



TCDSS The Social Network

TCDSS by the numbers
for May/June 2011:

- 38 Clients obtained employment
- 12,444 Lobby walk-ins
- 1298 New Assistance applications
- 244 Child Welfare referrals
- 215 Adult Services referrals

July/August 2011

From the desk of the Director



**Charlene Reid, MSW
Director**

Dear Staff, Friends, and Partners:

Please take time to read the articles in this edition of our newsletter - informative and relevant for everyone! We are moving ahead with our work and our budget, at this point, is stable here at TCDSS. I want to highlight a few current issues of interest:

- Cal WORKs families have experienced an 8% reduction in their monthly benefits beginning July 1 resulting in a dramatic impact on families and children. The next cut reduces the maximum amount of time for aided adults from 60 months to 48 months. This goes into effect in August.
- The Legislature and Governor reversed a couple of the Cal-WORKs cuts passed back in March, but also put in place some new "trigger" cuts that would occur in January in IHSS if the State's revenue projections don't materialize.
- Starting in October the release of parolees from California prisons to California counties will begin. We expect that there will be approximately 150 released over time (about a year) . I will be working with leaders in Tehama County on the issues and needs of this population and the impact on our services here at TCDSS.
- Health care reform is likely to bring new work to TCDSS and we are proactively planning to gear up hiring and training of new Eligibility Staff.

We continue to have a lot on our plate and you all are working hard every day to serve the community. I appreciate your dedication. I will continue to advocate and work hard to maintain and grow our ability to be the best in our field. Thanks!

Charlene

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Assist. Empower. Protect.


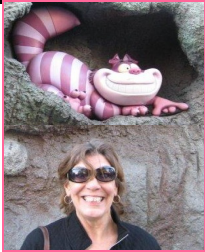
Lawrie Salvestrin— Tops at TCDSS

The year was 1975 and Edmund G. Brown, Jr. was Governor, but wait, Edmund G. Brown Jr. is currently the Governor of California, so little has changed, but yet again, so much has changed since **Lawrie Salvestrin** became an eligibility worker, then social worker for Tehama County Department of Social Services thirty-six years ago. Sitting at the number one spot on the seniority list for the department carries a historical marker that very few can achieve!

In 1975 the historic Oroville Earthquake hit, with a magnitude of 5.8, it was the first recorded tremor on the Sierra Nevada fault line; the Billboard Top 100 song was “Love Will Keep Us Together”, by the Captain and Tennille; ‘One Flew Over the Cuckoo’s Nest’ won the Academy Award, with Jack Nicholson picking up the Best Actor award; The game show, “Wheel of Fortune” debuted; and the long running television show, “Saturday Night Live” premiered with George Carlin as its first host. Those were the days that so few of us remember, but played an integral part in the beginning of Lawrie’s long standing career with TCDSS.

We asked Lawrie a few questions about her time here at TCDSS. This is what she had to say.

Q: What are the biggest changes you have seen in your 36 years working for TCDSS?

THEN	NOW
<div style="display: flex; align-items: center;">  <div style="flex-grow: 1;"> <p>Staff size 45 1 unit of 5-6 in each division</p> <p>NO Computers, everything done on paper, budgets, interviews, etc.</p> <p>Food Stamps issued on paper coupons, and paper Medi-cal cards</p> <p>Sign out car from bulletin board</p> <p>No bilingual staff, had to use Dept. of Education</p> </div> </div>	<div style="display: flex; align-items: center;"> <div style="flex-grow: 1;"> <p>Staff size 160+ Multiple units in each division</p> <p>Computers that calculate benefits, etc.</p> <p>Food Stamps on EBT cards, plastic Medi-cal cards</p> <p>Entire fleet of county cars</p> <p>Bilingual staff located throughout office</p> </div>  </div>

Q: What do you like to do in your free time?

A: Mostly anything outdoors, like working in my cacti garden or going for long walks and listening to a variety of music.

Q: Do you have a favorite memory while working for TCDSS?

A: Trainings and free time at Asilomar in Pacific Grove and long time friendship with co-workers.

Q: Do you see yourself ever retiring? If so, what would you like to do?

A: Looking forward to retiring. Hope to travel to Italy and Australia where I have relatives I have never met and spending more time with and assisting my aging parents.

Q: Did you have a ‘fantasy’ job that you always wanted to do?

A: In grade school I was going to be a kindergarten teacher, in high school I was going to be a home economics teacher and in college I decided to get my degree in social services. I feel I found my niche in Adult Services.

Q: Do you have anything you would like to share with us?

A: Keep a balance. I’d like to quote from California State University at Chico President Paul Zingg. “I urge you to continue to seek greater meaning in your life. This may require an act of faith when faced with the chaos and complexity and even the insane brutality that exist in parts of our world today. But stay close to your family and friends; Find solace in nature, be kind to one another, and recognize that your spirit, no less than your body, requires nourishment.”

Thank you Lawrie for your 36 years!

The Social Butterflies

By Carol Backus

The Social Services agency was represented in the community very well this year by the Social Butterfly team at the Relay for Life event May 21 and 22, 2011 held at the Vista Middle School track.

Relay for Life is an event that not only raises money for the American Cancer Society to help fight cancer of all kinds, but it is an event that allows us to celebrate our friends and loved ones who are survivors of cancer, and to remember those who we have lost to the disease.

In our second year, The Social Butterflies had a fundraising goal to reach the GOLD level by raising \$5000.00. With the generosity and support of the people of this agency the team not only reached the goal, but surpassed it by raising \$5503.54, and with over 70 teams participating, the Social Butterflies ranked third place in the team fundraising category!

The team of 26 dedicated and passionate members held fundraisers as well as collecting private donations. Some of the fundraisers held included a Silent Auction, bake sales, an ice cream social, taco feed, and an offsite wine tasting event in Mantion.

The Social Butterfly team would like to extend our thanks to everyone who so generously supported us. Thank you very much!



WORK FIRST

By: Tara Loucks-Shepherd

In less than three months, a team made up of staff from multiple divisions, including, administration, employment services, system support, clerical, and maintenance, were able to find, lease, and begin preparations for a new employment services Work First Center.

This new center will be the hub of activities for employment services participants. It will increase the number of drop in activities that are accessible to clients, by allowing them to come into the center Monday thru Friday from 9:00am to 5:00pm to work on resumes, job search, make employment contacts, attend computer trainings, and much more. It will also allow Employment and Training Workers to have hands on training with their participants for a minimum of four hours per week. The overall goal of the Work First Center is to increase participation rates and prepare our participants for employment.



The center will have two main areas: the computer lab, and the classroom. The computer lab will have five stations for participants to work on activities such as: Custom Guide computer training, which will give an opportunity for hands on experience in Microsoft programs, the KeyTrain program, which is an employment skill driven curriculum, resumes, job applications, and applying for unemployment benefits. The computer lab will also house a fax machine, printer, and phone for employment related activities.

The classroom portion of the center will serve two purposes; it will be classroom set up, with up to 12 laptops when needed. The ACHIEVE curriculum, a workplace readiness training, created through Shasta College and modified by workshop facilitators will be administered by ETW Leads. There will also be job search and life skills training (including financial literacy, nutrition, computer orientation, etc.). Community partners will also be invited to present to, or train participants in this facility.

The possibilities for the Work First Center are endless. Not only do we want to prepare our participants for employment by providing them training, skills, and knowledge, but it is "Our hope to also be able to provide a Job ready clothes closet, so we can help our clients dress for success" stated Supervisor, Sandy Foster. We are looking forward to helping our participants become self sufficient by taking a hands on, Work First approach to their learning and training experience.

TCDSS Staff Participate in Disaster Drill

On Tuesday, May 17, 2011, nine TCDSS staff members participated in a practice drill for the Tehama County Office of Emergency Services whereas a mock flood was enacted to practice the implementation of Emergency Services. TCDSS staff met with representatives from other county departments and the Red Cross to implement and refine procedures as if a real flood had actually occurred.

California Welfare Departments are designated as responsible for setting up shelter facilities if a disaster occurs in their county. TCDSS staff were able to sit in the Situation Room of the Office of Emergency Services to listen as status reports were filtered through radio broadcasts and then observe a partial shelter set-up at the Fairgrounds. These mock scenarios provide opportunities for staff to view firsthand what goes on during a disaster, when no real disaster is occurring.

Staff who participated were chosen based on their designation as a lead or alternate for their division to act in coordinating the set-up of a shelter. Those staff who participated were: Abbi Henderson, Brinda Boe, Cheryl Jackson, Elisa Morgan, John Buckley, Lisa Matheson, Sherry Wehby, Teri Dean, and Lisa Tadlock.

Calendar of TCDSS Events

August

17 - Soda Bop & 50/50 Raffle
Jr. Mints

September

5 - Labor Day Holiday

October

TBA - Dessert Silent Auction
Jr. Mints

10 - Columbus Day Holiday

For more information about the events listed in the calendar, please email info@tcdss.org.

Word Puzzle

In each of these puzzles, there are two double blanks. Fill in the blanks with the same pair of letters to complete an English word. For example, use the letter-pair *ac* in *b_kp_k* to make the word *backpack*

#1 a _ _ a _ _ a

#2 _ _ i _ _

Answers for above are hidden within the Survey. Please take a moment to complete our brief 4 question survey, and see if you guessed correctly!

<http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/NYRKHZS>

Division News

Adult Services

In Home Supportive Services has been a hot issue on the Governor's Budget. In the last 12 months: IHSS has seen new provider rules go into effect that prevent people with certain felonies from being able to be providers to IHSS clients; taking an across the board cut of 3.6% in hours to every client; and still more cuts are in the revised budget. Emphasis has also been placed on the prevention of fraud. Our IHSS social workers are committed to help combat fraud to help save the IHSS program.

We have placed large colorful flyers in some of the local businesses, to tell people what fraud is, and how to report it. We also have Newspaper ads and Radio ads on several stations to advertise the IHSS program, describe what fraud is, and how to report it.

With all of these combined efforts, Tehama, as well as most of the other counties, are seeing a decrease in fraud. We thank everyone for their commitment to stop fraud and save the IHSS program.

Fiscal and Clerical

Q: What do you do if you are using a copy or fax machine and it breaks down?

A: Email **Group Supply Orders**. Clerical staff will take a look to clear paper jams, replace toner, and/or call for repairs.

But, what if you need to finish the print/fax job right now? There are other copy and fax machines in the building, so the project can move to another location for completion.

It is preferred that Clerical staff try to fix and/or clear jams because attempts by untrained staff can cause further damage, making the machine inoperable for a longer period of time. We appreciate your cooperation and patience.

Community Action Agency/ Employment Services

CAA Summer Programs and Partnerships

160 City Pool Tickets through Employment Services

30 youth "Fun Zone" sponsorships through Northern Valley Catholic Social Services

Fan Drive for the Elderly through Adult Services

Free Diapers through Child Welfare*

Electronic Benefit Transfer at the Farmer's Market*

Weatherization for the Elderly through Job Training Center*

*Still in implementation phase

Child Welfare Services

On June 30th, CWS welcomed Team Decisionmaking (TDM) expert and trainer, Karri Biehle, for a day of learning and conversation about honing the use of TDM at all placement decision points in the course of working with children and families. This event marked the beginning of a series of on-site technical assistance visits with Ms. Biehle scheduled over the next few months. This assistance is designed to provide CWS with an opportunity to assess the current use of the TDM model and support the division in improving their practice. The process will include additional trainings, focus groups, and meetings, including with community partners/stakeholders

Assistance Programs

CMSP INTRODUCES PATH2HEALTH

In March 2010, Congress passed and the President signed into law the Affordable Care Act (ACA), which puts in place comprehensive health insurance reforms that will hold insurance companies more accountable, lower health care costs, guarantee more health care choices, and enhance the quality of health care for all Americans. Out of this reform came Low Income Health Plans (LIHP).

Currently we (in private healthcare) can keep our children on our health coverage through the age of 26. For public programs it's a little different. Medi-Cal covers families with children only until that child reaches age 21. At 21 that child becomes an adult and can access CMSP (County Medical Services Program) from 21-64 with income at or below 200% Federal Poverty Level (FPL) in aid codes 84, 85, 88 and 89.

- 84—Individuals under 67% FPL have no share of cost (SOC)
- 85—Individual over 67% FPL with a SOC
- 88—Individual under 67% FPL no SOC waiting for a disability determination
- 89—Individual over 67% FPL with a SOC waiting for a disability determination
- 50—Undocumented emergency services with and without a SOC 2 month enrollment

Starting January 1, 2012, CMSP will introduce Path2Health which is CMSP's new name for the LIHP. Under this new plan counties will need to verify citizenship and identity (DRA) and aid code 84, 85, 88, & 89 change:

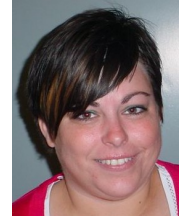
- 84—Individuals under 100% FPL, asset waiver, no SOC – Path2Health
- 85—Individual over 100% FPL with a SOC – CMSP
- 88—Individuals at or below 67% FPL, Non-DRA otherwise eligible no SOC - CMSP
- 89—Individuals at or above 68% FPL, Non-DRA otherwise eligible with a SOC - CMSP
- 50—No changes – CMSP

http://www.cmspcounties.org/pdf_files/CMSPLIHPWEB.pdf

Meet Our New Staff for May June July 2011



Andrew Plett
Social Service
Aide-CWS



Callie Liefesen
Office Assistant I



Debra Clarke
Office Assistant II
Extra Help



Grant Watkins
Information Systems
Analyst I



Laura Rodriguez
Eligibility Worker I



Richard Phillips
Social Service
Aide - CWS



Sandra Valerio
Eligibility Worker I

PROMOTIONS

Francyne Thomas
was promoted to
Account Clerk III

Bret Foley
was promoted to
Office Assistant I

Congratulations !

Newsletter Feedback Survey: <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/NYRKHZS>

