



## CCWRO New Welfare News 2023-10

### Long Term Sanctions on the rise

Now that the pandemic is over, counties have started to require CalWORKs beneficiaries to participate in WtW activities, often without having child care or transportation.

In fact, CDSS’s own policy, contrary to State law, is to force families to engage on a WtW activity, even if they do not have child care. ACL 19-99 states:

*If the CWD is unable to confirm that child care has been secured or does not receive communication from the participant that additional time is needed to find child care following 30 days from the date child care is authorized, the CWD shall determine that child care is no longer a barrier to participation and may send a notice to the participant scheduling mandatory activities.*

This policy of “just call us” assumes that all a participant has to do is pick up the phone and contact their friendly welfare worker and viola - message received. That was the way it was in the 60s and 70s of the 20th century. But in the 21st century most participants do not have a worker - they must call the center center. Its called “efficiency”.

The participant cannot go on BenefitsCal and notify the county that they are having challenges securing child care. That may prevent the county from acheiving the primary goal of the WtW program - meting out punishment - sanction.

Once the individual does not participate, then the county issues a notice of action imposing the CalWORKs punitive sanction. The individual is asked to meet with the county worker to determine good cause. The individual cannot keep the appointment due to lack of child care and often, lack of transportation. Once that happens – mission accomplished – sanction imposed - thousands of children punished by CWDs. See TABLE #2 showing the rise of long-term sanctions in California.

**TABLE # 2 – Families and Children Sanctioned + 1 year.-Source: CA237CW**

Month/Year	Families	Children
Jan-23	8405	19462
Feb-23	8258	19075
Mar-23	8428	19431
Apr-23	8493	19453
May-23	8779	19050
Jun-23	9116	21009

### County Client Abuse Report

**Victim of Electronic Theft Revictimized by Sacramento County** - Ms. 1B88G66 who is homeless with 2 kids was skimmed of \$1,100 CalWORKs on 10-2-23. She filed a EBT 2259 10-3-23 and after 30 days still no replacement of skimmed benefits. Another victim of the electronic skimming crime revictimized by Sacramento County Department of Human Assistance. Where is the humanity here?

#### In this issue

- Long Term Sanctions on the rise
- County Client Abuse Report
- Los Angeles Eligibility Verification System (IEVS) State Review Report
- Counties not spending millions of employment services funding

(Con’t on page 2)

**Sacramento County Refuses to Issue Child Care to Former CalWORKs Family** - Ms. 1BC7846 of Sacramento County was discontinued from CalWORKs because her husband is working. She is attending college. She went down to the Watt Street office asking for assistance with child care. The Sacramento County Welfare Office informed her that she is not eligible for child care because she is no longer on CalWORKs.

Welfare & Institutions Code §11323.2(a)(1)(C) states:

“Necessary child care services shall be available to every former recipient for up to two years, pursuant to Chapter 21 (commencing with Section 10370) of Part 1.8. Beginning January 1, 2021, or the date that automation changes occur, as required for implementation, in the Statewide Automated Welfare System, whichever date is later, in the 18th month following the date of last receipt of aid, the county shall send a notice, via mail to the last known address, text message, or email, to a former recipient **who is not currently receiving second or third stage child care informing them that their eligibility for stage-two child care will expire by the end of the 24th month following their last receipt of aid, and how to obtain stage-two child care services.** The department shall issue an all-county letter or similar directive by November 1, 2019, to implement this subparagraph, until regulations are adopted.” (Our emphasis added)

On 10-26-23 Ms. 1BC7846 officially requested child care and as of 11-3-23 no response, according to Ms. 1BC7846.

Ms. 1BC7846 wonders how come there is no application for child care? Good question. The system is not designed to make child care services accessible to families in need thereof and entitled thereto. That is a fatal flaw in the California CalWORKs child care system.

**LADPSS Stops Benefits Without a 10-day Notice for failure to Report Income that she Never Received-** Ms. L616809 of Los Angeles County, who is participating in the Welfare to Work program, received a notice of action dated 11-1-223 saying effective 11-30-23 her cash aid and CalFresh benefits will be stopped because her SAR was incomplete in that she failed to report child care and her earnings from work study. Her report month was September of 2023. She started her work study job in September. She did not receive a work study check in September. Moreover, work study income is exempt. The notice also said that she failed to

report her child support payment for September. She did not get a child support payment in September – it went to the Department of Child Support because she is on CalWORKs. As of November 7, 2023, she had not received her cash aid. The county told her that she will only be aided if she provides verification that she did not get child support and a work study check in September. How does one prove that they did not get a child support check. Ms. L616809 stated under penalty of perjury on the SAR 7 that she did not receive child support. Is there another way to say, “I did not get child support, I am not lying”?

And finally, the U.S. Supreme Court has said that before benefits are terminated, beneficiaries must get an advance notice of action. She did receive a NOA stating cash aid will stop 11-30-23, yet the deeply flawed CalSAWS system stopped her benefits 11-1-23.

**Sacramento County DHA Stops benefits Without a NOA** – Ms. 1BBXL89’s benefits were stopped on 11-1-23 for a family of four (4) fleeing the Ukrainian Putin Genocide. U.S. Supreme Court has said that before benefits are terminated, beneficiaries must get an advance notice of action yet deficient malfunctioning CalSAWS system stopped her benefits 11-1-23 without a notice of action.

**Child Care Stopped for Moving** - Ms. 1BCC724 of Sacramento has two children , 9 and 3. The parents are both in school learning English. On 8-1-23 they moved to Roseville, Placer County, and informed the county of this move in July. They a were being good change reporter.

On 7-20-23 they received a notice of action saying that their child care services will stop effective 7-31-23 for moving to Placer County.

Now (October 2023) Child Action wants Ms. 1BBXL89 to pay Child Action for the child care she received from Child Action in August, September and October by December 15, 2023 from her CalWORKs grant.

**Monterey County Tells a Citizen she is an illegal alien** – Ms. 1BBXL89 is very distressed. She applied for Medi-Cal and IHSS and received a notice of action denying her application for Medi-Cal and IHSS because she is not a citizen, despite the fact that she became a citizen in San Jose on November 20, 1996, now Monterey County is saying that she is no longer a citizen.

**Sacramento County Refugee in Distress** - Mr. 1BC9110, a Ukrainian refugee, received a notice of action stopping his RCA benefits after 12-months effective October 1, 2023. On October 1, 2023 he did not get RCA, but he also did not get CalFresh and Medi-Cal. He has gone down to the welfare office on Watt Avenue, known as F-100, and they were told to call the Call Center. He has received no CalFresh for October and November and is facing a food insecure "Thanksgiving" this year.

## **Los Angeles Eligibility Verification System (IEVS) State Review Report**

The California Department of Social Services (CDSS) Program Integrity Section performed an Income and Eligibility Verification System (IEVS) review of the Los Angeles County Department of Public Social Services that concluded on May 24, 2023. The CDSS reviewed recipient cases and various statistical reports, interviewed CWD staff that performs IEVS functions and conducted physical site inspections.

Part of the review is whether counties are acting on reports that are called "abstracts." An abstract shows that a certain case had income or resources which was not known to the county or is not in the county system for some reason. If the numbers that the federal government has based on the beneficiary's social security does not match, that creates an abstract and counties have 45 days to review and act on the reported discrepancy to prevent overpayments.

CDSS made the following findings.

- 40 IFD abstracts for run date April 1, 2022; 32 abstracts were processed timely, and 8 abstracts were processed untimely. *[Integrated Earnings Clearance/Fraud Detection System (Quarterly) Provides information on wages reported by employers to EDD, as well as on duplicate aid among CalWORKs, Food Stamp, and SSI/SSP recipients. These reports contain information on a case-by-case basis on possible recipients of duplicate aid within a county, between counties, and/or between California and Oregon, Nevada and Arizona, as well as SSI/SSP recipients who are erroneously receiving Food Stamps and/or CalWORKs.]*

- 40 PVS abstracts for run date January 01, 2023; 25 abstracts were processed timely, and 15 abstracts were processed untimely. *[Payment Verification Systems*

*(Monthly) SSA information on receipt of Social Security Title II Retirement, Survivors and Disability Insurance (RSDI), State Unemployment Insurance or Disability Insurance Benefits. This match also includes information from the SSA BENDEX file of recipients reported as being on aid in two or more states at the same time]*

- 20 IRS abstracts for run date June 10, 2022; 3 abstracts were processed timely, and 17 were processed untimely. *[Internal Revenue Service Asset Match (Annually) Matches unearned income for out-of-state accounts, interest, dividends, lottery winnings, stocks, bonds, IRAs, mortgage income and other unearned income not reported to the Franchise Tax Board.]*

- 20 BEER abstracts for run date April 07, 2022; 18 abstracts were processed timely, and 2 abstracts were processed untimely. *[Beneficiary Earnings Exchange Record (Monthly) Reports wage information from SSA not reported to EDD, including out-of-state wages, military wages, federal wages, and self-employment wages. As part of the BEER process, counties receive lists of cases where SSA has identified another SSN and/or name being used by the recipient.]*

## **Counties Not Spending Allocated Employment Services Funds 288 million General Funds CalWORKs Dollars of SFY 21-22**

Each year the State Budget Allocates over a billion to counties for various portions of the CalWORKs program.

The 2023-2024 state fiscal year budget included \$288 million General Fund unexpended dollars from 2021-2022 from the CalWORKs single allocation. This has been a pattern for years. Every year the State claws back single allocation. Unexpended money.

The 2022-2023 Employment Services allocation and expenditures report reveals that counties were allocated \$1,109,422 and they failed to spend \$304.4 million. Meanwhile counties refuse to help college students with basic needs like buying a computer so they can effectively participate in the WtW education activity.

TABLE # 1, below shows the millions and millions of WtW funds that counties failed to spend.

Los Angeles County did not spend \$86 million in

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State Fiscal Year 22-23. Sacramento spent \$38 million and did not spend 40.3 million. San Diego County did not spend \$21.6 million. Contra Costa County spent \$15.6 million and did not spend 10 million. San Bernardino County was not able to spend \$20.2 million.

**TABLE # 1 - SFY 22-23 WtW allocations and expenditures –  
Source: CDSS Single Allocation Reports Secured through the Public Records Act**

COUNTY	ALLOCATION	EXPENDITURES	NOT SPENT
ALAMEDA	\$37,406,964	\$26,942,427	\$10,464,537
BUTTE	\$7,475,230	\$4,801,659	\$2,673,571
CONTRA COSTA	\$26,599,158	\$15,601,202	\$10,997,956
FRESNO	\$41,508,957	\$34,541,323	\$6,967,634
IMPERIAL	\$12,419,104	\$5,788,633	\$6,630,471
KERN	\$38,008,787	\$27,978,280	\$10,030,507
LOS ANGELES	\$324,402,768	\$238,396,173	\$86,006,595
MADERA	\$4,070,056	\$3,575,805	\$494,251
MERCED	\$15,264,299	\$8,603,791	\$6,660,508
MONTEREY	\$13,906,913	\$10,240,543	\$3,666,370
ORANGE	\$51,284,188	\$34,486,163	\$16,798,025
RIVERSIDE	\$53,210,379	\$44,518,908	\$8,691,471
SACRAMENTO	\$78,431,823	\$38,104,174	\$40,327,649
SAN BERNARDINO	\$76,868,669	\$56,714,292	\$20,154,377
SAN DIEGO	\$62,944,506	\$41,385,008	\$21,559,498
SAN FRANCISCO	\$24,079,875	\$18,928,447	\$5,151,428
SAN JOAQUIN	\$19,381,370	\$11,020,007	\$8,361,363
SAN LUIS OBISPO	\$5,827,888	\$3,679,792	\$2,148,096
SAN MATEO	\$8,393,382	\$5,719,824	\$2,673,558
SANTA BARBARA	\$8,709,933	\$7,264,794	\$1,445,139
SANTA CLARA	\$44,394,993	\$43,049,806	\$1,345,187
SOLANO	\$8,850,657	\$8,402,373	\$448,284
STANISLAUS	\$21,711,675	\$13,160,105	\$8,551,570
TULARE	\$16,803,907	\$10,392,988	\$6,410,919
VENTURA	\$15,668,705	\$12,066,609	\$3,602,096
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$1,109,421,800</b>	<b>\$809,927,558</b>	<b>\$304,424,728</b>

Source: CA237CW