

November 13, 2014



COLORADO WELFARE FRAUD COUNCIL

The Informer

Message From The President



Dear Fellow CWFC Members,

As we move forward in the 2014-2015 board year, your committees are busy working toward our ultimate goal of program integrity. I urge you to read the monthly minutes that are sent out to all members as they are a testament to the dedication of your board. I would like to invite any and all members to let us know what your priorities are so that we can better serve you. If there are any committees that interest you, please feel free to contact any committee members as we would love your input.

As you know, our 2015 annual training conference will be held at the Embassy Suites in Loveland. If there are any trainings you would like to see, please let our President-Elect Mark Magnuson know as he is hard at work trying to get

presenters in all program areas to meet your training needs.

Even as we prepare for the 2015 Training Conference, our Conference Site Committee is busy looking for a venue for the 2016 conference. Please let us know if there are any sites that you would like us to check out, we would love to know your preferences.

I would like to request your input for the awards we present at the conference as these are your awards, a way to recognize outstanding individuals and departments. If you are unsure which award would suit a group or individual, please let Jeff Bonadies or his committee members know, as they would be happy to help you walk through the process. I have no

doubt that we all know individuals and groups who should be recognized for their outstanding efforts in the field of program integrity.

As we gear up for CWFC Awareness Month in February, we will be looking for any individuals or organizations that may be interested in becoming members of CWFC. If you know of anyone that you think would be interested, please let us know.

Our meeting dates and locations are located on our website. We will be providing training at all meeting locations and members are always free to participate.

Thanks to all members for making CWFC such a successful organization!

Tammy Frey - President

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Remember that you can access more CWFC information on the web at www.cwfc.us.

People Are More Moral In The Morning

As the day wears on, we become less ethical

Mar 1, 2014 [by Nessa Bryce]

Scientific American

Most of us strive to do the right thing when faced with difficult decisions. A new study suggests that our moral compass is more reliable when we face those decisions in the morning rather than later in the day.

In a series of studies at Harvard University and at the University of Utah, 327 men and women participated in tasks designed to measure cheating or lying behavior either in the morning or the afternoon. For instance, in one study the subjects attempted to solve math problems, some

of which were impossible, knowing they would be paid five cents for every solved problem. They reported their own scores, giving them an opportunity to lie and thus receive more money. The people who participated in the afternoon session in all the experiments were more likely to cheat than those who took part in the morning sessions.

Ethical decisions often require self-control, which past research has found to be dependent on the body's energy stores, much like a muscle; if it is heavily taxed, it eventually becomes exhausted. This study suggests that even the regular activities of daily life can deplete these resources. It also hints that sleep is crucial for rebuilding moral muscle; indeed previous research shows that sleep deprivation hampers ethical decision making.

So, if you are face with an ethical dilemma, you may want to save your pondering for the morning after a good night's sleep.



Special Thanks To Alamosa County!



Let CWFC help fulfill your training needs around welfare fraud prevention!

The CWFC board would like to express a special thanks to Alamosa County for hosting the "Determining True Eligibility" regional training on September 19, 2014. It was a great turnout with 41 human services employees attending from 5 different counties.

Some of the reviews given stated the session was informative, beneficial and truly a good way to determine true eligi-

bility.

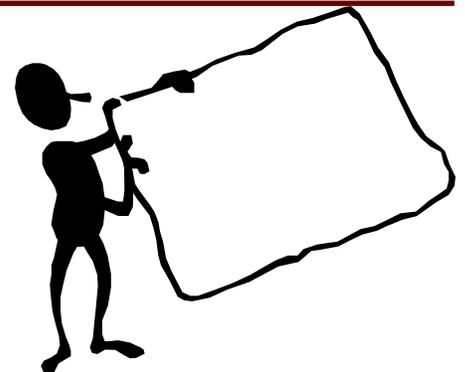
We encourage all DHS employees around the state to be looking out for our next training session as we may be in your area. Everyone is welcome!

As always, if you are in need of CWFC's training expertise, contact the chair of the training committee, Sonia Salas, at ssalas@larimer.org.

The Poster Committee Needs Your Ideas!

It's never too early to start planning next year's conference! As chair of the Poster Committee, I encourage you to share some ideas as to what our theme should be for the upcoming 2015 CWFC & SSTABS conference in Loveland, CO. We have had some great contributions over the past few years and would love to hear more from our members!

Please send your ideas to Shawn at ShawnSouthard@elpasoco.com no later than December 31st, 2014, so the committee will have time to look them all over and make the tough decision on which one to pick. If you are a current member and would like to be on the committee, please let me know and I would be happy to add you to the list.



Guilty, Guilty, Guilty!

Larimer County prosecuted an individual who was adamant that she was not guilty of doing anything wrong, as she did not have to report her income due to it being under the limit. Little did she know, Deputy District Attorney Greg Biggers could prove how wrong she was.

Ms. Guilty (name protected), worked as a manager for a major sports bar and grill establishment. Her argument included the fact that she did not know the difference between net and gross income. Can a restaurant manager really not know the difference between gross income and net income? Not to mention the fact that the Simplified Change Reporting Notice actually advises clients what gross in-

come encompasses. After ten hearings, and Ms. Guilty's failure to accept an offer for a lower charge, the case went to trial.

Three days of deliberation in front of a jury that addressed many issues, including whether or not Human Services records could be admitted, Ms. Guilty was found guilty on two counts of Theft (Class 4 felonies) and 1 charge of Food Stamp-fail to report income (Class 3 Misdemeanor). The total amount of benefits Ms. Guilty received that she was not eligible for during the short six months was \$5,632.00 that she'll have to repay in addition to other cost/fees that the courts will impose. A special thanks to Mr. Biggers for all of his hard work in the

prosecution of this case, and getting an individual off of the food assistance rolls that truly was not eligible.



Police: Woman Faces Fraud Charges After Living For Months With Husband's Decomposed Body

Matt Adams, Fox59.com (Indianapolis)

LAFAYETTE (Oct. 10, 2014) – A woman whose husband lay dead for nine months before being found has been arrested and charged.

Lafayette police said Ila Solomon was arrested Thursday night after an investigation into the death of 88-year-old Gerald Gavan. Gavan was found dead in May 2014, but investigators said he died in July 2013.

Charges against her include welfare fraud, theft, failure to report a dead body, unlawful disposition of a dead human body and failure to file a certificate of death.

According to court documents, the investigation began in May after a friend of Gavan's told police he hadn't heard from him since the fall of 2013. He contacted Solomon, who'd identified herself as Solomon's caretaker. When the friend tried to make arrangements to see Gavan, he was given an excuse, such as Gavan was touring the country in an RV.

When officers went to Gavan's home to check on him, Solomon said he wasn't there. She said she was his caretaker and later told police she was married to him. When officers inquired about the 88-year-old man's health, Solomon said he'd

suffered a stroke and had been in an assisted living facility. She said he needed a feeding tube to eat.

The officers grew suspicious throughout the conversation, and finally went inside the home. On the living room floor they found a tarp covered by bed sheets. They "saw a powdery substance on the covers which appeared to be lime, and an open bag of lime in the kitchen," court documents said. Under the covers they found the "body of an obviously deceased human being, in an advanced stage of decay."

An autopsy found that Gavan had died in late June and not after July 15, 2013. A death certificate when then issued for Gavan, although the cause and manner of death were undetermined.

A man who had done some work on Gavan's home reported to police that he had noticed a "very foul odor" coming from the house weeks after doing some work there.

Despite Gavan's death, he was still receiving benefits from the VA and Social Security Administration. The VA estimated overpaying Gavan more than \$2,500; the SSA estimated its overpayments at nearly \$13,000. The social secu-

arity payments should've stopped after Gavan's death, but since Solomon didn't report it, they continued to be deposited, court documents said. Solomon had not applied to see if she qualified for any VA benefits after Gavan's death.

In addition to those payments, Gavan was also receiving money from his pension. Court documents said he received more than \$10,000 in benefits from August 2013 through June 2014, although the payments should have stopped after his death. There were no survivor benefits attached to the pension, court documents said, and Solomon wouldn't have been entitled to money after he died.

Gavan and Solomon had a joint account at JP Morgan Chase Bank; Solomon was added as an individual with power of attorney in February 2012. The account showed deposits continued from various benefits after Gavan's unreported death. Investigators noted various transactions from the account, including bill payments and withdrawals. The account went from \$9,500 in June 2013 to \$3,000 in May 2014. As Gavan and Solomon were the only people with access to the account, investigators concluded that only Solomon could have used the account, court documents said.

CWFC Memberships for 2015 are now being accepted

The Colorado Welfare Fraud Council has been in existence since 1984 and is still going strong! Thanks to the hard work and dedication of the officers, board and general membership over the years, the Council has been able to maintain a strong presence in human services agencies throughout the state. There are currently over 140 members of CWFC and we want to add to that number for 2014! I encourage you to share information about our organization with others and help the Membership Committee increase our numbers. The annual dues remain an affordable \$20.00 per year.

CWFC memberships cover the year from January 1st through December 31st. The membership affords you access to the CWFC newsletter, *The Informer*, and the website www.cwfc.us. In addition, you'll have access to the Council's resources to support you in maintaining program integrity and the fight against welfare fraud.

Please be sure to spread the word about CWFC and all of the good work our members do every day to detect, investigate and prosecute those guilty of welfare fraud!

Sincerely,

Shawn Southard-Nielsen

Vice-President and Membership Committee Chair, CWFC, 2014-2015

Please print legibly and complete membership form in its entirety

2015 CWFC Membership Form

Name: _____ Date: _____

Agency: _____

Title: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Telephone: _____ Fax: _____ E-mail: _____

New Member Returning Member Renewal Change of Contact Information Only

Please make checks payable to CWFC and mail with this completed **membership form to:**

CWFC, P.O. Box 890, Canon City, CO 81215

Please report any changes to your contact information as soon as possible