

CCWRO Welfare News

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California's Failed Work Program

The fundamental flaw of California's Welfare-to-Work is the fact that counties operate the program with the very tacit supervision of the State Department of Social Services (DSS), the alleged single state agency actually responsible for the program. DSS and Counties insist that participants are incapable of deciding what path they should take towards self-sufficiency because "counties know best" just like "fathers know best – it is a paternalistic mentality. DSS and Counties oppose affording WtW client/consumer/customer/service receivers a CHOICE of how to become self-sufficient. The DSS and county position is that it is their way or the highway. The highway is the 25-40% reduction of benefits through WtW sanctions

For two decades counties have performed magnificently in imposing sanctions against unduplicated participants at an average of 30% while less than 4% of the unduplicated participants found jobs that resulted in termination of CalWORKs.

One of the most successful paths to self-sufficiency is a college education. However, most county WtW administrators and workers do not want to support a college education. Although counties have maximum flexibility to support women who self enroll in college, they are often forced to drop out of college or endure a 30-40% reduction in their fixed income that is at the same level that it was in 1985. It's called a WtW sanction because the student refuses to stop their self-initiated plan in order to participate in a wasteful job-search program or work without pay for the county or a county designated agency.

In June 2012 there were 7,340 participants in SIP. In

June 2013 that number dropped to 6,814. This is a significant reduction shown in Chart #1 below.

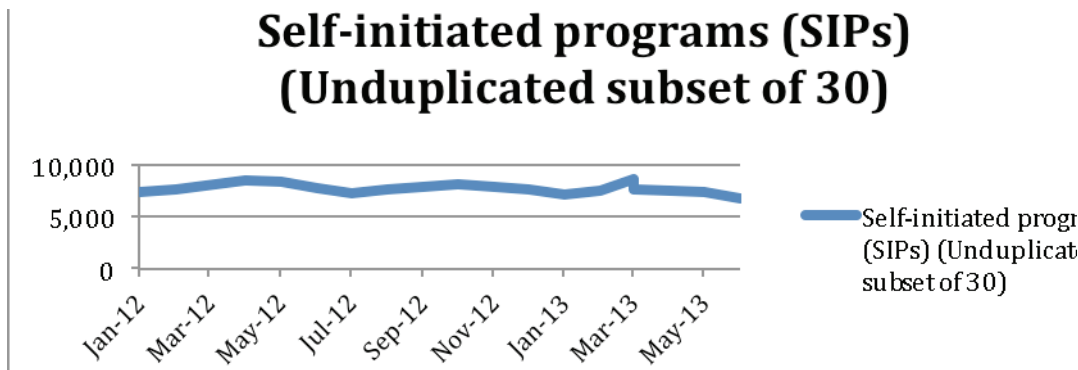
Table 1 reveals that while the number of participants have been going down, the number of sanctions is on the rise – which is the primary purpose of the WtW program. While there were 2,195 fewer participants in June 2013 compared to June of 2012, the number of sanctions shot up by 1,082 in June of 2013 compared to June of 2012.

TABLE #1	June 2012	June 2013
WTW Sanctions	34,537	36,732
Unduplicated Number of Participants	83,367	82,285

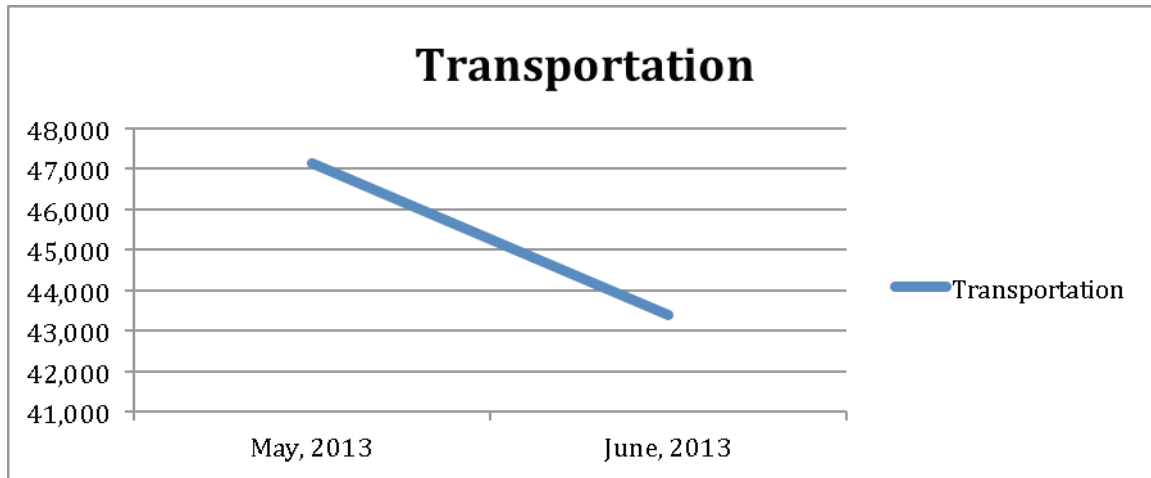
Another SB 1041 promise was that counties would pay the supportive services for participants. Historically counties have fleeced CalWORKs recipients out of transportation money. Counties categorically REFUSE to pay for the legitimate transportation costs incurred by WtW participants and they do this knowingly, which should be a felony – but justice is not blind. In June 2012 transportation costs were not paid to 43% of the unduplicated participants. In June 2013 counties denied transportation costs to 43%. See Graph #1 on page 1 above.

The program should be renamed and called by its true function – the "Welfare-to-Where?" program or the Welfare-to-Sanctions program.

Self-initiated programs (SIPs) (Unduplicated subset of 30)



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A successful program would give participants the RIGHT to decide how to embark upon the road of independence, that can be rejected by counties if the county can show that the path chosen by the participant would never lead to self-sufficiency. Now that would reduce the current high sanction rate – which is the real purpose of the program.

The current program never guarantees self-sufficiency, however, the program administrators are guaranteed over a \$1 billion a year to operate this failed program. The participants are forced to obey the counties that have fleeced millions of transportation dollars from CalWORKs recipients who are living on fixed incomes at 1985 levels.

Majority of changes enacted to California's so-called work program allegedly designed to make families self-sufficient has been a long line of changes that propel California impoverished families with babies and children towards deeper and deeper poverty while giving more money to the program operators.

MAXIMUM FAMILY GRANT (MFG) INFORMATION

Recently CDSS requested information from the three California computer systems. LEADER did not respond.

C-IV's Response:

The number of MFG children tracked in C-IV:

Children 46,464

- The number of cases with MFG children: 33,756

CalWIN's Response

The number of MFG children tracked in C-IV:

Children 53,352

- The number of cases with MFG children: 38,232

AU Size	Number of Cases
0	768
1	13,463
2	18,237
3	9,344
4	3,228
5	983
6	301
7	107
8	20
9	6
10	5
11	2

CalWIN	AU Size	Number of Families	AU Size	Number of Families
	2	459	9	521
3	7585	10	256	
4	10,623	11	99	
5	8,980	12	40	
6	5,654	13	19	
7	2,704	14	9	
8	1,277	15	5	

Time Limits

The federal TANF Program placed a maximum time limit of 60 months for adults to receive assistance.

Four states impose time limits for the work component under 25 months: Arkansas, California, Connecticut, Idaho and Indiana. Three states have a 36-month time limit and four states have a 48-month limit. All other states MAIN-TAIN a 60-month time limit.

CDSS SURVEY ON CALFRESH TELEPHONE INTERVIEWS

CDSS is seeking an extension of the federal waiver for CalFresh telephone interviews. FNS requested information on the number of households that used the telephone interview. The following are the responses from the consortia regarding telephone usage for the CalFresh Program.

CalWIN	
Number of Telephone Interviews for Applications	74,170
Number of Telephone Interviews for Recertification	151,343

C-IV	
Number of Telephone Interviews for Applications	No Data
Number of Telephone Interviews for Recertification	No Data

LEADER	
Number of Telephone Interviews for Applications	1,576
Number of Telephone Interviews for Recertification	133,891

THE CALIFORNIA WELFARE COMPUTER SYSTEM KNOWN AS "SAWS" AT A GLANCE

The federal government requires that each State utilize one computer system for welfare. California has three different computer systems that make up the Statewide Automated Welfare System (SAWS)

Consortia	LEADER	CalWIN	C-IV
Counties Covered	Los Angeles	*	All remaining 39 counties
Director	Hawyard Gee	Hali Reyes	John Boule
Project Director Telephone Number	626-312-6001	916-608-3457	916-851-3226
Project Director Email	hawyardgee@lacounty.gov	Hali.Reyes@calwin.org	boulej@c-iv.org
Deputy Project Director	Dorothy Avila	Lynn Bridwell	Karen Rapponoti
DPD Telephone Number	626-312-6004	916-608-3357	
DPD Email Address	dorothyavila@lacounty.gov	Lynn.Bridwell@calwin.org	Karen.Rapponotik@c-iv.org
Prime Contractor	Unisys	Hewlett-Packard (HP)	Accenture
Annual Cost of Maintenance	\$31 million	\$78 million	\$77 million

*Alameda, Contra Costa, Fresno, Orange, Placer, Sacramento, San Diego, San Francisco, San Luis Obispo, San Mateo, Santa Barbara, Santa Clara, Santa Cruz, Solano, Sonoma, Tulare, Ventura and Yolo.

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California Welfare Department Victim Report

Unknown County Victim

Ms. 2013050089 attends school and has a child in day care. In August 2012, Ms. 2013050089 requested payment for \$47 worth of bus tokens. The unknown county never gave her a notice of action denying her request for supportive services. (The County is unknown because the State Hearings Division of CDSS redacted this information from the public unlawfully.) The county testified under oath that the county was wrong not to issue a notice of action – a blatant violation of her due process rights guaranteed by the United State Constitution. The county insisted that Ms. 2013050089, living on a fixed income at the same level CalWORKs families received in 1985, should use her meager CalWORKs money to cover the cost of complying with the duly signed WtW contract where the county agreed to pay for supportive services and Ms. 2013050089 agreed to participate or be sanctioned. No similar penalties are imposed upon the people running the county welfare system – zero accountability for the workfare workers and punishment for CalWORKs moms is what WtW is about. In this case the county fought for their position of violating WtW participants due process right with impunity and lost the hearing- the claim was granted.

San Joaquin County Victim

Mr. 20130503366 is a WtW participant from San Joaquin County. This victim was sanctioned by the county for failure to participate in the welfare-to-work program. The victim asked for a state hearing and at the hearing it turned out that Mr. 20130503366 had a learning disability that San Joaquin County knew about but ignored. This is typical. Most counties require CalWORKs participants to sign a waiver of the learning disability assessment. Thus, most WtW participants' learning disabilities are sanctioned for failing to participate when in reality it is the

county that should be sanctioned for refusing to do their job. Mr. 20130503366 was lucky. He got a decent judge and won the hearing. No sanction for Mr. 20130503366.

San Bernardino County Victim

On October 5, 2012, San Bernardino County mailed a notice of action denying protective supervision to Mr. 2013057264. Mr. 2013057264 filed for a state hearing. Mr. 2013057264 is legally blind, mentally retarded and has a seizure disorder. San Bernardino County alleged that Mr. 2013057264 does not engage in dangerous behavior and does not put himself at risk of injury. The evidence revealed that Mr. 2013057264 has the tendency of leaving the house, going out on the street, where he is unaware of dangers posed by cars due to his blindness. The evidence also revealed that he has left the house several times and has been brought back home by police or firefighters. Fortunately this victim was able to find somebody to stand up for his rights and maybe save his life.

Los Angeles County Victim

Los Angeles County stopped the CalFresh benefits of Ms. 2013074209 for allegedly not completing her annual recertification effective February 1, 2013. Ms. 2013074209 filed a hearing request for this and also complained that in September 2012 she completed an on-line CalWORKs application with the assistance of a community-based organization and the county refused to process the application. At the hearing, Los Angeles admitted that they failed to process the CalWORKs application filed over a 180-days ago.

At the hearing the county testified that Los Angeles County correctly terminated the family's CalFresh benefits because Ms. 2013074209 refused to complete the annual certification. In response Ms. 2013074209 provided verification that she had submitted certification papers and verification needed through a community-based organization. This is not unusual in Los Angeles. DPSS has been informed by Los Angeles-based community organizations that they do not trust the LEADER on-line application.

Los Angeles County Victim

On March 7 and again on April 3, 2013, Los Angeles County imposed a sanction on Ms. 2013085473 for failing to participate in the WtW program. At the hearing it was discovered that Ms. 2013085473 should have never been forced to participate in the WtW program because she was caring for her disabled child. Los Angeles County was ordered to reverse the unlawful sanction against Ms. 2013085473 who is living on a fixed income of what similar families received in 1985.