



Colorado Welfare Fraud Council

The Informer

Message From The President - Mark Magnuson

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.ccionline.org is the website for CCI-Colorado Counties, Inc.
- www.ourconnect.com is the new website for the organization formerly known as SSTABS

Inside this issue:

Message From The President	1
Conference Update	1
Thinking Outside of the Box	2
Radonna's Kitchen	2
Mesa County Employee Pleads Guilty to Welfare Fraud	3
Conference Flyer	4
Conference Registration	5
Membership Form	6

A year has almost gone by since I was elected President of CWFC. It is amazing how fast time goes by when you stay busy. I want to first thank all of our Officers and Board members for a job well done. All of these individuals invest many of their own hours into accomplishing the many projects that we seem to take on. I am still working with Janet Sullivan, Gerald Garcia and Ron Hymen, our State Registrar in getting Investigators access to COVIS. Hopefully this will happen sometime in the near future. We are working on an agreement to get this done.

Colorado Works continues to help CWFC develop and provide web based training. We are in the process of completing several classes that will be available soon.

I am hoping that you will be able to attend our joint conference with CONECT formally SSTABS in Avon, CO. May 19-21. Thanks to HCPF and Colorado Works we are planning on setting registration at \$95.00 for the first 300 attendees and \$155.00 thereafter reducing the cost of registration by about a \$100.00 per person for the first 300 attendees. We know that everyone is struggling financially and wanted to be able to make this conference economically feasible to all attendees. Included in registration will be all meals thus further reducing the costs to attendees. I think this joint conference has been a long time coming since we work so closely with our front line eligibility staff. All of the sessions will be open to all attendees. Please remember that these conferences offer so much more than

the sessions alone. The conference provides you the ability to network and discover new and better ways of doing business. Please take advantage of these opportunities and expand your contact lists.

Hopefully be now you have all received the flyer for the conference and registration. I hope to see you all at the conference.



Annual Training Conference Update -

Tammy Frey, President Elect

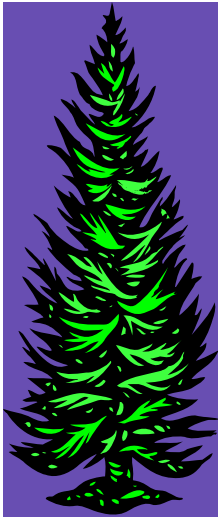
As the annual training conference gets closer, we are very excited to announce that due to donations from HCPF and Colorado Works, our registration has been dropped to \$95.00 for the first 300 attendees! That includes all meals! After the first 300, the registration will go up to \$155.00, so

get your registrations in quickly! This conference is shaping up to be one of the best, with over 40 presentations for fraud and eligibility. I am very excited that we will be able to provide this training to so many, for so little! The conference registration is included in this issue of The Informer,

with a link to the hotel for easy reference. A flyer was sent out with more details, including presentations that will be offered.

We Thank HCPF and Colorado Works for making this an affordable conference for all workers!

Thinking Outside of the Box - Jeff Bonadies



A Board Member name tag from last year's conference is missing. If you have it please contact Shelley Poole at Shelley.poole@state.co.us

We all know that effectively preventing fraud means being proactive instead of merely reactive. Rather than trying to discover fraudulent activities that have occurred, we devise tools to prevent it before hand. Pre-authorization investigations, also known as "Up Front" investigations are one such tool. But perhaps the best tool is thinking from the other side, taking the perspective of the potential perpetrator. Conejos County Investigator and CWFC member Stephanie Marquez has done just that.

In a recent investigators meeting, Stephanie brought up a potential flaw in the EBT card security system. She had been reviewing her county's procedures on EBT card replacement, and personal identification number ("PIN") assignment. To

replace an EBT card, the requesting party must be identified and provide his/her social security number. That prevents an unauthorized party from acquiring a card. So far, so good.

However, Investigator Marquez realized there is a different procedure when a cardholder requests the PIN be changed the PIN on "my" card number 9876. I provide identification, some, or reset, in the county office. The social security number is not required. What does this mean? Consider this scenario:

I am a recipient, with my own EBT card, number 1234. I steal, find, or otherwise come into possession of another recipient's card, number 9876. I tell my local county office that I've forgotten my PIN, one verifies that I am a recipient, and the PIN is reset. I now have access to an EBT card that may or may not have use-

able benefits. Staff from EBT has confirmed this is a viable scenario.

Several counties in the San Luis Valley have implemented a simple fix to the problem. Now, when a PIN reset is requested, a worker must verify that the card number is actually assigned to the person requesting the PIN change. If it is not, the card is confiscated and the requestor is referred to the investigation unit for a review of C.R.S. 18-5-702 Unauthorized use of a financial transaction device.

Congratulations to Stephanie Marquez for thinking this process through. This is another example of how thinking outside of the box makes fraud detection proactive.



Radonna's Kitchen - Lemon Blueberry Cheesecake

1 (3oz) lemon gelatin
1 cup boiling water
1 cup graham cracker crumbs
2 TBLSP butter, melted
1 TBLSP canola oil
3 cups (24) oz fat-free cottage cheese
¼ cup sugar

In a large bowl, dissolve gelatin in boiling water. Cool. In a small bowl, combine the crumbs, butter and oil. Press into the bottom of a 9in spring form pan. Chill.

In a blender, cover and process cottage cheese and sugar until smooth.

While processing, slowly add cooled gelatin. Pour into crust; cover and refrigerate overnight.

TOPPING:

2 TBLSP sugar
1 ½ tsp cornstarch
¼ cup water
1 1/3 cup fresh or frozen blueberries, divided
1 tsp lemon juice

For topping, in a small saucepan, combine sugar and cornstarch; gradually stir in water until smooth.

Add 1 cup blueberries. Bring to boil; cook and stir for 2

minutes or until thickened. Stir in lemon juice; cool slightly.

Transfer to a blender; cover and process until smooth. Refrigerate until chilled.

Carefully run a knife around edge of pan to loosen cheesecake; remove sides of pan. Spread the blueberry mixture over the top. Sprinkle with remaining blueberries. Refrigerate leftovers.

YIELD: 12 servings.

Mesa County DHS Employee Pleads Guilty to Welfare Fraud - Susan Skyberg

GRAND JUNCTION -- Angela Rodriguez pleaded guilty in District Court before Judge Thomas Deister on February 8, 2010 to charges related to welfare fraud.

Although original charges included: Class 4 felony theft, class 4 felony Attempting to Influence a Public Servant, Class 4 felony Fraudulent Acts, Class 5 felony Forgery, Class 6 Possession of a Forged Instrument, Class 6 felony Criminal Impersonation, and class 1 misdemeanor Perjury in the Second Degree, the case was amended to a single count of felony Forgery through a plea agreement, with no jail time.

A referral was sent to the Investigations Unit in June 2009, after two Eligibility Technicians attended a social gathering which the client also attended. The client's Eligibility Technician overheard the client talking about her husband and noticed she was wearing a wedding ring, which she had not seen before at any of the recertification interviews.

However, this was no ordinary investigation referral. The client was now a Mesa County DHS employee working in the Child Welfare Division since March 2009; an area located just outside my office door and with whom I

shared a printer. This created numerous challenges to say the least.

The investigation and criminal case preparation took 3 months to complete as I was still responsible for all my other supervisory duties. The investigation showed that Angela Rodriguez applied for Food Assistance and Medicaid benefits on August 27, 2007 reporting that she was separated from her husband. She also provided false verifications stating her sister was paying all of her living expenses for herself and her 4 children, including her stepson whom she claimed still lived with her despite her separation from his father. All 1350+ pages of evidence collected during the investigation revealed that Angela and her husband were living together, comingling their finances, paying their own bills and had income, expenditures and resources that were not indicative of a client in need of public assistance. In the month of application Angela's husband had gross earnings of \$11,227 and in 2008 made over \$104,000. In 2009, while collecting unemployment, her husband was receiving wire transfers from Nigeria of over \$8000 to \$9000 a month. In addition, the couple received tax returns of \$17,500 in 2008 and \$18,600 in 2009. Angela

obtained fraudulent benefits in the amount of \$11,792 in Food Assistance and \$6382.38 in Medicaid.

Angela was employed by Mesa County from March 2009 to mid September 2009 and although her Food Assistance case closed as a result of her employment with Mesa County, she continued to defraud the Medicaid program until the end of August 2009 when she became aware of my investigation due to being notified by her bank of my request for bank records. Angela approached me in my office about my subpoena for bank records, and two days later I received a letter from her newly retained criminal defense attorney requesting her Medicaid case be closed.

From June to October, I had to maintain my "game face" whenever I encountered her or her supervisors in the hallway. With papers, photos and other evidence on my desk daily, I couldn't even go to the ladies room (which was all of 8-10 feet from my office), or get a cup of coffee without closing and locking my office door. I couldn't make or receive a phone call or have a conversation regarding the case or even mention her name without closing my door. Believe me; I got plenty of odd looks.

And, imagine my panic when I pressed the "print" button on my computer, ran out of my office, directly to the printer (which was just outside my office), practically mowing anyone down that got in my path only to find that the document I printed didn't print. Did it go to another printer by mistake? Did someone else pick it up with their documents? Would it somehow appear at a later time and confidentiality would be compromised? Oh my gosh! Where is my document? Is it stuck in the queue somewhere? Do I dare print it again? It wasn't easy working within such close proximity to the subject of my investigation and her coworkers. But finally the investigation was complete and it was sent off to the District Attorney's office on October 5th, 2009.

After being tied up in the court/legal process for 4 months, Angela was finally sentenced on February 8, 2010 directly after entering her guilty plea with the court. Judge Thomas Deister sentenced Angela to 10 years Probation, full restitution of \$18,836.70, which includes court fees and DHS costs (one third of which was due at sentencing as part of the plea agreement), 600 hours of community service and a permanent disqualification from the Food Assistance program.



Join Us At the Park Hyatt Beaver Creek in Avon, CO.

May 19 – 21, 2010

This will be the only conference we hold this year and it is going to be packed full of informative classes, such as:

- Interviewing Skills for Fraud Detection
- Obtaining IPV Waivers
- IEVS 101
- Childcare Investigations and Recoveries
- EBT Fraud & Reports
- Case Reviews – Policy Perspective
- County Transfers...Best Practices
- Local Level Hearings
- Presenting Cases to the DA
- Colorado Works Sanctions
- Colorado Works Fraud Rule Changes
- Duplicate IDs & Fraud
- ...and much, much more!!!!

*****REGISTRATION PAYS FOR ALL MEALS & VALET PARKING*****

*****COST SET AT \$95.00 FOR THE FIRST 300 PEOPLE TO REGISTER*****

COST BASED ON SECURING FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTION

COST FOR NON-MEMBERS SET @ \$155.00

*****AFTER 300 PEOPLE REGISTRATION COST IS \$155.00*****

*****GREAT ROOM RATES OF \$126.00/night*****

**DON'T MISS OUT ON YOUR CHANCE TO IMPROVE YOUR
WORK SKILLS, MEET NEW PROFESSIONAL CONTACTS &
LEARN NEW WAYS TO BETTER SERVE OUR CLIENTS!!!**

Register now by going to www.CWFC.us

Colorado Human Services



Ongoing Network of Experienced
and Collaborative Training



Registration for the CWFC/CONNECT Conference
May 19-21, 2010
Park Hyatt Beaver Creek, Avon, CO

PLEASE COMPLETE THE REGISTRATION FORM AND MAIL BY April 30, 2010

Please check one of the below:

_____ \$ 95.00 Full Conference Registration—does not include hotel costs.
Registration includes all meals and valet parking.
This fee is for the first 300 registrants. After the first 300
The Registration fee will be \$155. REGISTER EARLY

_____ \$ 155.00 Conference Registration for individuals who are not affiliated
with CDHS/HCPF. Registration does not include hotel costs.
Registration includes all meals and valet parking.

Please complete the following in its entirety:

Registrants Name

Complete Address Street or P.O. Box

City, State, Zip Code

County or Entity Represented

Full Telephone Number including Area Code

Job Title

Please make all checks out to CWFC. You can mail your registration form to:
CWFC
Attention: Shelley Poole
P.O. Box 890
Canon City, CO 81215

Do not forget to make your Hotel Reservations separately at www.beavercreek.hyatt.com or 970-949-1234. This Registration Form is for Conference Registration only.

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

**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
Liz Toledo	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

**We're on the web
CWFC.us**

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.