

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

744 P Street, Sacramento, California 95814



September 6, 2000

ALL COUNTY INFORMATION NOTICE NO. I-86-00

REASON FOR THIS TRANSMITTAL

TO: ALL COUNTY WELFARE DIRECTORS
ALL WELFARE-TO-WORK COORDINATORS

- State Law Change
- Federal Law or Regulation
- Change
- Court Order
- Clarification Requested by One or More Counties
- Initiated by CDSS

SUBJECT: Regional Mental Health/Substance Abuse/Domestic Abuse Forums

The purpose of this letter is to inform counties of the California Department of Social Services (CDSS) plans to conduct five regional forums, "Beyond CalWORKs Implementation: Building Collaborative Systems." These forums are intended to assist counties in providing California Work Opportunity and Responsibility to Kids (CalWORKs) mental health, substance abuse and domestic abuse services.

As you may know, Children and Family Futures conducted five regional forums across California over the last two years. The forums, funded through a contract with the Department of Alcohol and Drug Programs (DADP), provided technical assistance to counties and providers on issues related to CalWORKs. Planning is in progress for a second round of forums to address more up-to-date issues related to CalWORKs mental health, substance abuse and domestic abuse services. The CDSS supports this effort, and is in the process of securing a contract for these services. The California Institute of Mental Health's CalWORKs project is also providing support for this effort.

The second round of forums will not duplicate the goals of the first. These forums are intended to help refine county efforts in CalWORKs implementation, share models of successful programs, and further efforts across the state to adequately, appropriately and collaboratively maximize funds for CalWORKs supportive services. The second round will also include a domestic abuse component, and is intended to assist and support collaborative efforts between domestic abuse providers and county CalWORKs welfare to work services. In addition, two pre-forum institutes are planned with separate tracks for domestic violence providers and workforce development organizations.

The first round of forums took place in Oakland, Los Angeles, Riverside, Redding and Fresno, and the second round of forums are planned for the same locations. Dates for each two-day forum are currently being set. The Oakland Forum, serving the Bay Area counties, is scheduled at the Oakland Airport Hilton November 2-3, 2000. The Riverside Forum, serving the Southern counties, is planned for January of 2001. The Los Angeles

Forum, serving Los Angeles County, is planned for early March of 2001. The Redding Forum, serving the Northern counties, is planned for May of 2001, and the Fresno Forum, serving the Central Valley counties, is planned for June of 2001.

A critical aspect of the forums is local involvement in the planning from each of the regions. The previous forums included dynamic speakers on the topics of CalWORKs implementation and service system collaboration. Additionally, forum workshops covered all elements related to CalWORKs such as: employment issues, women's issues, the basics of alcohol and other drug abuse (AOD), mental health and domestic abuse, outcomes measures, fiscal issues, children's issues, cultural competency, and technology. Counties within each region provided valuable input during the planning process, including forum structure and content, to assist in making them a success.

A statewide planning committee has developed a basic structure for the second round of forums. Planning committee participants included representatives from Children and Family Futures, California Institute for Mental Health, Family Violence Prevention Fund, California Department of Social Services, California Workforce Association, The Domestic Violence Working Group, Sacramento County Alcohol and Drug Bureau, Kern County Mental Health, and Stanislaus Community Services Agency.

Several county administrators have already committed to representing their regions on regional planning committees. Counties within each region are again encouraged to participate in local planning meetings and conference calls. County participation will assist in determining forum structure and content, identify speakers, and coordinate participation from each county representative. Ideally, planning in each region will involve staff representing alcohol and drugs, mental health, domestic abuse and CalWORKs Welfare to Work. Enclosed please find a draft agenda intended to provide initial information. This agenda is a sample, and each forum will be tailored to the needs of the counties in the region. For example, a lengthy list of workshops is suggested; the planning group from each region will help determine which of these workshops will be offered at your particular forum. Counties wishing to participate may do so by contacting Karen Sherman at (714) 505-3525 or by sending an e-mail to Ksherman@cffutures.com.

We look forward to working with you in this effort to strengthen partnerships on behalf of CalWORKs participants in your region and across the state. If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact Jennifer Calat , Program Analyst, at (916) 654-1441 or by e-mail at jcalate@dss.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

*Original Signed by Jo Weber
On 9/6/00*

JO WEBER, Chief
Work Services and Demonstration Projects Branch

Enclosure

CalWORKs Regional Forums
“Beyond CalWORKs Implementation: Building Collaborative Systems”
Draft Agenda

- 8:30 – 9:00** **Coffee and Registration – Receive Team Assignments**
- 9:00 – 10:30** **Opening Remarks and Morning Plenary Session**
“Relationship Building in CalWORKs” – Welcome and Introductions (Local Presentation)
“The Current State of CalWORKs Supportive Services: AOD/MH/DV” – DSS Presentation
“Integrating Domestic Violence Services in CalWORKs” – DV Presentation
“Coordinating Workforce Development and Supportive Services” – Employment Presentation
“A Personal Story” – Program Graduate Presentation
- 10:30 – 10:45** **Break and Networking**
- 10:45 – 12:15** **Session #1: Meetings in Cross-County Teams** *(to be facilitated by Resource Leaders)*
- 12:00 – 1:15** **Lunch**
- 1:15 – 2:45** **Workshop Sessions**
- Program Models: Incorporating Workforce and DV
Program Models: Coordinating One-Stops and AOD/MH/DV Services
Program Models: Home Visitation & Assessing for AOD/MH/DV Barriers
Program Models: Using Collaborative Teams for Outreach to Sanctioned/Hard-to-Reach Populations
Program Models: Building an Employment Focus into AOD/MH/DV Services
Domestic Violence 101 / Basics of DV
Employment 101 / Basics of Employment
Aftercare Supports / Job Retention for Participants with AOD/MH/DV Barriers
Fiscal Issues: Billing and Claiming for AOD/MH Services
Client Engagement and Motivation
AOD/MH/DV Services for People Who Are Exempt (e.g. families)
Serving Children and Youth in Vulnerable Families
Serving Older Teens and Teen Moms
Integrating Domestic Violence Services in CalWORKs
Integrating Employment Services in CalWORKs: Challenges & Strategies
Serving Refugee & Immigrant Populations: Identifying and Referring for AOD/MH/DV
- 2:45 – 3:00** **Break and Networking**
- 3:00 – 4:15** **Session #2: In-County Planning – Refining Implementation**
- 4:15 – 4:45** **Wrap Up and Final Comments**



Save The Date

CalWORKs Regional Forum

“Beyond CalWORKs Implementation: Building Collaborative Systems”

Participate in an interactive forum for supportive service providers on transitioning clients from welfare to work.



Up-to-date issues regarding CalWORKs supportive services

Forum participants will include staff and administrators from county alcohol and drug agencies, mental health agencies, domestic violence providers, and employment and workforce development organizations.

This forum is designed for Bay Area Counties:

Alameda, Contra Costa, Marin, Monterey, Napa, Sacramento, San Benito, San Francisco, San Mateo, Santa Clara, Santa Cruz, Solano, Sonoma

★ **November 2 - 3, 2000** ★

Oakland Airport Hilton

Day 1: Domestic Violence Service Providers
or Workforce Development Agencies

Planning Meetings:

- ✓ August 31 at 2:00pm: Conference call - (916) 552-6503
 - ✓ September 20 1-4pm in Oakland
 - ✓ October 18 at 2:00pm: Conference call - (916) 552-6503
- (Information to follow for Planning Committee Members)

Questions? Call Karen Sherman,
Children and Family Futures at (714) 505-3525 or email: ksherman@cffutures.com



Participating Agencies: Department of Social Services, Alcohol & Drug Programs, and Department of Mental Health; Provided by: The CalWORKs Project: Children and Family Futures, California Institute of Mental Health, and Family Violence Prevention Fund

