

▶▶▶ The Informer

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Conference Planning

President-Elect, Bridget Convey

The 2013 CWFC Conference is fast approaching, and we are well underway with planning. This year's conference will be packed with amazing speakers who will help educate all of us on a variety of topics related to fraud prevention, detection and deterrence. We plan on having speakers from the County, State, and Federal levels of government, as well as a few presenters from the private sector.

During the conference you will notice that we will have four different 'tracks' that you can chose to follow. These tracks have been developed to help the audience target which speaker may be best suited to their personal education needs. You will be able to 'jump' tracks at any point during the conference. The goal is for you to have a great time and learn as much as possible.

While the tracks have not been defined with titles yet, the general gist will be Investigators / Supervisors, Case Studies, Eligibility, and General (All). Here is a general break down of what you can expect:

Investigators / Supervisors: This track will encompass fraud investigation techniques, newly developed State reports that can be

used to assist with data mining, uncovering VA fraud and using EBT reports to your advantage.

Case Studies: This track will encompass case studies from counties of all sizes. Along with the fascinating stories and networking opportunities, you will get to hear about detection and investigation techniques used across the State from your peers who can talk the talk and walk the walk.

Eligibility: This track will encompass all high level program groups represented by the State policy experts. Sessions will include rule re-write information, processing guidelines and how to work fraud from a preventative approach.

General / All: This track will encompass identity theft, claims and updates that all parties should be aware of within program rules. These sessions will be general enough in nature that all attendees will benefit.

The 2013 conference will be held at the Embassy Suites in Loveland. We have some wonderful treats in store for you this year and look forward to seeing you at the conference!

By-Laws Change

A Dissenting Opinion

Jeff Bonadies

In a few weeks members will be presented with several proposed changes to the Colorado Welfare Fraud Council's by-laws. These changes have been approved for recommendation to the general membership by a majority vote of the Officers and Board of Directors. Note that I said a "majority" vote, not a unanimous vote. There were one or more dissenting votes pertaining to the various pro-

posed changes.

When the changes are presented to the general membership for vote, the ballot will include a sort of "blue book" format, discussing the pros and cons of the changes. My thoughts will be detailed in that ballot presentation. The main concepts of the changes relate to voting procedures for officers and future by-laws changes. I'll try

to give you a quick overview of my objections.

Some of the changes would allow on-line web based voting for officers, and would amend the process for by-law changes by removing secret balloting and immediately implementing changes rather than implementing them at the beginning of the next board year.

(cont. page 2)

PA Department of Public Welfare Saves Taxpayers \$3.5 Million by Cross-Checking Federal and State Benefits

10/24/2012 PRNewswire/USNewswire

Harrisburg, PA

The Department of Public Welfare has identified more than 900 Pennsylvanians who were receiving welfare benefits when they should not have been.

"Taxpayer dollars are tighter than ever and to ensure our core programs are available to those who truly need them, we must use every tool at our disposal to identify and remove ineligible individuals," Secretary of Public Welfare Gary D. Alexander said. "Because of our recent efforts, we have avoided paying out \$3.5 million in unneeded welfare benefits."

The department was able to identify ineligible individuals by using the federal Public Assistance Reporting Information System, also known as PARIS. PARIS is a federal-state partnership that includes a nationwide exchange of information and data about various welfare and pension programs from every state in the country.

By checking records with the U.S. Departments of Veterans Affairs, Defense and Personnel Management, and by using state-to-state information sharing, PARIS helped identify 933 incidences where individuals were not eligible for state welfare benefits or should have been receiving fewer benefits.

"The department must continue to implement measures that promote eligibility and payment accuracy to ensure integrity within our welfare programs," Alexander said.

"These efforts benefit those who rely on our services, as well as hardworking taxpayers, and we want both groups to know that we continue to do all we can to remove waste, fraud and abuse within our welfare programs."

For more information about the Department of Public Welfare, visit the department's website at www.dpw.state.pa.us

SOURCE Pennsylvania Department of Public Welfare. Article was found at:

<http://communityvoices.sites.post-gazette.com/index.php/news/154-ipso-facto-pr/34706-pa-department-of-public-welfare-saves-taxpayers-35-million-by-cross-checking->

Members Wanted!

In the next few weeks, you will be receiving a CWFC brochure and membership form in the mail. Please be sure to not only renew your membership for 2013, but to share this information with potential members so we can increase our numbers for the upcoming year!

If you have questions, contact Jennifer Parrilli-Cole at jparrilli-cole@bouldercounty.org. Thanks for helping to spread the word about CWFC and all of the good things we do as an organization!

By-Laws Change

(cont. from pg. 1)

There are several objections to these proposed changes. First and foremost is cost. There is currently, and not in the foreseeable future, any available web based voting resource that is as cost effective as mail balloting. The potential web resources are more expensive by a factor of five or ten. Next is the inability to absolutely protect the integrity of the ballot. Not a day goes by that we don't see reports of voter fraud, web sites hacked, and information compromised. The potential for such events on "little ol' CWFC"? Probably minimal, but why risk it?

Similarly, why eliminate the requirement for a secret balloting for by-law changes?

Are by-laws somehow less important than Officers?

I might suggest just the opposite.

Keep in mind the CWFC by-laws are somewhat like a constitution or a charter. Changes should be few and only when absolutely necessary. If a board of directors needs to change a day to day operating procedure, that's within the board's decision making authority. But to amend a voting process simply for expediency is ill advised.

Please pay close attention to both sides of the presentation of the changes when it arrives in your mailbox. The exact wording of the changes has not yet been perfected, but when finalized there will be more details on both sides of the discussion.

Have you ever wanted to serve on the CWFC Board? If you have, please send an e-mail to liz.toledo@state.co.us expressing your interest.

The members of the board volunteer their time to promote the Colorado Welfare Fraud Council and pursue the beliefs and goals of the Council at all levels of government. Come join our team, meet some great people from around the state and enjoy the feeling of making a difference!

Please know that you will need to be an active CWFC member before May 2013 and must obtain support from your supervisor in order to be considered. Don't hesitate, just drop Liz a line!

Conference Presenters Needed!

Do you have a fraud investigation that you are exceptionally proud of? Do you have special tips and tricks that you wish you could share with your peers? Do you have a fraud case that was an exceptional challenge? If you answered yes to any of these questions, and would feel comfortable presenting in front of 20-40 of your



peers, please contact Briget.Convey@state.co.us. We have two 90-minute sessions open in the case study track for the 2013 conference. Learning from each other is what this conference is all about, so drop Bridget an e-mail and give her a high level fly-by of the case or what you would be interested in presenting on. Deadline is December 31.



Award Nomination Form

Nominees need not be CWFC members

(Check only one)

Ted Cole Memorial Award

This award recognizes an individual or group who demonstrated excellence in performance that enhances the general principles and goals of the CWFC, public relations, positive contribution to newsletter, legislation, or other printed forums that relate to preventing public assistance fraud and the promotion of the CWFC.

Outstanding Group or Individual of the Year

This award recognizes an individual or group of individuals who have made an important contribution and/or a major impact in the prevention, detection, prosecution, and recovery of fraudulently obtained public assistance within the last year

Prosecutor of the Year

This award recognizes an individual who has made an outstanding contribution and/or shown excellence in the prosecution of fraud.

Income Maintenance Tech, Eligibility Worker, or Case Manager of the Year

This award recognizes an individual who has made an outstanding contribution and/or demonstrates excellence in the prevention of public assistance or food assistance fraud.

Recovery, Legal, Investigative Tech of the Year

This award recognizes an individual who has made an outstanding contribution and/or demonstrates excellence in the recovery of public assistance or food assistance fraud.

Investigator of the Year

This award includes all Investigators from local, state and federal levels. It recognizes an individual who has made an outstanding contribution and/or exhibited excellence in the investigation of fraud and program abuse.

Nominee: _____

Reason for Nomination- please attach your nomination on department letterhead

Your Name: _____

Phone #: _____

Fax or E-mail nominations to Jeff Bonadies or any Awards Committee member by April 30, 2013

Fax: 719/589-9794

E-mail: Jeff.Bonadies@state.co.us

CWFC Memberships for 2013 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 2013! 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,

Jennifer Parrilli-Cole

Vice-President and Membership Committee Chair, CWFC, 2012-2013

Please print legibly and complete membership form in its entirety

2013 CWFC Membership Form

Name: _____ Date: _____

Agency: _____ Title: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Telephone: _____ Fax: _____ E-mail _____

New Member Returning Member Renewal Change of Contact Information Only

2013 Annual Membership is \$20.00. 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