

## In Brief

✓ **DSS COVER UP ALLEGED** - A former DSS employee alleges in a complaint filed with the State Personnel Board last month that when ACIN#I-56-03 was drafted by staff, it cited W&IC Section 11453 verbatim. The draft ACIN went to DSS Legal Affairs for clearance. Attorney Karlen Harmison, who is now an Administrative Law Judge, revised the ACIN by changing the language of the statute from "any" to "an". When asked by the DSS staff why attorney Harmison is changing the ACIN, attorney Harmison retorted "We can't tell them (the advocates) everything". The cover-up did not work and advocates have won a law suit, but CDSS has filed a frivolous appeal to delay obeying the Court's Decision to pay the COLA that was unlawfully denied to CalWORKs recipients by Arnold Schwarzenegger.

✓ **Quarterly Reporting (QR) Data Being Collected.** Several counties, including Riverside and San Bernardino, are involved in QR data collection. The list of counties collecting this data should be available from CDSS.

✓ **QR Task Force is back.** Counties have been having problems with QR and have asked CDSS to reconstitute the QR task force. The first meeting of the Task force was held in February. The meeting was closed to the public, although it is financed with public funds.

✓ **Medi-Cal and QR.** Department of Health Services is concerned about Medi-Cal ineligibility when cash linkage ends but the family remains on aid due to QR rules. This phenomenon occurs generally when a parent working over 100 hours returns home or the youngest child ages out. DHS wants

counties to provide them with estimates of how often this occurs.

## CalWIN Blues (also known as CalHELL)

CalHELL, a new computer system now operational in Placer and Sacramento County is a true disaster.

Many families have suffered because the system did not issue their benefits in violation of state law. Of course the computer cannot be prosecuted for persecuting poor families. Welfare workers are also suffering.

✓ The Sacramento Bee reported on March 31, 2005 that welfare workers have been taken out of the welfare department by ambulance due to extreme stress that CalHELL has caused.

✓ County workers literally have to LIE to the computer to get the benefits issued. The computer demands verification that is not required. So the worker states that he or she has received the verification.

✓ In one case a clerical staff mistakenly punched in an incorrect worker number into the computer. The computer automatically transferred all 250 cases to the new worker. 250 notices were mailed out to inform recipients that they have a new worker. The clerical staff could not correct the worker code, so somebody had to. When the worker code was corrected, another 250 notices were mailed out informing the recipients that they have their old worker back.



### In Brief



### CalWIN BLUES (also known as CalHELL)



### TANF Reauthorization Update - IHSS News



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✓ In another case the computer terminated the case for not turning in the quarterly report. The worker has the Q-7 in her hand and has told the computer that she has the QR-7, but the computer continues to keep the case closed.

✓ One sunny day at the Sacramento downtown office a high level expert from EDS, the authors of this demented system, came to meet with the staff and helped welfare workers with CalHELL. A worker, who had been trying to grant a General Assistance case for weeks asked if the expert could fix the case. After going through all of the screens, the EDS employee could not fix the problem. The GA worker snatched the case from the alleged expert and headed to see the director of the office.

Due to CalHELL hundreds of children are being denied emergency assistance. Litigation is being prepared to protect children and families of Sacramento County.



**In Home Supportive Services  
(IHSS)  
REPORT**

SB 1104, also known as the 2004-2005 budget trailer bill, contains provisions regarding quality assurances in the IHSS program. The goal of the legislation, according to Legislative staffer Christian Griffith is to assure that a person applying in Yolo County or Alameda County with the same set of facts get the same services. Under the current system the hours one gets depends upon which county you apply in and what worker you get.

The statute, California Welfare and Institutions Code Section 12305.7 through .82 provide for the development of policies and procedures to ensure that caseworkers appropriately apply the supportive services uniformity system and other supportive services rules and policies for assessing recipients' need for services to the end that there are accurate assessments of needs and hours.

There is an IHSS Stakeholders group and then

there are subgroups, such as the (1) fraud detection workgroup; (2) state/county procedures workgroup; (3) regulation workgroup; (4) hourly task guidelines workgroup; (5) forms workgroup; and (6) social worker training workgroup.

The workgroups will convene in Sacramento at various locations. CDSS has said they will post the meeting locations on the CDSS web page which has yet to be done. **Thus, to find out the location of the meetings, simply call CDSS at 916-229-4583 or contact Kevin Aslanian at CCWRO at 916-712-0071.**

**IHSS SB 2014 WORKGROUP  
MEETING LIST**

<b>Fraud detection</b>	<b>4/7/05</b>
<b>State/county procedures</b>	<b>4/12/05</b>
<b>Regulation</b>	<b>4/15/05</b>
<b>IHSS Stakeholders</b>	<b>4/22/05</b>
<b>Hourly task guidelines</b>	<b>4/26/05</b>
<b>Forms</b>	<b>4/29/05</b>
<b>Fraud detection</b>	<b>5/6/05</b>
<b>State/county procedures</b>	<b>5/10/05</b>
<b>Hourly task guidelines</b>	<b>5/20/05</b>
<b>Forms</b>	<b>5/24/05</b>
<b>State/county procedures</b>	<b>6/7/05</b>
<b>Fraud detection</b>	<b>6/17/05</b>
<b>Forms</b>	<b>6/24/05</b>
<b>Hourly task guidelines</b>	<b>6/28/05</b>
<b>Social worker training</b>	<b>6/29/05</b>

The first workgroup to meet was FRAUD. The room was filled with fraud investigators hoping to get a lot of money to hire welfare fraud investigators. Alameda County had a district attorney present who gave a 20 minute speech talking about IHSS fraud by recipients, but was totally silent on the widespread and systematic fraud being perpetrated upon IHSS recipients by county welfare workers who authorize IHSS recipients less hours than they are entitled to.

CDSS made a presentation about overpayment which was very dismissive of the underpayment problem. A number of persons in the group spoke up about overpayments and underpayments not getting equal attention. CDSS agreed to consider underpayments.

In Butte County window washing is not considered an eligible IHSS activity. If an IHSS provider claims time for washing windows, this could be **fraud** and the IHSS provider could be prosecuted for **IHSS fraud**.

There was a discussion whether or not an IHSS provider could be paid for accompanying an IHSS recipient to the doctor. Most counties pay only transportation for the person to the doctor's office and only for bringing the person back. There is no payment for time spent with the IHSS client with translation assistance during the medical appointment, ambulating during the medical appointment or assistance with going to the toilet. CDSS staff stated that time spent with the IHSS client can be paid if the services of the provider is needed while waiting in the doctor's office.

A Marin County representative urged DSS to promulgate statewide uniform standards.

At the end of the meeting the group was informed by a legislative staffer, Christian Griffith, that the purpose of this effort is not "fraud detection", rather it is to establish a statewide system to assure uniform treatment of IHSS applicants and recipients throughout the State of California. Some of the county welfare fraud staff disagreed and were under the impression that the major purpose of this effort is "fraud detection".

CCWRO will be reporting on these meetings in our future bulletins



## TANF REAUTHORIZATION UPDATE

It is anticipated that Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) reauthorization will be debated on the Senate floor as early as this week. The Senate bill includes \$6 billion in additional funding for child care; a transitional jobs program; and the replacement of the caseload reduction credit with an employment credit to the states.

The House bill has cleared the Ways and Means Committee subcommittee on Human Resources. However, the House of Representatives is Tom DeLay land, where anything can pass the House notwithstanding committees.

The TANF legislation has been extended until June 30, 2005. Stay tuned for more BAD news. TANF reauthorization will only bring misery to impoverished families with babies and children and happiness for the welfare/worker bureaucrats - the darlings of the congressional Republicans.

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