

LOOKING AHEAD TO CONFERENCE 2014



Hi Fellow CWFC Members!

I'm very excited about the coming year. All of our committees have big plans and projects that they are working on. I am especially excited about our legislative committee's work and our goal of rewriting our resource guide, which we hope to have completed this year. Please remember that you do not need to be on the board of CWFC to contribute to any of our committees, and we would love to have everyone's input.

Of course, being President-Elect means that most of my time will be spent organizing our annual training conference. Our training conference will be June 3rd through June 6th 2014 at the Marriott in Colorado Springs. This will be our 30th annual training conference, so I am working extra hard to make it special!! The hotel is gearing up with special offers and

unique ideas, and I am excited to work with them. Please let me know if you have any ideas or special requests for trainings that you are interested in.

I have read all the evaluations from this year's conference and hope to have trainings that will relate to all your jobs as well as this year's presenters. It is my goal to provide the best trainings possible, provided in a fun learning environment. Again, please feel free to offer ideas for trainings that you would like to attend at conference. I will take all the suggestions you have!

Tammy Frey
CWFC President Elect



The Marriott in Colorado Springs, site of the 2014 CWFC Annual Training Conference
<http://www.marriott.com/hotels/travel/cosmc-colorado-springs-marriott/>

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U.S. TEAMING WITH VA, MD TO COMBAT FOOD STAMP FRAUD

By Olympia Meola
Richmond Times-Dispatch

Virginia is beefing up its effort to fight food stamp fraud. The commonwealth and Maryland are entering into new data-sharing agreements with the U.S. Department of Agriculture intended to help combat abuse of the massive food-assistance program.

Through the program, the federal administration will share its experience monitoring for fraud at retail stores with state agencies to help them target recipient fraud. Recipients enroll at the state level.

The agreements mark the newest front in expanded efforts to crack down on abuse in the federal Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program. While program administrators maintain that fraud accounts for a fraction of the program, the program is massive.

Nationwide, roughly 250,000 outlets stores have the legal ability to redeem benefits for the about 47 million people who rely on the public assistance.

Food stamp "trafficking" is generally the exchange of benefits for cash. This year, the USDA expanded the definition to also include things like "water

dumping," when a recipient buys beverages in containers that carry a refund deposit for the purpose of dumping the contents and returning the containers for cash.

Nationally, the trafficking rate fell from about 4 cents on the dollar in 1993 to about 1 cent on the dollar from 2006-08, according to the USDA's latest figures.

"What this will do is give us an opportunity to look more at patterns of usage of the EBT cards that will help us identify what is an unusual pattern and allow us to investigate," said Virginia Secretary of Health and Human Resources Bill Hazel.

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VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

The board members of the Colorado Welfare Fraud Council volunteer their time to serve the needs of the membership. One role of the board members is to chair and serve on the many committees of CWFC. We need your help in order to get the most out of our organization! The committees and chairpersons are listed below. Please contact any of the committee members for exciting opportunities!



- **FINANCIAL PLAN AND BUDGET** – *Shelley Poole, Chair, Colette Kreger and Staci Morley-Young*
Reviews and plans finances for the upcoming year
- **BY-LAWS** – *Sharon Beckers, Chair, and Doreen Smith*
Makes recommendations and/or proposals to make changes to the CWFC by-laws
- **CONFERENCE AGENDA** – *Tammy Frey, Chair, Bridget Convey, Colette Kreger, Trish Heese and Staci Morley-Young*
Plans the agenda for the annual training conference
- **CONFERENCE SITE** – *Sharon Beckers, Chair and Shelley Poole*
Plans and executes potential conference site visits
- **MEMBERSHIP** – *Shawn Southard-Nielsen, Chair, Jenn Parrilli-Cole, Colette Kreger, Trish Heese*
Solicits interest and involvement in CWFC
- **CWFC AWARENESS/PUBLIC RELATIONS** – *Shelley Poole, Chair, Shawn Southard-Nielsen and Tammy Frey*
Promotes CWFC to outside agencies and individuals
- **NEWSLETTER/WEBSITE** – *Jenn Parrilli-Cole, Chair*
Edits and publishes the quarterly newsletter, The Informer, and maintains the CWFC website
- **POSTER** – *Shawn Southard-Nielsen, Chair and Selena Blea*
Assists the Conference Agenda committee in designing the annual conference theme and poster design
- **RESOURCE GUIDE** – *Bridget Convey, Chair with the members of the Board all serving as committee members*
Revises the CWFC Resource Guide based on the requests and needs of the CWFC membership
- **LEGISLATION** – *Mark Magnuson, Chair, Rogelio Segura, Colette Kreger and Tammy Frey*
Works with various legislative bodies to sponsor new welfare related laws and propose changes to existing statutes
- **OFFICER/BOARD NOMINATION** - *Mark Magnuson, Chair*
Seeks interest and commitment to serve on the CWFC board
- **AWARDS** – *Shawn Southard-Nielsen, Chair, Shelley Poole, Sharon Beckers and Trish Heese*
Seeks nominations and designs awards for individuals to be recognized
- **TRAINING** – *Bridget Convey, Chair, Colette Kreger, Trish Heese and Staci Morley-Young*
Arranges and provides training for CWFC members
- **STATE LIAISON COMMITTEE** – *Staci Morley-Young, Chair and Trish Heese*
Responsible for obtaining answers on program and policy concerns
- **HISTORIAN** – *Shawn Southard-Nielsen, Chair*
Creates and assists in the preservation of CWFC archives

MEET THE 2013-2014 BOARD

Your votes were tallied and the new officers were introduced at the general session meeting at the conclusion of the conference in May. Here are your officers and board members for the coming year:

Officers

- President: Bridget Convey
- President-Elect: Tammy Frey
- Vice-President: Shawn Southard-Nielsen
- Treasurer: Shelley Poole
- Secretary: Sharon Beckers

Board Members

- Salina Blea
- Trish Heese
- Colette Kreger
- Mark Magnuson
- Staci Morley-Young
- Rogelio Segura
- Sonia Salas

Alternates

- Jenn Parrilli-Cole
- Brandi McClure



MEET THE NEW BOARD MEMBERS

Trish Heese

Trish is an EBT Program Administrator for the State of Colorado Department of Human Services. She has worked for the State of Colorado since 1999 and for the EBT Program for the last eight years. She conducts ME (Management Evaluation) Reviews in the counties, provides statewide EBT training, works with the EBT contractor JP Morgan, as well as county and federal entities for problem resolution and insurance of adherence to State and Federal rules. Trish also reviews reports to identify cases of suspicious activity for possible client and retailer fraud.

Prior to working for Colorado government, Trish worked in the field of Occupational Therapy in which she holds a degree.

Salina Blea

Salina is the QA/Fraud Supervisor in the Operations Division of Arapahoe County Department of Human Services. She started out as a Program Specialist determining eligibility for Food Assistance, Family Medicaid and Colorado Works before becoming an Investigator. Salina worked as a store manager for four years

before coming to Arapahoe County, which made for a natural transition into her current supervisor position. Salina is currently pursuing her Masters of Arts degree at Regis University.

Colette Kreger

Colette Kreger, MA, CFE, joined the Colorado Department of Human Services as a Fraud Investigator in June 2012 after nearly 33 years of service in the telecom industry. She is currently responsible for investigating allegations of fraud and non-compliance to State policies within the Department, as well as within organizations receiving State and Federal funds.

While with the Bell System, Colette developed many unique programs, processes, and products that relied on the impact of emerging technologies. She also developed automated and tracking tools for audit reviews and investigations to ensure compliance with the company's Code of Conduct, law, and regulations. Her investigatory experience includes casework in fraud, theft, insider trading, procurement, contract management, conflict of interest, sexual

harassment, discrimination, and workplace violence.

An important aspect of her life is family, friends, and four furry kids (dogs Hannah, Igor, Dutchess, and Lady). As a harpist, Colette provides therapeutic music to the ill and dying in hospitals, hospices, homes, and other clinical settings throughout the Denver area.

Sonia Salas

Sonia has worked for Larimer County's Fraud Investigations & Recovery Unit since September of 1987. She started as an Investigative Technician and became a Fraud Investigator in April 1999. She has been a member of CWFC for most of those years.

Sonia has been through a lot of changes in the program areas over the years, from AFDC to TANF, Food Stamps coupons to EBT and COIN 80 and CAFSS to CBMS. Sonia enjoys her work and looks forward to serving on the board.



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The mission of CWFC is to uphold the integrity and spirit of public assistance programs' rules and regulations as they relate to fraud.

**U.S. TEAMING WITH VA, MD TO COMBAT...CONT.
FROM PAGE 1**

As the economy dipped, the number of recipients swelled in Virginia, and 940,712 people received benefits in February.

Virginia and Maryland were selected to begin the new program because they have fairly significant SNAP populations and willing administrations, according to U.S. Agriculture Undersecretary for Food, Nutrition and Consumer Services Kevin Concanon.

USDA says it intends to use data collected under the agreements with Virginia and Maryland, as well as other information-sharing arrangements, to develop an enhanced monitoring tool for states.

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR 2013 AWARD WINNERS!

TED COLE MEMORIAL AWARD

JEFF BONADIES

LEGAL TECHNICIAN OF THE YEAR

HOLLY VEST

CASE MANAGER OF THE YEAR

JANET KINGSBURY

PROSECUTOR OF THE YEAR

SAM BURNEY

OUTSTANDING INDIVIDUAL OF THE YEAR

SUSAN SKYBERG

INVESTIGATOR OF THE YEAR

ALYSSA LOMA

EXCEPTIONAL SERVICE AWARD

DOREEN SMITH



Rogelio Segura, left, and Mike Bradbury, right, present Jeff with the Ted Cole Memorial Award.

