



CCWRO Welfare News

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Maximum Family Grant (MFG) Rule To End - Effective January 1, 2017



Also gone:

- Once-in-a-life-time (to once-a-year) for CalWORKs Homeless Assistance
- Medi-Cal Estate Recovery

What Else Did We Get?

- \$10 monthly increase in CalWORKs Grants
 - \$4 monthly increase in SSI grants
 - \$45 million for County SSI Advocacy
- Maximum CalFresh Certification Periods
- \$8.7 million more for Community College CalWORKs Programs
- \$15 million for California Immigration Services
- \$5 million additional Equal Access Funds

By Monday all of these changes will be in trailer bills that would be publicly available. The budget committees will have hearings on the bills next week and the budget bill and trailer bill will be signed before 6-15-16.

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In Brief

Paul Ryan's Way of Fighting Poverty - Take from the Poor & Give to the Bureaucacy

✓ The California SAWS System will consolidate all current on-line application portals into one portal some-time between 2017 and 2018. This statewide portal will be used for CalWORKs, CalFresh and Medi-Cal. For some reason this new system will not have a solution to the *current highly flawed inter-county-transfer process* for persons to report a new address and allow the system to trigger and complete the inter-county transfer process.

✓ On March 25, 2016, David O'Meara of Orange County asked DSS if drug felons are eligible for post aid child care? On March 28, 2016, Linda Horne of DSS responded that "Once ex-felons have exhausted their cash aid, they will continue to be eligible for child care as a former recipient in Stages One and/or Two.

✓ Elaine Carroll, Deputy Director for DSS Adult Services plans to retire at the end of the year.

✓ According to DSS' FSP 14 reports during January 2016, a total of 3,038 WtW participants received Family Stabilization Program services. 1,313 participants received "other" services. The remaining 1,725 participants received various services, such as 468 participants received domestic violence services, 1,434 participants received mental health services and 267 participants received substance abuse services. As to why 38% would receive "other" is puzzling. Some counties use the "other" category such as for a child seat, but that should be an ancillary service and not a family stabilization cost. Persons in Family Stabilization (FS) are entitled to supportive services that includes ancillary services. Ancillary services is any necessary expense that the participant needs in order to participate in his or her WtW activity, including FS, other than transportation and child care.

✓ The California Welfare Sanctions Machine has more WtW Participants in Sanction than participating in some counties. There are 17 counties in California that have more sanctioned participants than actual WtW participants.

County	WtW Sanctions	WtW Participants
Madera	422	112
San Joaquin	3476	1192
Kern	5031	2398
San Bernardino	10628	9377
Merced	1325	1235

Paul Ryan, Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives, announced a "new plan" to fight poverty – block grants – that has been around and continuously rejected for two (2) centuries. He calls it "a better way" but for the poor it will be a "worse way."

While the authors of "A Better Way" have denounced the slow recovery of the economy and pointing out that the real unemployment rate is 11% and not 5%, there is no acknowledgement that unemployment and underemployment exist in the United States. "A Better Way" also ignores that adequate jobs are not being created to meet the needs of the population. However, this flawed plan imposes work requirements without concrete evidence that there are jobs available, which they know it is not true

This proposal borrows heavily on the alleged success of the TANF program. Yes, TANF was a real success for the state bureaucracies – they flourished in new found money, while families with babies and children endured misery and deep poverty. Before TANF 70% of the money went to "payments to families". After TANF only 30% of the money goes to payments to families. The program is called "Temporary Assistance to Needy Families" (TANF), but it really is "Temporary Assistance to Needy States" (TANS).

Ryan's flawed proposal calls for "stronger work requirements" based on the false premise that poor people just don't want to work. As we said above, where are the jobs? Moreover, is there a work requirement for giving farm subsidies for billionaires who simply sit and count their money?

This proposal would also block grant such programs as the Supplemental Security Income (SSI) and housing programs.

The Paul Ryan plan would mean more misery for poor Americans, including children and families. This is a anti-poor and anti-family proposal that should be buried like the George Bush proposal to privatize social security.

Managed Care Plans Fleecing California Taxpayers

Annually there are at least 30,000 Medi-Cal cases where the Medi-Cal recipients move from one county to another. Although the Medi-Cal beneficiary may not be able to access the same managed care services in the new county, the old managed care plan (MCP) continues to collect monthly payments for allegedly providing medical assistance until the case transfers and disenrollment occurs. For adults MCPs collect about \$300 a month and for children over \$100 a month. Assuming it takes a month or two, this is an estimated 6 million dollars that we believe MCPs are fleecing California taxpayers.

The Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) is a major contributor to this multi-million fleecing of California taxpayers.

Medi-Cal beneficiaries who relocate should be able to go on-line and disenroll from the MCP that is not serving them. However, DHCS opposes this and insists that Medi-Cal beneficiaries should try to contact their welfare worker who will disenroll them on-line, or the DHCS ombudsman office.

Recently, welfare workers in Los Angeles County complained that they experience great difficulties contacting the DHCS Ombudsman office by phone to disenroll Medi-Cal beneficiaries who are no longer living in their county. The reason that Los Angeles County workers call the DHCS ombudsman office rather than doing the disenrollment on-line, is because Los Angeles County did not allow welfare workers to have access to the internet.

Medi-Cal recipients should have the same access to disenroll that welfare workers have, especially given the fact that many Medi-Cal recipients have to go to contact a call-centers to talk to somebody. Often Medi-Cal recipients are asked to leave a message. But the message does not say exactly when they would get a call back. Many times when the call-back comes the Medi-Cal recipient is out shopping or doing other errands. Some message say "we will call you back in 24-hours". Does that mean the Medi-Cal recipient has to sit in front of the phone for 24-hours waiting for the call?

IHSS CMIPS BLUES

Santa Barbara County developed their own database called Client Assessment and Documentation Instrument (CADI) that not only shows the hours and minutes of services authorized, but it also show the calculations of Paramedical, Respiratory services, Ambulation and Accompaniment to Medical Appointment hours. The State has its own statewide computer system called Case Management Information and Payrolling System II (CMIPS II). DSS insists that Santa Barbara County insert the authorized hours for the various IHSS services in CMIPS II so that DSS quality control staff and data collectors can review. DSS has informed counties during a webcast that "documentation outside of CMIPS II will no longer be accepted, but Santa Barbara states that they never received an ACL to this effect.

Santa Clara County had an IHSS Quality Control review on February 9-12, 2016. Seventy cases were reviewed with 13 cases had Paramedical Services. Seven cases had authorized hours that were less than the hours indicated by the licensed health care professional on the SOC 321. The DSS letter to Santa Clara County stated "If the county determines that the Paramedical Services tasks take less time than the time indicated on the SOC 321, the county should contact the health care professional signing the form to discuss their concerns. If the health care professional agrees that less time is required, a new form should be obtained (ACL No. 08-18)

ACL 08-18-13. "Q: The Paramedical form (SOC 321) needs revision, as it is unclear and many doctors do not understand the IHSS definition of Paramedical services. Can the county fill out the form for the physician to sign for completion if he/she concurs? A: The CDSS has modified the Paramedical form (SOC 321) for clarity. The new version was released in April 2006. Counties may have social workers identify the IHSS Paramedical services by filling out the form and then having the physician sign for completion. Additionally, some counties with Public Health Nurses (PHNs) have their PHNs contact the recipient's physician's office and speak with his/her nurse to explain the SOC 321 form and suggest timeframes for the Paramedical Services being requested. The PHN then faxes a partially completed SOC 321 to the doctor's office where she/he can review and sign it for completion. The fact the physician signs as the appropriate licensed health care professional complies with the requirements of MPP Section 30-757.19."

This is why county workers unlawfully contact doctors and have policies that the IHSS beneficiary is not allowed to submit a form to the doctor.

Counties should comply with 19-007.11 which provides: "Permission If the applicant or recipient does not wish the county to contact a private or public source in order to determine eligibility, the applicant or recipient shall have the opportunity to obtain the desired information or verification himself or herself." 3

WtW Update plus SB 1041 Impact Analysis January 2016 California Welfare-to-Work Program Outcomes REPORT

How Much Do We Spend and What Do We Get?

A lot of Sanctions. Very Few Work.

Welfare-to-Work OR Welfare-to-Sanction?

*\$2.3 billion could be better used to lift California's Children,
who lead the Nation in Child Poverty, out of deep poverty.*

	June, 2012	June, 2013	June, 2014	June, 2015
Number of Unduplicated Participants Participating in a WtW Activity	117,336	119,946	122,710	118,365
Sanctioned Previously and Currently	48,000	51,552	62,734	59,083
Noncompliance this Month	25,835	26,513	27,373	38,150
Good Cause this Month	12,776	13,503	16,539	15,936
Set for Sanctioned this Month or Next Month	13,059	13,0100	10,834	22,214
TOTAL Number of Families Being Sanctioned and to be Sanctioned Next Month	61,859	64,562	73,568	81,297
PERCENTAGE Unduplicated Participants Being Sanctioned this Month and to be Sanctioned Next Month	53%	54%	60%	69%
Secondary Education	420	175	175	123
Self-Initiated Program (SIP)	10,078	10,506	7,784	6,280
TOTAL Participants in Secondary Education - College	10,498	10,935	7,959	6,403
Percentage of Secondary Education	9%	7%	6%	5%
Dollar Loss to CalWORKs Families Due to Sanctions this Month Estimates at \$125 Per Sanction	\$7,732,375	8,070,250	\$9,196,000	\$10,162,125
Number of Unduplicated Participants Who Entered Employment That Resulted In Termination of CalWORKs		4,108	3,567	4,528
Percentage of Unduplicated Participants Who Entered Employment That Resulted In Termination of CalWORKs	3% 3\$2,284,070.000	3%	3%	4%
Total Cost for Employment Services & Child Care	\$2,284,070,000	\$2,284,070,000	\$2,284,070,000	\$2,284,070,000
Taxpayer Cost Per Unduplicated Participants Who Entered Employment That Resulted In Termination of CalWORKs	\$46,801	\$46,334	\$53,361	\$42,036
	3%			