



# The Informer

June 9, 2016

## Message From The President

Dear Fellow CWFC Members,  
Thanks to all who attended the 2016 CWFC & SSTABS conference in Colorado Springs. We had over 270 attendees and with all of your input and suggestions we hope to have even more success for next year's conference in Loveland.

One of my many goals as CWFC president is to make sure we represent all 64 counties and to let you all know you have a voice in CWFC. If you have questions you would like

the board to help answer or are looking for training opportunities or conference topics, we are here to help you.

On June 17th, the CWFC board will be holding our annual planning session at the Embassy Suites in Loveland starting at 9:00 a.m. Any CWFC member can participate in this meeting and any of our board meetings; the board encourages your participation. At the planning session we will be setting up our board meeting dates and



locations for the 2016-2017 board year. These dates will be posted on the CWFC website later this month.

*Shawn Nielsen*  
CWFC President

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## 2016-2017 Board

A big thank you to all members who participated in voting for your officers for the upcoming year! Your participation ensures that the membership has a voice in the daily business of the Colorado Welfare Fraud Council. The results are:

### President

Shawn Nielsen, El Paso County

### President-Elect

Sonia Salas, Larimer County

### Vice President

Russell Stephens, Garfield County

### Secretary

Kristina Gonzalez, Boulder County

### Treasurer

Colette Kreger, CDHS

The following CWFC members have been selected to serve as board members for the upcoming year. The members of the board volunteer to serve on the board and do not receive any compensation for their service.

### Board Members

Jesica Antonucci, CDHS

Danielle Dunaway, CDHS

Aleissa Thomas, Weld County

Carlos Camacho, Washington County

Frank Hudson, Saguache County

Jenn Parrilli-Cole, Boulder County

### Past-President Board Members

Mark Magnuson, Weld County

Rob Kingsley, Larimer County



## Hard Time for Welfare Fraud

On Wednesday, April 27<sup>th</sup>, 2016, Karen Lynne Luele pleaded guilty in the 5<sup>th</sup> District Judicial Court in Eagle County to felony theft of Food Assistance and Medical Assistance benefits. The day before, Mrs. Luele waived her right to a preliminary hearing. District Court Judge Paul Dunkelman announced that Mrs. Luele would be sentenced on June 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2016. She faces a minimum of 6 years and up to 12 years in prison and a restitution order in the amount of



\$37,163.80. (including the administrative costs of the investigation). Mrs. Luele was investigated for welfare fraud by the Eagle County Department of Human Services and Eagle County Sheriff's Office. The assistance of the Eagle County Sheriff's Office and District Attorney's Office was invaluable in carrying out the investigation and prosecution. It was discovered that Mrs. Luele had intentionally misrepresented her household composition in order to qualify for Food Assistance and Medical Assistance benefits. Specifically, Mrs. Luele intentionally obscured the fact that her hus-

band was in the home and that he had substantial unreported income. Mrs. Luele also stated that her daughter was living in the home when she in fact lived with her father on the Front Range. The reason for Mrs. Luele's stiff impending sentence is related to her record of felony theft and identity theft convictions; she is currently serving a prison sentence for those charges. For more information, please see the article located at the following link: <http://www.vaildaily.com/news/crime/21783044-113/woman-commits-welfare-fraud-while-in-custody>

## What's Next for CWFC

The 2016-2017 CWFC Board will be holding our annual planning session at the Embassy Suites hotel in Loveland, Colorado, on Friday, June 17<sup>th</sup>. At this meeting, the board will be setting up our schedule of monthly board meetings for the upcoming year, assigning members to CWFC committees, and will begin to plan for our 2017 conference.

The 2017 conference will be held at the Embassy Suites May 3<sup>rd</sup> through May 5<sup>th</sup>; members are encouraged to provide input on what you might like to see at the next conference and would also invite members to make suggestions as to what next year's theme should be.

If you have any suggestions for the conference or general ideas you'd like to board to consider

over the upcoming year, email the board at [CWFC-Board@gmail.com](mailto:CWFC-Board@gmail.com).

We'll do our best to keep you updated throughout the year. The CWFC website, [www.cwfc.us](http://www.cwfc.us), will be updated after our planning session. Updates will include meeting dates and locations. CWFC members are invited and encouraged to attend our board meetings.

## Best Wishes, Levetta Love!



Levetta Love, director of CDHS' Office of Economic Security, is retiring at the end of June after years of service dedicated to the citizens of Colorado.

Levetta spent much of her professional career working with vulnerable and struggling families. Prior to joining the team at CDHS, Levetta spent several years in both Pueblo and El Paso counties managing assistance programs including

TANF, Food Assistance, Medicaid, Child Care, Adult Protective Services and workforce development. Levetta's career has included work with domestic violence survivors, cliff effect mitigation, poverty, employment programs and early childhood development.

Levetta served as the director of the Colorado Department of Human Services' Employment and Benefits Division beginning in 2011 before being named as

the director of the Office of Economic Security in May of 2014.

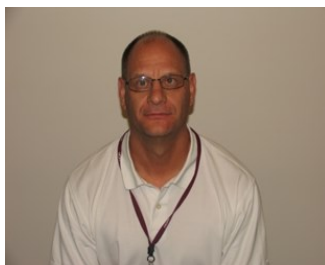
CWFC would like to thank Levetta for her years of service in the human services field and support of the Council's mission upholding program integrity in public assistance programs.

Congratulations, Levetta! We wish you well!

## A Thank You for Paul Pietrzyk

As many of you know, Paul Pietrzyk, an Investigative Auditor with the Colorado Department of Health Care Policy and Financing (HCPF), recently resigned his position due to health issues. We would like to take a moment to recognize Paul's hard work in assisting with fraud investigations on Medicaid cases here in Colorado, thank him, and wish him well.

For many of us, Paul was a welcome addition to the HCPF staff. He was always prompt in providing Medicaid payment information (I especially en-



joyed the Excel layout of the payment information he sent) and was always available to discuss difficult Medicaid related cases.

Prior to coming to Colorado to work for HCPF, Paul worked as an Investigator for

the Office of the Inspector General in Texas. He conducted advanced administrative and criminal investigations and examinations of alleged Food Assistance (SNAP), Women's, Infant and Children (WIC), and Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), Medicaid programs, Health Care, contract, and provider fraud. Before that, Paul conducted advanced audits/criminal investigations and examinations of alleged Medicaid provider fraud as an Investigative Auditor for the State of Texas Office of Attorney General.

Paul began working for HCPF on August 17<sup>th</sup>, 2015 and resigned on April 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2016. Although his time here was short, Paul was a great resource and one of the people passionately dedicated to ensuring Program Integrity. Please join us all in wishing Paul the best of luck.

*Sam Landercasper*

*Eagle County*

## Medicaid Fraud and You

Let's clarify some things about Medicaid, shall we?

Should we pursue Medicaid fraud? Of course we should!

Code of Colorado Regulations, the very thing that drives our daily work lives, *directs* us to.

"It is the *duty* of the county department to take action against any person of obtaining Medicaid benefits to which he [she] is not entitled or in a greater amount than that to which he [she] is entitled."

(8.070.01) What should we pursue in regards to payments? "Any medical assistance payments, including capitation payments, paid on behalf of a recipient who was not lawfully entitled

to receive the benefits for which the payments were made." (8.065.1) Remember, too, that we cannot recover Medicaid payments unless the client was *at fault*.

We are *fantastic* at telling our customers about simplified reporting rules for Food Assistance and Colorado Works. However, are you remembering to tell them they have **10 days to report ALL CHANGES for MEDICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS?** Please remember to tell them of this reporting requirement during your interviews for Food and Cash programs. And please document this in Case Comments.

Currently the mandate to report changes within 10 days appears in the Med-only application and in the PEAK "What I Should Know" documentation. If facts have indicated probable fraud has occurred, termination, suspension, or reduction of previously authorized Medicaid benefits may take place with only **5 calendar days advance notice.**

(8.209.4.A.3.a.i) "The facts must have been verified, if possible, through secondary sources."

Continuous Eligibility – Remember there are *exceptions* to Continuous Eligibility in MAGI Med. One of those exceptions is if the client "fails to comply

in resolving an income discrepancy" as outlined in section 8.100.4.C.2 (which is the section on income verification). Want a few others? How about these - no longer a CO resident or if you are unable to locate based on evidence or a reasonable assumption. *Medicaid isn't a simplified reporting program...yet. Let's not treat it as such.*

*Aleissa Thomas*  
*Weld County*

**Effective June 13, 2016, Colorado's Medicaid program has a new name: Health First Colorado.**



**COLORADO  
WELFARE FRAUD  
COUNCIL**

1963 South Vivian Street  
Lakewood, CO 80228  
www.cwfc.us  
CWFCBoard@gmail.com

**Report Welfare Fraud  
1.877.934.6361**

**HELP  
WANTED**

**Goals of the Colorado Welfare Fraud Council**

- **Actively participate in initiatives to champion program integrity**
- **Provide training to CWFC members and other interested individuals**
- **Advance informational resources in the achievement of:**
  - \* **Prevention of external and internal fraud within all public assistance programs**
  - \* **Detect, investigate and prosecute fraud**
  - \* **Recover fraudulently obtained public assistance benefits**
- **Retain and grow membership**

**CWFC Committees**

The committees of the Colorado Welfare Fraud Council are chaired by members of the board. However, anyone can participate on any of the committees. Please contact a board member or send an email to [CWFC-Board@gmail.com](mailto:CWFC-Board@gmail.com) if you are interested in working with us.

**Financial Plan and Budget:**

Reviews and plans finances for the upcoming year.

**By-Laws:**

Makes recommendations and/or proposals to make changes to the CWFC bylaws.

**Conference Agenda:**

Plans the agenda for the annual training conference. Solicits nominations for yearly CWFC awards to be presented at the conference.

**Membership:**

Solicits interest and involvement in CWFC. Promotes CWFC to outside agencies and individuals. Edits and publishes the newsletter, *The Informer*, and maintains the CWFC website.

**Resource Guide:**

Revises the CWFC Resource Guide based on the requests and needs of the CWFC membership.

**Legislation:**

Works with various legislative bodies to sponsor new welfare related laws and propose changes to existing statutes.

**Officer Board/Nomination:**

Seeks interest and commitment to serve on the CWFC board.

**Training:**

Arranges and provides training for CWFC members.

**CDHS/HCPF:**

Responsible for obtaining answers on program and policy concerns.

**Historian:**

Creates and assists in the preservation of CWFC archives.



## Membership Form

I am a:  New Member

Returning member (after more than one year's absence)

Renewal

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

AGENCY: \_\_\_\_\_

JOB TITLE: \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE: Desk: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell: \_\_\_\_\_

FAX: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

MAILING ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

*Please report changes in your contact information as soon as possible.*

**Annual membership dues are \$20.00. Memberships are not transferrable from one individual to another.  
Please make checks payable to CWFC and mail to:  
1963 South Vivian Street  
Lakewood, CO 80228**

*Thank you for working to uphold the mission and goals of the Colorado Welfare Fraud Council.*