

Squeezing Social Services: The County Perspective

Cathy Senderling
County Welfare Directors Association of
California

March 15, 2005

Federal Budget Picture

- Huge Deficit
- Social Services on Chopping Block
 - Food Stamps
 - Child Care
 - TANF
 - Child Welfare

Food Stamps

- Categorical Eligibility Cut
- Projected Continued Growth
- Outreach Focus
- Vulnerable in Agriculture Committee

Child Care

- Stagnant Funding = Fewer Slots
- Other states have:
 - Cut working families from care
 - Increased share of cost for families
 - Reduced quality improvement efforts.
- 300,000 fewer slots by 2010 nationwide

TANF

- Reauthorization still pending
 - Senate Finance mark-up last week
 - House mark-up next week
- Increased work requirements without increased funding for states
 - Exception is child care
 - Some additional flexibility re: what counts
- “Reconciliation” process of concern

Child Welfare

- Current financing scheme untenable
 - Title IV-E: Uncapped, but inflexible
 - Title IV-B: Flexible, but capped
- Move to constrain how Title IV-E is used
- Move to cap or block grant Title IV-E
 - Placement services
 - “Administration”

State Budget

- Sound familiar? There's a deficit.
- Large cuts to social services programs.
 - CalWORKs
 - In-Home Supportive Services
 - Child care
- No new child welfare money

CalWORKs

- Cuts that clients will feel directly
 - COLA elimination, grant cut
- Cuts that clients will feel indirectly
 - \$90 million employment services cuts
- Fundamental changes to basic program
 - Last year's SB 1104 core work hours
 - This year's Pay for Performance proposal

IHSS: Unringing the Bell

- Roll back state participation
- Eliminate mandate to collectively bargain
- Counties oppose these changes
 - Shifting state responsibility to counties
 - Impacting IHSS providers, recipients

Child Welfare

- No increases to basic program
- System chronically underfunded
- Outcomes and accountability system
- Legislative proposal

Conclusion

- Continuing squeeze on counties
- New, direct cuts to clients at state level
- Federal budget isn't going to help us out

Questions?