

CDCAN DISABILITY RIGHTS REPORT

CALIFORNIA DISABILITY-SENIOR COMMUNITY ACTION NETWORK

JUNE 1, 2015 – MONDAY AFTERNOON

ADVOCACY WITHOUT BORDERS: ONE COMMUNITY – ACCOUNTABILITY WITH ACTION

CDCAN Reports go out to over 65,000 people with disabilities, mental health needs, seniors, people with traumatic brain and other injuries, people with MS, Alzheimer's and other disorders, veterans with disabilities and mental health needs, families, workers, community organizations, facilities and advocacy groups including those in the Asian/Pacific Islander, Latino, American Indian, Indian, African-American communities; policymakers, and others across the State.

Sign up for these free reports by going to the CDCAN website. Website:

www.cdcan.us

To reply to THIS Report write:

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BREAKING NEWS:

STATE CONFIRMS TIMESHEETS FOR ABOUT 65,000 IHSS WORKERS WERE LOST IN LOS ANGELES COUNTY BY US POST OFFICE CAUSING MAJOR DELAY IN WORKERS BEING PAID; TIMESHEETS FOR OVER 20,000 IHSS WORKERS IN LA COUNTY STILL REMAIN MISSING – STATE SAYS NEW TIMESHEETS BEING SENT TO IMPACTED PROVIDERS

Delays In Receiving Paychecks for IHSS Workers Has Caused Major Problems For Low Paid Workers Living Pay Check to Pay Check Who Need Money For Rent, Food & Other Basics – Impact Also To Thousands of People with Disabilities and Seniors The Workers Serve

SACRAMENTO, CA [CDCAN LAST UPDATED 06/03/2015 12:45 PM] – The California Department of Social Services confirmed today, in an email notification to members of the California Legislature, that timesheets mailed in by about 65,000 In-Home Supportive Services (IHSS) workers in the Los Angeles County area were apparently lost or misplaced by the US Post Office, resulting in those workers not being paid yet and still waiting for their checks. Envelopes containing thousands of those timesheets were reportedly found in bins at a postal facility in Los Angeles County and sent to the State payrolling processing facility in Chico, where all IHSS workers statewide must send their timesheets. State officials say that timesheets mailed in by over 20,000 IHSS workers in Los Angeles County remain missing and unaccounted for.

The Department of Social Services indicated replacement timesheets are being sent to those IHSS workers impacted, though there was no official word on when those workers would actually receive their missing paychecks. No official notice or all county letter has been posted yet on the official California Department of Social Services website on the problem other than the email update sent to legislators by the department earlier today. That email notice however was not apparently posted on the department's website.

The delay in receiving the paychecks has major potential devastating impact, according to advocates, to those tens of thousands of IHSS workers impacted and their families who live paycheck to paycheck. In addition, the crisis is also impacting thousands of children and adults with developmental and other disabilities, mental health needs and also seniors, who are recipients of IHSS and whose workers – often their parents or spouses – are among those impacted by the missing paychecks.

Some advocates are advising IHSS workers and recipients impacted to contact their local elected legislators who represent them to follow up on this problem and current status of when they will get their paychecks.

The Department of Social Services indicated it first became aware of the problem on May 27th, with calls and complaints coming from IHSS workers and advocates. IHSS workers and advocates, including Joey Riley of San Diego and Paula Herman of Los Angeles both notified other advocates and local and state officials of the what was then an unconfirmed massive problem.

The Department of Social Services, the state agency under the Brown Administration that oversees statewide the IHSS program administered locally by the counties, reported that replacement time sheets would be sent to those workers impacted that were originally mailed by those providers between May 15 – 17, covering the pay period of May 1-15. Until those timesheets are received by the State payrolling facility in Chico, those workers cannot be paid.

In a statement yesterday the Department of Social Services said that "...the department has confirmed this issue is external to the state payrolling system and is concentrated in Los Angeles County. We are coordinating with the Los Angeles County Department of Public Social Services and have begun to issue replacement timesheets to affected [IHSS] providers."

The Department of Social Services also indicated that the US Post Office was conducting an investigation of what happened, which, some reports indicate centers on a postal facility or hub in the Hawthorne area of Los Angeles County.

California Association of [IHSS] Public Authorities (CAPA) executive director reported today that local Los Angeles County Department of Public Social Services IHSS staff answering phones were using the following script to respond to IHSS workers or recipients regarding their missing paychecks: "Los Angeles County is aware of the problems with timesheets and payments for the May 1st through May 15th pay period. At this time we do not know why the timesheets were not received by the processing center, but both Los Angeles County and the State are investigating. We have contacted the Los Angeles Central Post Office and the Post Office Consumer Affairs in Sacramento and they have opened investigations. To assist you in getting paid, we can re-issue timesheets for the 1st and 2nd half of May."

A Los Angeles area news report by an ABC affiliate reported on the growing problem last evening and can be viewed at the station's webpage link at:

<http://abc7.com/news/california-delays-paychecks-to-thousands-of-in-home-healthcare-providers/763686/>

In that news report last night, reporter Leanne Suter interviewed Gary Burnett, who cannot speak due to a trach, and receives IHSS, and his wife, who is his IHSS provider, Laura Burnett at their home on the impact of the missing timesheets and the resulting missing paycheck. Both Burnetts were in tears, telling the reporter that the "fear is unbelievable" because they live pay check to pay check to pay for rent, food and utilities and other basics.

"We have to live very carefully," Laura Burnett tearfully told the reporter, her voice trembling with emotion, "and pray and hope that check comes in on time, because we always mail it ontime."

EMAIL NOTICE SENT BY STATE TO LEGISLATURE ON PROBLEM

The following notice was sent by the California Department of Social Services to members of the California Legislature informing them of the problem this morning, June 3, 2015 at 11:23 AM via email:

Legislative colleagues:

On May 27, 2015, the California Department of Social Services (CDSS) was alerted to a problem with a delay in the receipt of some IHSS Provider timesheets at the Timesheet Processing Facility (TPF) in Chico. Providers in Los Angeles County have reported that they had mailed their May 1-15 IHSS timesheet on or about May 15-17, 2015 but these timesheets have not been received by the Facility.

CDSS has reached out to its vendor partners, HP and the California Employment Development Department (EDD), to determine if either has experienced any processing issues that may have caused or contributed to this delay in timesheet delivery to the TPF.

HP/TPF has confirmed that there is no backlog of unprocessed timesheets. Also contacted was the local post office in Chico which confirmed that all mail addressed to the TPF has been delivered.

EDD confirmed that it has not experienced any print processing issues and that are no issues with the return envelope stock used by the providers to mail the timesheet to the TPF.

CDSS is working with the Los Angeles Department of Public Social Services (DPSS) to issue replacement timesheets for the Part A period (May 1-15, 2015) and issue new timesheets for the Part B period (May 16-31, 2015). This will avoid any further payroll delays for these 23,669 providers for the May time period. Once the Part A and Part B is processed, EDD will immediately issue the June Part A timesheet. (Typically this would be issued for all providers around June 10th.)

DPSS plans to create a broadcast message using its Interactive Voice Response system to deliver an automated outbound call to the impacted providers.

CDSS remains in contact with LA County to continue to troubleshoot the issue.

CDCAN - MARTY OMOTO YOUTUBE CHANNEL

A CDCAN (Marty Omoto) youtube channel was set up and has several videos dealing with current – and previous state budget issues, disability and senior rights, and advocacy.

To see the current videos, including March 2014 San Andreas Regional Center Aptos Legislative Breakfast, January 2014 panel discussion on services for adults with autism spectrum and related disorders in Palo Alto, and older videos including video of April 2003 march of over 3,000 people with developmental disabilities, families, providers, regional centers and others from the Sacramento Convention Center to the State Capitol (to attend and testify at budget hearing on proposed massive permanent cuts to regional center funded services, go to the CDCAN (Marty Omoto) Channel at:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCEySEyhn9LQRiCe-F7ELhg>

More videos – including new current videos (an interview with longtime advocate Maggie Dee Dowling is planned, among others) – plus archive videos of past events – will be posted soon.

ALERT: PLEASE HELP!!!!!!

JUNE 3, 2015 - WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON

PLEASE HELP CDCAN CONTINUE ITS WORK

CDCAN Townhall Telemeetings, CDCAN Reports and Alerts and other activities cannot continue without YOUR help. To continue the CDCAN website and the CDCAN Reports and Alerts sent out and read by over 65,000 people and organizations, policy makers and media across the State, and to continue and resume CDCAN Townhall Telemeetings, trainings and other events, please send your contribution/donation (please make check payable to "CDCAN" or "California Disability Community Action Network" and mail to:

CDCAN – NEW MAILING ADDRESS:

**1500 West El Camino Avenue Suite 499
Sacramento, CA 95833**

[replaces 1225 8th Street Suite 480, Sacramento, CA 95814]

Office Line: 916-418-4745 CDCAN Cell Phone: 916-757-9549 (replaced 916-212-0237)

Many, many thanks to all the organizations and individuals for their continued support that make these reports and other CDCAN efforts possible!