

CCWRO Welfare News

Coalition of California Welfare Rights Organizations, Inc.
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In Brief

-Supervisor Neil Derry of San Bernardino County is very unhappy that the wasteful finger-imaging requirement for food stamp recipients has finally been repealed. Supervisor Neil Derry wants to continue to waste taxpayer dollars to fingerprint food stamp recipients. He has asked that San Bernardino be allowed to waste local, state and federal taxpayer funds to fingerprint food stamp recipients. Just about every state in the United States has stopped wasting taxpayer dollars to fingerprint food stamp recipients when they discovered that fingerprinting did not reduce fraud and abuse.

-The C-IV computer system operating in 39 counties is having trouble with its document imaging system. Counties have workers that image documents that the county received from applicants and recipients in the system. Recently the imaging system has been breaking down. Request # R26868-2011 reveals that the system was down for 45 minutes while C-IV trouble shooters were trying to restore the imaging system. The system also goes down and then workers have to log on before they can start working again. This is costing taxpayers millions of dollars that Accenture, the vendor operating the C-IV system and directly responsible for the down time, has not reimbursed.

DSS News Todd Bland, Deputy Director for WtW Division Greta Wallace, Deputy Director for Legal Affairs

Todd Bland, who just got a promotion at the Legislative Analyst Office as Deputy Legislative Analyst for Health & Human Services, has been appointed Deputy Director for DSS's Welfare to Work Division replacing retiring CharrLee Metsker. Mr. Bland received his Bachelor's degree from Yale in 1984 and received his masters in Public Policy in

1989. His start date has not yet been determined. Todd is married and has one child. He is from Seattle Washington and loves the Mariners and the Seahawks.

DSS has also appointed Greta Wallace as Deputy Director for Legal Affairs. Greta was appointed Director of the Department of Child Support by Governor Schwarzenegger and served from 2004 through 2008. Ms. Wallace has more than 13 years of experience practicing law within the Department of Social Services. She was an administrative law judge with the Department from 2002 to 2004, when she conducted hearings on child support cases. Ms. Wallace served five years as assistant chief counsel providing legal advice on child and family program issues, and community care licensing. Prior to that, she served as staff counsel, senior staff counsel and supervising senior staff counsel for the Department. Ms. Wallace has also served as a member of the executive team of the Department of Alcohol and Drug Programs and as executive assistant to the undersecretary of the Health and Welfare Agency where she monitored legislation for the 11 departments within the Agency. Wallace is a member of the Jack and Jill National Association and the Sacramento Women's Assistance Network.

Los Angeles County LEADER Computer System Your Own Benefit Corrective Action Plan

Early this year the United States Department of Agriculture Food and Nutrition Service reviewed the California's CalWIN (called Benefits CalWIN) and C-IV (called C-IV Yourself) on-line application system and found that they have major violations of federal law. FNS did not review the Los Angeles on-line application system (called Your Own Benefit). However, Los Angeles County has submitted a corrective action plan to meet FNS' standards.

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Los Angeles County will take corrective action to comply with 7 CFR §273.2(c) (1). This section provides that homeless persons shall be allowed to apply for food stamps. However, Los Angeles County's corrective action plan will deny homeless food stamp applicants from having a choice of addresses that they may want to use. Los Angeles County will force all homeless applicants to use the county address, rather than a mailing address of their choice. This is also a problem with Benefits CalWIN and C-IV Yourself. Moreover, many homeless applicants have an email address where they get their mail. Why can't they use their email address as a mailing address? It is much more accessible than the county welfare department where sometimes people need to wait in line for an hour just to go through the DPSS security system.

The corrective action plan also requires that Your Own Benefit be changed to comply with 7 CFR §273.2(b)(1)(v) that states a person can file an using only the following information: 1. Full name; 2. Address, if any and 3. Signature.

FOOD STAMP NEWS?

On September 30, 2011 FNS published the Fiscal Year 2010 Characteristics of Food Stamp Households.

One of the revealing numbers was that 26% of California households were not receiving the standard utility deduction. Nationwide it is 27%. Washington has over 99% of households receiving the standard utility deduction. Rhode Island and Tennessee have over 41% not receiving the standard utility deduction. Arizona, Illinois, Maryland have more than 40% of the participating households not receiving the standard utility deduction.

Many households with children are getting food stamps but not TANF. While 8,947,000 children receiving food stamps, only 1,427,000 children received TANF. The reason is simple. TANF is a block grant program that was not designed to benefit children and families. It was designed to punish poor families and children for being poor. Under the AFDC program, which was the former TANF program, 70% of the money went to payments to families. Under TANF only 30% of the money goes to the families and the rest goes to the state bureaucracy and contributions to the State General Funds to balance state budgets. Copy of this report can be downloaded at:

<http://www.fns.usda.gov/ORA/menu/Published/SNAP/FILES/Participation/2010Characteristics>.

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Inter-County Transfer-COUNTY CLIENT ABUSE REPORT

Ms. 1B1JN85/ SH#11284236 moved from Santa Clara County to Solano County on July 7, 2011. When she arrived in Vallejo, she went down to the Vallejo welfare office and applied for welfare. Both Solano and Santa Clara County are CalWIN counties.

She received CalWORKs and food stamps from Santa Clara County for August and September. In September she received a Notice of Action from Santa Clara County stating that her CalWORKs and Food stamps would be stopped because Solano County has picked up the case. However, she did not receive benefits from Solano for October. On October 2, 2011 she called Solano County to find out why she did not get her benefits for October 2011. Solano County politely informed her that the reason for did not received benefits for October was because Santa Clara County has not given Solano County what Solano county wanted to continue her benefits.

This victim has filed for a state hearing, but meanwhile she is foodless and moneyless – complaints of Santa Clara and Solano County.

Number of the Month

How many WtW participants are enrolled in any educational program?

8%