



The Informer

Colorado Welfare Fraud Council

Message From The President - Mark Magnuson

December 28, 2009

Volume 10, Issue 3

As we all face a new year, I hope that the reflections of the past are on the positive note for you. I hope that you can look back on the year and see where you made a difference. You are each responsible for your own actions and accomplishments. Strive to be the very best that you can be.

I know with budget shortfalls and reduction of workforces we in the fraud area are having to justify our positions more often. I know of at least one county where the fraud unit was chopped in half. This was done when the fraud occurrences continue to climb with the ever increasing amount of applications for Public Assistance. With the economy as it is and the number of unemployed, more of the population is turning to the government

for help with basic needs, food and medical assistance. This is a time where we in the fraud area must reach out to our co-workers in eligibility. We must make sure that they have our support in every way. The majority of the time the eligibility worker is going to be the only person looking at a particular application. We must make sure that these persons sometimes referred to as the front line, know what fraud is and understand what they must do when they spot it. We must do everything that we can to make sure that our front line workers have everything they need to accomplish their jobs.

CWFC and CONECT are going to have a combined conference in May 2010, at Beaver Creek, Avon. The

dates for the conference are May 19-21. For those that are not familiar with CONECT, they were previously known as STABBS. The members of CONECT are generally our front line eligibility staff. We are hoping that this combined conference will be able to provide training to members of both organizations that they normally would not receive. Please, start making plans to attend the 2010 conference.

I want to express a very big thank you to all of the CWFC Officers and Board members and to all of the other persons on committees and boards elsewhere. All of this extra work is a direct reflection back on YOU! Thank you for sharing your time and expertise to make a difference in all that we do.

Inside this issue:

Message From The President	1
Conference Update	1
Perspective CWFC & Annual Training Conference	2
Radonna's Kitchen	2
Membership	3
Award Nomination Form	4
Membership Form	5

May 2010 Conference Update - Tammy Frey

We continue to work toward the 2010 conference in Beaver Creek with CONECT. Currently I am working on presentations for the trainings we are putting together. I would love to have any suggestions or recommendations for presentations and presenters. I am working on a

health tract to go along with the fraud prevention workshops, something that would look at the stress we are all feeling this year in relation to the dwindling budgets of our counties. If anyone knows of appropriate classes, stress management, self defense, etc...that would work for this tract,

please contact me at tammy.frey@state.co.us. This is, after all, your conference, and I feel that each and every one of you should have some input into the presentations and tracts that you will be attending. Thanks in advance for your assistance! Happy Holidays!!

Special points of interest:

- www.cwfc.us is Colorado Welfare Fraud Council's web page
- www.ucowf.org is the website for the United Council on Welfare Fraud
- www.cconline.org is the website for CCI-Colorado Counties, Inc.

Perspective - CWFC/Annual Training Conference

We want to tell you a story. A story of allegations including Medicare and Medicaid billing fraud, prescriptions abuse, non-existent disability exams, medical records and taxpayer abuse by a team of doctors spanning three counties and five clinics. As you may have heard, recently there was a massive, simultaneous raid in Mesa, Delta and Montrose counties related to clinics owned and operated by three doctors. Truck loads of records were seized and are still undergoing scrutiny by a combined joint taskforce of federal, state and local officers under the auspices of the U.S. Attorney General's Office, spearheaded by the federal level Health and Human Services Office of Inspector General, Office of Investigations.

The story to be told could be one of the usual kudos write-ups seen so often in these pages. The story could be told about the investigation process and all the events leading up to the end result going back more than five years, but patting two guys from two neighboring western slope counties on the back is not the point.

The REAL story we wish to convey is about teamwork and networking. About the Colorado Welfare Fraud Council and its annual training conference. The story includes the importance of keeping this conference going

and the opportunities that arise due to this organization and the face-to-face meeting of comrades, whether during the formal training sessions, breaks, off-time events and yes, even the sometimes less-than-supported Hospitality Suite.

You see, for our part, this started at the CWFC conference almost six years ago. Two of us were eating lunch along with some other friends, jawing about rights and wrongs and saving the world. One muttered about a particular doctor in a neighboring county, who had turned in a completed disability exam accompanied by the usual billing form for an AND applicant. These particular forms were date-stamped "received" the day before the applicant was in our office, apologizing for having failed to make it to his scheduled med exam with this doctor and promising to reschedule soon. During a break we spoke a little more, talking about this particular doctor getting paid more by one county than another, then demanding more money to even things out. The conversation continued into the night with more and more things coming to light during the Hospitality Suite.

The next day, we found ourselves in a class being presented by a HCPF Medicaid Fraud Investigator. You can bet we stayed late after that class, throwing

out all we had come up with, followed by vague promises of future contacts to follow. The next year we had more information and did the same thing with a different state-level investigator, which by now included our offers of helping to gather evidence. A few calls were made back and forth and the buds we had planted were fertilized.

The case progressed at what seemed to us to be a snail's pace until the Spring 2009 conference. This is where we found out things were now moving fast at the federal level, with a veritable alphabet soup of initials of federal agencies now involved including the aforementioned HHS and the DEA. We were sworn to silence and the evidence gathering at our level began. We gathered examples, copied forms and made several spread sheets, submitting evidence of about 180 different suspect cases to the HHS investigator along with other un-substantiated allegations. Two guys at the right place at the right time in the right format, that's what this story is about: a major investigation, still in progress, because of CWFC and the annual training conference's face-to-face networking.

Respectively submitted,

Mike Bradbury - Mesa County

Radonna's Kitchen - Radonna Vinger

CRANBERRY NUT BARK

1 pound white confectioners' coating

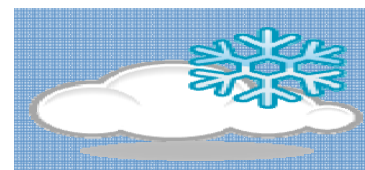
1/2 cup dried cranberries

1 (3.5 ounce) package macadamia nuts

Line one 10x15 inch cookie sheet with aluminum foil. Place white confectioners' coating (almond bark) in a microwave safe bowl, and microwave on medium heat until melted. Stir in cranberries and nuts.

Spread mixture out on foil, cool, and break into 1 1/2 inch pieces. Store in air tight container.

Servings Per Recipe: 24





Greetings from the 2009-2010 CWFC Membership Committee!

The Colorado Welfare Fraud Council is looking forward to an exciting year! The CWFC will be celebrating our 26th year as a professional organization dedicated to the prevention, detection, investigation and prosecution of welfare fraud, and the recovery of those fraudulently obtained public assistance funds. As Vice-President and chair of the Membership Committee, I would like to thank all members, past and present, for their contributions and commitment over the last quarter century which have made CWFC the great organization it is today.

CWFC Memberships for the year 2010 are now being accepted

The rewards of membership in the CWFC are many. CWFC members represent public assistance and fraud professionals from the county, state and federal level, the law enforcement and judicial community, and other professionals interested in preserving the intent and spirit of welfare fraud law and public assistance program integrity. CWFC annual memberships are honored from January 1st through December 31st inclusive. In light of these challenging economic times, CWFC annual memberships remain an affordable \$20.00 per year. Also, new members and returning members (non-current) who join now for the 2010 year will enjoy full membership privileges for the remainder of 2009 as well as the full 2010 calendar year. **I urge all current CWFC members to extend an awareness of the benefits of CWFC membership to your colleagues and associates, and to encourage them to join the Colorado Welfare Fraud Council.** Also, current CWFC members, please take a moment to provide your up to date contact information if it has changed. Let's make this a great year!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'James R. Rivers III'.

James R. Rivers III

Vice-President and Membership Committee Chair, CWFC, 2009-2010



Award Nomination Form

*****Nominees need not be CWFC members*****

(Check only one)

_____ *Ted Cole Memorial Award*

This award recognizes an individual or group who demonstrated excellence in performance that enhances the general principles and goals of the CWFC, public relations, positive contribution to newsletter, legislation, or other printed forums that relate to preventing public assistance fraud and the promotion of the CWFC.

_____ *Outstanding Group or Individual of the Year*

This award recognizes an individual or group of individuals who have made an important contribution and/or a major impact in the prevention, detection, prosecution, and recovery of fraudulently obtained public assistance within the last year.

_____ *Prosecutor of the Year*

This award recognizes an individual who has made an outstanding contribution and/or shown excellence in the prosecution of fraud.

_____ *Income Maintenance Tech, Eligibility Worker, or Case Manager of the Year*

This award recognizes an individual who has made an outstanding contribution and/or demonstrates excellence in the prevention of public assistance or food assistance fraud.

_____ *Recovery, Legal, Investigative Tech of the Year*

This award recognizes an individual who has made an outstanding contribution and/or demonstrates excellence in the recovery of public assistance or food assistance fraud.

_____ *Investigator of the Year*

This award includes all Investigators from local, state and federal levels. It recognizes an individual who has made an outstanding contribution and/or exhibited excellence in the investigation of fraud and program abuse.

Nominee: _____

Reason for Nomination-(please give details or attach nomination letter)

Your Name: _____ Phone #: _____

Fax or Email nominations to Sharon Beckers by April 09, 2010

Phone: 303 227 2122 Fax: 303 558 4172

E-mail: Sharon.Beckers@dss.co.adams.co.us

**Colorado Welfare Fraud
Council**

Colorado Welfare Fraud Council
P.O. Box 890
Canon City, CO 81215

We're on the web:
CWFC.US



CWFC Board Members

2009 - 2010 Officers

Mark Magnuson	President
Tammy Frey	President Elect
James Rivers III	Vice President
Shelley Poole	Treasurer
Jeff Bonadies	Secretary

2009 - 2010 Board Members

Sharon Beckers	Board Member
Lori Duffy	Board Member
Paula Lujan	Board Member
Jenn Parrilli	Board Member
Kristina Peterson	Board Member
Rogelio Segura	Board Member
Pamela Walter	Board Member
Shawn Southard	Board Member

CWFC Membership Form

PLEASE PRINT LEGIBLY

Name: _____ Date: _____

Agency: _____

Title: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____ (Ext) _____ Fax: _____

E-mail: _____

New member ___ Renewal ___ Returning Member ___ (Missed Last Year) ___ Change of Information ___

2010 Annual Membership is \$20.00. Membership is from January 1, through December 31. If you are joining or renewing your membership, please make check payable to CWFC and mail to CWFC, P.O. Box 890, Canon City, CO 81215.
