

The CalWORKs Project

Six County Case Study

Project Report



The CalWORKs Project

Six County Case Study –

*Alameda, Kern, Los Angeles,
Monterey, Shasta, Stanislaus*

Project Report

April 2000

California Institute for Mental Health
2030 J Street
Sacramento, CA 95814-3120
(916) 556-3480

Project Organization Collaborative and Staff

California Institute for Mental Health (www.cimh.org)

2030 J Street
Sacramento, CA 95814
(916) 556-3480
Fax: (916) 446-4519

Sandra Naylor Goodwin, PhD, MSW, Executive Director/Project Director

Joan Meisel, PhD, MBA, Policy and Practice Consultant

Dan Chandler, PhD, Research Director

Pat Jordan, MSW, Consultant

Tony Aguilar, MBA, LMFT, Research, Policy & Training Associate

Debbie Richardson Cox, Project Assistant

Children and Family Futures (<http://www.cffutures.com>)

4940 Irvine Boulevard, Suite 202
Irvine, CA 92620
(714) 505-3525
Fax: (714) 505-3626

Nancy K. Young, PhD, Director

Sid Gardner, MPA, President

Karen Sherman, MSW, Associate

Family Violence Prevention Fund (<http://www.fvpf.org>)

383 Rhode Island Street, Suite 304
San Francisco, CA 94103
(415) 252-8900
Fax: (415) 252-8991

Janet Carter, Managing Director

Cindy Marano, Consultant

Kelly Mitchell-Clark, Program Manager

Generous funding for the CalWORKs Project has come from The California Wellness Foundation, the David and Lucile Packard Foundation, the National Institute of Justice, and voluntary payments from California counties.

Acknowledgements

We express our appreciation to the numerous individuals in Alameda, Kern, Los Angeles, Monterey, Shasta, and Stanislaus counties who generously shared their views about their experience with CalWORKs. They filled out surveys, participated in interviews, and supplied data. More importantly, it is their efforts and knowledge that we tried to accurately reflect in the following pages. They are managing a complex and difficult “learn as you go” process of change with remarkable optimism and fortitude.

We thank the directors of the Departments of Social Services, Alcohol and Other Drugs, and Mental Health in the six counties for opening their operations to our scrutiny: in Alameda County, Marye Thomas, Department of Behavioral Health Care Services and Roger Lum, Social Services Agency; in Kern County, Diane Koditek, Department of Mental Health and Kathy Irvine, Department of Human Services; in Los Angeles County, Marvin Southard, Department of Mental Health, Patrick Ogawa, Department of Health Services Alcohol and Drug Program Administration, and Lynn Bayer, Department of Public Social Services; in Monterey County, Robert Egnew, Health Department’s Behavioral Health Division, and Marie Glavin, Department of Social Services; in Shasta County, James Broderick, Department of Mental Health, and Dennis McFall, Department of Social Services; in Stanislaus County, Larry Poaster, Department of Mental Health and Jeff Jue, Community Services Agency.

We especially thank those individuals within the six counties who assisted us in the co-ordination of site visits, the implementation of the surveys, the collection of Management Information System information, and the review of the draft report. These include Maxine Heiliger, Don Thoni, and Laura Andrews from Alameda County; Terry Robinson, Allen Belluomini, Lynette Conuz, Jon Burkett, and Bobbi Emel in Kern County; Linda Dyer, Dennis Murata, Jessie Tate, Lisa Nunez, Sandra Garcia, Roseanne Donnelly, and Carol Ann Peterson in Los Angeles County; Jesse Herrera and Dennis Bates in Monterey County; David Reiten, Don Kingdon, Linda Barba, and Jayne Accetta in Shasta County; Dan Souza, Connie Moreno-Peraza, Virginia Wilson, and Joan Eader in Stanislaus County.

Generous funding for the CalWORKs Project has come from The California Wellness Foundation, the David and Lucile Packard Foundation, the National Institute of Justice, and voluntary payments from California counties.

We appreciate the guidance provided by the Joint CalWORKs Committee, a collaboration of the California Mental Health Directors Association (Co-Chair, Robert Egnew), County Alcohol and Drug Program Administrators Association of California (Co-Chair, Toni Moore), and the County Welfare Directors Association (Co-Chair, Tracy Russell).

This report is a joint product of the three organizations involved in the CalWORKs project: the California Institute for Mental Health (CIMH), Children and Family Futures (CFF), and the Family Violence Prevention Fund (FVPPF).

We gratefully acknowledge and thank the following individuals who were involved in different parts of the data collection and the writing of the report. The primary site visitors were Joan Meisel, Daniel Chandler, and Pat Jordan. Others who participated in the site visits include Nancy Young, Karen Sherman, Sid Gardner, Sandra Naylor Goodwin, Cindy Marano, and Janet Carter. Joan Meisel and Daniel Chandler designed the content and the methodology for the surveys of welfare staff, clients, and AOD/MH/DV providers. Daniel Chandler analyzed the survey results. Joan Meisel did the majority of the writing of the report with significant assistance from Daniel Chandler. The report was reviewed in detail by Pat Jordan, Nancy Young, Karen Sherman, and Kelly Mitchell-Clark. Irene Borgfeldt provided editing and lay-out.

Finally, we hope that this work will contribute to the ability of counties to be helpful to CalWORKs participants with AOD, MH, and DV barriers to employment.