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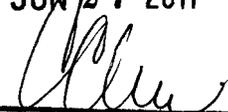
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RECEIVED
Clerk of the Solano Superior Court

June 21, 2011

JUN 27 2011

BY: 
DEPUTY CLERK

To: Honorable D. Scott Daniels
Presiding Judge

From: Supervisor Michael J. Reagan
Chair, Board of Supervisors

Re: *Response to Grand Jury Report of April 22, 2011 - Administration of the Food Stamp Program*

Honorable Judge Daniels:

As mandated by California Penal Code sections 933(c) and 933.05, the Solano County Board of Supervisors' responds to the findings and recommendations contained in the 2010/11 Grand Jury Report of April 22, 2011 concerning the Administration of the Food Stamp Program by the Department of Health and Social Services.

Finding 1

Between fiscal years 2008 and 2010, there has been a 33 percent increase in the number of people receiving food stamps in Solano County causing an increased workload for the employees staffing the program.

Response to Finding 1

Health and Social Services – The Health and Social Services Department agrees with the finding.

Board of Supervisors – The Board of Supervisors concurs with the Health and Social Services Department's response to Finding 1.

Recommendation 1

The Health and Social Services Department should continue to monitor the adequacy of the staff to administer the Food Stamp Program.

Response to Recommendation 1

Health and Social Services – This recommendation has been implemented. The Health and Social Services Department will continue to monitor staffing and caseloads. The Department would like to note that Solano County has a Quality Control Unit that gathers pertinent information for case analysis to determine if the household is eligible and receiving the correct amount of benefits. This analysis is the basis for determining a county error rate, which when combined with other California county error rates, determines and establishes a state performance error rate. A state performance error rate that exceeds the federal tolerance level can result in financial sanctions imposed on the state and passed down to counties exceeding the tolerance level.

The Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2009 national payment error rate of 4.36% represents the lowest rate in the history of the program and Solano County has remained under the federal tolerance level for the past eight years and completed FFY 2010 with an error rate of 1.88%, or an accuracy rate of 98.12%.

The Solano County CalFresh error rate for the FFY 2011 is 0.29%. The County's goal for the FFY is to remain under a 3.0% CalFresh error rate.

Board of Supervisors – The Board of Supervisors concurs with the Health and Social Services Department's response to Recommendation 1.

Finding 2

The income re-verification is currently being performed quarterly, but discussion is underway to expand the time period to six months.

Response to Finding 2

Health and Social Services – The Health and Social Services Department agrees with the finding, but notes that these discussions are occurring between federal and state staff, not at the county level.

Board of Supervisors – The Board of Supervisors concurs with the Health and Social Services Department's response to Finding 2.

Recommendation 2

Solano County Department of Health and Social Services should express to State officials the necessity of continuing the income re-verification at the three-month level. They should stress the potential financial risk involved, whether intentional or unintentional, with changing the income re-verification process to six months.

Response to Recommendation 2

Health and Social Services – This recommendation will not be implemented because it is not warranted. The issue of quarterly versus semi-annually re-verification is driven by Federal rules and

regulations that are requiring the change from the State. This is not a change the State is initiating on its own but is obligated to comply with Federal regulations since they oversee and fund the program.

Board of Supervisors – The Board of Supervisors concurs with the Health and Social Services Department’s response to Recommendation 2.

Comments

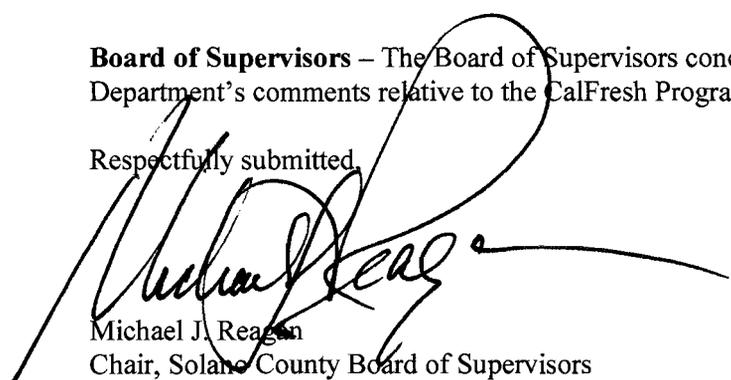
According to the Director of County Health and Social Services, the Food Stamp Program is now called “CalFresh” by the State of California.

Response to Comments

Health and Social Services – The name for the California’s Food Stamp Program has changed as a result of recent State law. In September 2008, AB 433 was signed by Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger requiring the California Department of Social Services to modernize the name of the Food Stamp Program. The purpose was to create a positive new identity that encourages eligible Californians to use the program. The name change will not change benefits and the amount of CalFresh benefits will not be different because of the name change.

Board of Supervisors – The Board of Supervisors concurs with the Health and Social Services Department’s comments relative to the CalFresh Program.

Respectfully submitted,



Michael J. Reagon
Chair, Solano County Board of Supervisors