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IN BRIEF

• Ms. SHN-104837965 received a Notice of Action dated July 25, 2022, from CalSAWS, terminatng her CalWORKs and CalFresh effective August 1, 2022. After spending several billion dollars, CalSAWS still issues Notices of Action that are not timely in violation of Goldberg v. Kelly – The notice must be issued ten (10) days in advance.

• CDSS announced on 10-26-22 that FNS approved a two-year statewide ABAWDS waiver for California. The waiver is from 11-1-22 through 10-31-24. This is good news for single persons and childless couples who are food insecure. We want to thank the CDSS CalFresh Division's hard work in combating food insecurity in California.

• On 10-12-22 ,FNS issued a memo stating that when the federal public health emergency (FPHE) ends, the two student temporary exemptions will end for applicants 30 days following the date that the FPHE ends. These two exemptions are: 1) The individual is eligible to participate in a State or Federally financed work study program during the regular school year, as determined by the institution of higher education; and, 2) The individual has an expected family contribution (EFC) of 0 in the current academic year.

For students who are getting CalFresh when the FPHE ends, the benefits will not stop until their annual redetermination is done. Students are not required to file mid-certification reports that their eligibility for the temporary exemptions have ended. That will be addressed during the next regularly scheduled redetermination.

CalSAWS UPDATE

CalSAWS Director John Boule has been testifying before the State Legislature, alleging that they are so overwhelmed with migration work, that legislative, CDSS and DHCS initiatives have to wait until migration has been completed..

We question the honesty of this statement that CalSAWS is so overwhelmed with migration work that they must put legislative and CDS/DHCS initiatives on hold. Since the beginning, CalSAWS has received federal and state funds to build a computer system for TANF, SNAP, Medicaid and program 58 different county general assistance programs. Counties only put up 9% of the 100% of the cost for CalSAWS. Moreover, counties have total control of CalSAWS.

Since 2019, less than 20% of the CalSAWS federally and state funded hours have been used for "migration", moving data and policy updates from the old three computer systems – C-IV, LRS and CalWIN - to the CalSAWs system. Based on CalSAWs published reports from the CalSAWS Change Control Board, we calculate that 60% of the hours are used to automate "county initiatives", which are changes wanted by one of the 58 different counties. Less than 20% was used for "migration" and about 20% was used for "premise" which includes legislative propsals. While the first wave of CalWIN county migration occurs in October 2022, Apparently CalSAWs only spent 16% of their time for migration. See Table #1 below.

TABLE # 1 -October 2022 Approved Hours CalSAWS Allocations

Total Hours	Migration	%	County Request	%	Legislative Iniatives	%
93994	14972	16%	56004	60%	23018	24%

American Public Human Services Association (APHSA) TANF Reform Proposal Is No Reform

On March 2022 the American Public Human Services Association (APHSA), a bipartisan, nonprofit membership organization representing state and local health and human service agencies through their top-level leadership, issued a proposed plan TANF Reform.

The APSHA proposal is flowered with all kinds of core principles, like help families, help families succeed, make them feel like a human beings. These are practices that APSHA members believe will reflect the lived experience of families.

In reality, families must have access to adequate assistance and services that allows them to meet their *basic needs* while working to achieve their long-term goals, which is solely missig from the APSHA proposal.

APSHA claims that "TANF has the potential to catalyze and transform these investments into economic mobility for millions of Americans by working in true partnership with people to remove roadblocks to their economic and family well-being." Since 1998, the facts reveal that TANF has propelled millions of non-poor Americans, like state and county government officials, like Bret Favre, to prosperity while sentencing millions of TANF families and children into deep poverty. The APHSA proposal of 2022 will not reverse this trend at all. There is nothing in the APSHA proposal that provides a requirement for States to provide minimum living TANF benefits to impoverished families.

APHSA also alleged that APHSA embraces the call to reimagine how TANF can work in support of the families it serves. Not true. The APHSA proposal keeps the same TANF inequitable system of today intact. The proposal keeps sanctions, which punish children for what their parent do – intact. There is no equitable punishment for APSHA members who are welfare workers and administrators when they break the welfare rules.

The proposal asserts that "Families should be in the driver's seat of their own lives, co-creating plans with TANF agencies that support their family well-being and long-term economic mobility." You cannot "co-create" when the other side, the TANF agency and workers have the power to sanction and control of your benefits. That is not a level playing field.

The proposal goes on to say that APHSA "Direct states to co-create with TANF participants customized Career and Family Success Plans that puts into action a plan to achieve mutually agreed upon goals based on individualized assessments." This will only work if the proposals empower beneficiaries to submit, in writing, without a welfare worker breathing down their neck, their own plan that has maximum beneficiary option and not the plan of the welfare system.

The proposal wants to replace the current work participation rates with measuring economic mobility and child and family well-being components jointly identified with participants through their individualized Career and Family Success Plans. We disagree, Economic mobility should be judged by how many families are no longer living in poverty. That is the goal of the program. But then that would generate actual accountability of APSHA members who have failed to show economic mobility for TANF families for over 25 years. TANF achieved one thing- economic mobility for State bureaucracies and people like Bret Favre and economic downward mobility for TANF families.

APHSA proposal is that "... as a condition of accepting the TANF block grant, states must provide a minimum five-year lifetime limit for TANF cash assistance." Their proposal gives States discretion to propose through State Plans to increase their lifetime limit for TANF assistance beyond five years. Now the true colors come out – the cruel and family-damaging five year limit is the APHSA position. How about a five year limit on the retirements of APHSA members?

(**APHSA**, cont'd.)

APHSA proposes to establish employment and well being measures. There should be one simple outcome – how many families are no longer in poverty- period. Even if states meet all of these measurements, if at the end of 5 years then family is in poverty - the program is a FAILURE for poor families.

APHSA also proposes that 50% TANF be used for core activities. "Core activities include cash assistance, case management, and economic mobility and child and family well-being activities that are part of Career and Family Success Plans, as well as non-recurrent short-term benefits and family support/family preservation/reunification services."

How about 50% for "payment to families" to meet their *basic needs*? Not in the APHSA proposal. AFDC had 70% payments going to "payments to families". APSHA is now proposing 50% for of all TANF funds be alloacted to states for to balance their budgets on the backs of families in deep poverty or give to people like Bret Favre. Is this the "Temporary Assistance Program for Needy Families" or the "Temporary Program for Non-Needy Families", Bret Favre and other expenditures not going to the needy families?

APHSA is also proposing to index so "TANF must be adequately resourced to invest in families' short-term stability and long-term economic mobility goals. States must be able to make investments in people and services in ways that mitigate benefit cliffs, clearing a path to economic mobility and supports healthy, thriving families. TANF must also be responsive in times of public health emergencies, natural disasters, and economic downturns; families must have adequate resources to weather the storm."

What a joke –"TANF must be adequately resourced to invest in families' short-term stability and long-term economic mobility goals." Are you kidding?. APSHA admits that 50% of the money can be used for everything except for "core activities" which does not mean "payments to needy families". And then they have the gall to say we need more money to "…adequately resourced to invest in families' short-term stability and long-term economic mobility goals." "…adequately resourced to invest in families…" is "payment to families" and not funding bureaucrats, foster care and supplanting budget costs with TANF money.

The APHSA proposal keeps the inequitable TANF program intact for all practical purposes – by making sure that States have money to give to criminally minded rich friends like Bret Favre and keep the cruel, family damaging TANF time limits and sanctions intact and low grants intact.

WHAT PORTION OF TANF DOLLARS ARE USED FOR TANF ELIGIBLE FAMILIES IN 2020?

State	% of TANF Needy Families Getting Cash Aid
Nationwide	22%
Illinous	4.4%
Texas	4.6%
Indiana	4.8%
Arkansas	5.1%
Mississippi	5.3%
New Jersey	5.5%
N. Carolina	5.9%
Louisiana	7.1%
Connecticut	7.2%
Kansas	7.4%
Alabama	8%
Missouri	8.5%
Delaware	9.1%
Miuchigan	9.7%
N. Dakota	9.8%