

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

744 P Street, Sacramento, California 95814



December 1, 2000

ALL-COUNTY INFORMATION NOTICE NO. I-116-00

TO: ALL COUNTY WELFARE DIRECTORS
ALL WELFARE-TO-WORK COORDINATORSREASON FOR THIS TRANSMITTAL

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

SUBJECT: UPDATE ON THE LEARNING DISABILITIES ADVISORY WORKGROUP

REFERENCE: ALL-COUNTY INFORMATION NOTICE (ACIN) I-43-00

As described in ACIN I-43-00, the California Department of Social Services (CDSS) has established an Advisory Workgroup on Learning Disabilities in an effort to help California Work Opportunity and Responsibility to Kids (CalWORKs) recipients with learning disabilities (LD) achieve self-sufficiency. The purpose of this ACIN is to provide the counties with an update on the Workgroup's progress.

To help guide the workgroup, presentations were given by various experts on the subject of LD and by representatives from county welfare departments, community colleges, a private consulting firm, and the California Department of Rehabilitation. The presentations covered their experiences with various LD screening tools, LD referrals, and LD assessments of CalWORKs clients. In addition, the workgroup reviewed several validated LD screening tools used for Temporary Assistance for Needy Families clients in other states. After gathering available and necessary information, the workgroup developed the following recommendations:

1. A protocol for LD screening of all new and existing CalWORKs WTW participants. This includes the recommended use of a validated LD screening tool such as the Washington State 13-question screen, with a few additional questions. Please note that this tool is currently available in English only, but testing by the U.S. Department of Education is currently underway to validate a Spanish-language version;
2. A protocol for referring CalWORKs clients with potential LD for further evaluations, which includes a strategy for developing county LD resources; and
3. A recommended LD training plan to be provided statewide to county welfare departments and/or their designated providers that will educate workers and providers about the issues related to serving CalWORKs participants with learning disabilities.

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The Advisory Workgroup will continue to meet and discuss other LD-related issues. It is anticipated that the workgroup will conclude its activities in January 2001. The Department is deeply appreciative of the workgroup's dedication and hard work on this important project. A lot of work has been accomplished, and the Department has still further work to do on analyzing the issues that have been raised. The recommendations will be forwarded to CDSS' Director for consideration, and a detailed All-County Letter with the final approved recommendations will be issued related to the provision of services to individuals with learning disabilities.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact Suzanne Nobles, Chief of the Employment Bureau, at (916) 653-7103 or Yvonne Lee at (916) 657-5093.

Sincerely,

***Original Document Signed By
Charr Lee Metsker on 12/1/00***

CHARR LEE METSKER, Chief
Employment and Eligibility Branch

c: CWDA
CSAC