, Ms. M.N. 3414409254 of Sacramento County received a notice of action reducing her IHSS effective 06/01/2011. As far as we know, Sacramento County has not received a waiver from the State of California from the 10-day notice of action requirement. Or maybe in the rush to reduce hours Sacramento County has decided to disregard the federal and State law.

EDITOR'S NOTE: This is just a sample of county abuses confronting by impoverished families in California daily.

CCWRO NUMBER OF THE WEEK

During June of 2011, public assistance recipients living on a fixed income of what they received in 1984, in order to use their meager benefits were forced to pay California Banks the sum of

\$1,568,090.00.

In 1984 they did not have to pay pay banks millions of dollars to access their fixed income. They got a check.

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