

CCWRO Welfare News

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April 28 , 2014
Issue #2014-04

In Brief

Many kids in foster care are a by-product of California's punitive CalWORKs Program.

In California, 84% of children are placed in foster care because of neglect, which is the result of deep poverty. California's children have the highest supplemental poverty rate in the United States. This is partially because the major program designed to combat child poverty – CalWORKs – has been raided by the Governor and the Legislature by more than \$20 billion since 1998. This year the Governor's proposed budget for 2014-2015 would raid the CalWORKs program for more than \$1.6 billion. State budget documents call this "CalWORKs contribution to the general fund". We call this "CalWORKs INVOLUNTARY contribution to the general fund". The cost of keeping a child on CalWORKs is \$200 a month while the same child in foster care is over \$2,300 a month.

California is one of a few states with less than a 60-month clock -

California imposes a 24-month and a 48-month clock on CalWORKs parents while 39 other states have a 60-month time clock, 21 of the 39 states are red states. There are only two (2) other states that have a 24-month or less clock – Arkansas and Connecticut.

The 24-month clock is extended for parents who were allowed by counties to participate during the first 24 months, or is meeting the stringent federal work participation after the 24th month. The 24-month clock started January 1, 2013.

On 1-1-15, after 24 months, thousands of parents will be terminated from CalWORKs even though DSS has never completely implemented the intent of the Legislature in enacting the 24-month time clock. The tool to process appraisals before the 24-month start date has not even been launched. DSS is still in the process of developing that tool. Effective January 1, 2014 there was supposed to be a family stabilization program available to participants whose 24-months would start to click. The county plans were due March 31, 2014.

When the county will implement family stabilization is unknown. There has been no significant change in the types of activity that participants have been allowed to do. The idea that all participants have choices is a pipedream even though there may be some counties that have allowed choices. The 24-month clock needs to be restarted on 1-1-16 or repealed as it is clearly a program that inflicts "government induced economic child abuse" upon children and poor families of California.

May revise may have a new program to address the drought impact on the economically challenged -

The Brown Administration is working on a "drought resistant mechanism for counties where jobs have been impacted due to the drought, especially in the recreational mountain areas of California. This plan is a venture being developed by DSS and Department of Finance. It is possible that this plan will be reflected in the May Revise.

ACA Covered California Fair Hearing Data

Activities	Cases
Hearing Filed	929
Hearings Scheduled	194
Hearings Conducted	85
Hearings Withdrawn	162
Hearings Verbally Withdrawn	197
Hearings Granted	14
Hearings Denied	10
Hearings Denied in Part	10
Hearings Dismissed	8

Source: State Department of Social Services as of 3-31-14.

CCWRO is an IOLTA funded support center serving IOLTA legal services programs in California. Types of Services Offered: Litigation, Co-Counseling, Fair Hearing, Representation, Consultation, Informational Services, Research Services, In-Depth Consultation and Welfare Training. Programs Covered: CalWORKs, Welfare to Work (WtW), Food Stamps, Media Cal, General Assistance & Refugee/Immigrant Eligibility. Refugee/Immigrant Eligibility. All Rights Reserved. Contributors: Kevin Aslanian, Grace Galligher, Stephen Goldberg and Diane Aslanian.

IEVS MESS IN CALIFORNIA

Whenever a person applies for CalWORKS, CalFresh or Medi-Cal, the county worker generally reviews the IEVS report to make sure the applicant has told the county about all of his or her income and resources.

Counties also receive information from IEVS when the income reported to the SAWS system is inconsistent with the income reflected in the IEVS system garnered from IRS and SSA.

These reports are known as IEVS reports or “abstracts”. Once a report is received, the county is supposed to process the report within 45 days according to state and federal law.

Often counties do not process these reports. This causes huge overpayments that are then referred to welfare fraud for investigation and eventually for persecution by the district attorney for an overpayment caused by the county. Often welfare parents are jailed for overpayments caused by the welfare department’s refusal to do their job. In many cases, the kids end up in foster care costing taxpayers over \$2,300 a month for each child.

When the overpayment is recouped the county gets a bounty of 12.5% of the collected overpayment even though the county never invested 12.5% in the grant payment.

The last IEVS reports on the DSS webpages reveal that the cause of the delay is because counties are processing thousands of reports that do not reveal any discrepancy. Statewide only 6% of the reports received showed any discrepancy. This means that during the last quarter of 2013 out of 296,039 reports processed only a meager 18,524 cases revealed a possible discrepancy.

During the last quarter of 2013 counties had 780,685 reports and were only able to process 296,039 or 38% of the reports. This means that 62% of the reports, or majority of the reports were not touched by the county and if any of those 62% cases were causing an overpayment, the overpayment will continue with the full knowledge of the government – a county welfare department-induced overpayment whose delayed collection provide additional funding for counties and more victims for the local district attorney’s office to persecute. **Table # 1** reveals county-by-county the percentage of IEVS reports processed with no discrepancy.

Table # 1 Percentage of Cases IEVS Reports Reviewed with No -

County	Percentage	County	Percentage
Statewide	94%	Sonoma	98%
Alpine	100%	Calaveras	97%
Butte	100%	Madera	97%
Inyo	100%	Yuba	97%
Lake	100%	Imperial	97%
Lassen	100%	Merced	97%
Mariposa	100%	San Diego	97%
Modoc	100%	Santa Clara	97%
Santa Cruz	100%	Tuolumne	95%
Sierra	100%	Kern	95%
Nevada	100%	San Bernardino	94%
Glenn	99%	Los Angeles	94%
San Joaquin	99%	Monterey	94%
Tehama	99%	Yolo	94%
Orange	99%	Riverside	94%
Del Norte	99%	Amador	94%
El Dorado	98%	Humboldt	93%
Fresno	98%	Napa	93%
Plumas	98%	Siskiyou	93%
Tulare	98%	Stanislaus	92%
		Kings	92%
		Shasta	92%
		Contra Costa	91%
		San Francisco	90%
		Sacramento	90%



February 2014

California Welfare-to- Work Program Outcomes Report

February, 2014 California Welfare-to-Work Activity Report

Number of Unduplicated Participants During February, 2014	118,858
Gross Number of Unduplicated Participants Being Sanctioned During the month of February, 2014	58,035
Number of Participants Sanctioned During February, 2014	16,172
Percentage of Gross Unduplicated Participants being Sanctioned During The Month of February, 2014	62%
Dollar Loss to CalWORKs Families Due to Sanctions this Month Estimates at \$125 Per Sanction for During February, 2014	\$16.5 million
Number of Unduplicated Participants Who Entered Employment That Resulted In Termination of CalWORKs During February, 2014	2,876
Percentage of Unduplicated Participants Who Entered Employment That Resulted In Termination of CalWORKs During February, 2014	2%
Taxpayer Cost Per Unduplicated Participants Who Entered Employment That Resulted In Termination of CalWORKs During February, 2014	\$514,285
Number of Participants NOT Being Paid Transportation by the County During February, 2014	52,312
Percentage of Number of Participants NOT Being Paid Transportation by the County During February, 2014	44%
Estimated Dollar Amount Poor Families Defrauded by Counties Not Receiving Transportation @ \$100 Per Participant During February, 2014	\$5.2 million

*Source: State Department of
Social Services WtW 25 Report*

2013-2014 Welfare-to-Work Services Appropriation

\$1,479,084,400 million

Source: CDSS