

wdtip UPDATE



CALIFORNIA
DEPARTMENT OF
SOCIAL SERVICES



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WDTIP Crossword Puzzle

note from **DEPUTY DIRECTOR,** SAWS Project

In our first two issues of the *WDTIP Update*, we focused on providing you with information on Welfare Data Tracking Implementation Project (WDTIP) strategy. We were in the midst of strategic planning then. Now that we've progressed into the second phase and have completed the planning, designing and coding of the WDTIP system, our focus has changed. Our emphasis has turned to analyzing the system itself. As we welcome the new millennium, I'd like to reflect on how the WDTIP system is being received by the counties. Will the system we've built meet their needs?

During the WDTIP Regional Meetings (in October and November 1999) the WDTIP Implementation Team presented detailed

information to the counties on system functionality, conversion and training. The county representatives posed questions to the Implementation Team. Presented below, the answers to these questions provide valuable insight into how the counties will utilize the WDTIP system.

We have also polled representatives from the consortium systems that attended the Regional Meetings to find out what they had to say about the WDTIP system. Their comments are presented in the *in's and out's* article on page 3. We believe the combination of these perspectives will confirm that the counties are as excited about the WDTIP as we are.

Steven C. Howe
Deputy Director, SAWS Project

Regional Meeting Questions and Answers

Q. How will rejected transactions be sent to counties: through Medi-Cal Eligibility Data System (MEDS) or through county or consortia systems?

A. Rejected transactions will be sent via an electronic file to counties through their consortium or local county systems.

Q. What is the definition of a "converted" county?

A. A county is considered "converted" when it has converted all data from its system (county), the WDTIP system is receiving daily batch data files from that county and that county's data is no longer being updated via the extract file from MEDS.

Q. Will report files be sent to counties that have not yet converted to the WDTIP system?

A. Electronic report files will be sent to all counties regardless of their conversion status.

Q. Will an individual be included on the Exceeding Clocks Report if they have an extension?

A. Yes. All individuals who have exceeded their initial time clock will be reported on the Exceeding Clocks Report.

continued on page 3

status check

APPLICATION TEAM

The Welfare Data Tracking Implementation Project (WDTIP) Application Team completed online and batch coding and unit testing on December 17, 1999, approximately four weeks ahead of schedule. System and integration testing started on January 3, 2000. The Application and Implementation Teams are coordinating plans for User Acceptance Testing (UAT), which is expected to start in April 2000.

The Application Team hosted a Question & Answer Session November 17, 1999, in Sacramento to discuss the WDTIP External Developer's Guide (EDG). The meeting provided a forum for county and consortia representatives to present questions generated after their review of the EDG. The meeting minutes provide an overview of the meeting, outline resolution to some of the questions and issues presented, provide a list of items the WDTIP Application Team agreed to follow up on, and lists the attendees. For more information about the EDG meeting, please reference the minutes, posted in the library on the WDTIP website under Meetings.

colophon

Editor

Jennifer Speak

Editorial Contributors

Matt Bunn

Lori Christensen

Debra Goodman

Linda Parr

Lorrie Taylor

Sue Wolf

Kristen Wilson

Designer

Susan Lovett

the in's & OUT'S

The Welfare Data Tracking Implementation Project (WTDIP) sponsor, the California Department of Social Services (CDSS) and the WDTIP Implementation Team were on the road in October and November 1999 to acquaint counties with the WDTIP system. We thought it would be a good idea to follow up with representatives from the four consortia systems that attended Regional Meetings to find out what they had to say about the WDTIP system. Their comments follow.

"The CalWORKs eligibility and Career Services Specialists will use the WDTIP system in our county to obtain 60-month and 18/24-month time clock information to determine eligibility. We will use the system mostly during the intake and redetermination processes. Staff will be using the WDTIP system directly for most inquiry purposes, since it will be the only place to obtain statewide information." Kathy Smith, HSA Program Administrator, Ventura County Department of Social Services (C-IV county)

"We are a small county; our staff is comprised of a Supervisor and an Eligibility Worker.

Both will be using the WDTIP system to check Welfare Reform time limits. Right

now we are focusing on the Welfare-to-Work (WTW) time limits, WTW plan sign date, and various WTW participation statuses. The WDTIP system will be used to obtain consortia data and the results will be reviewed with our client." Jackie Casey, Eligibility Program Supervisor, Alpine County Department of Social Services (ISAWS county)

"I foresee the eligibility and WTW Case Managers using the WDTIP system. Eligibility staff will use the system to determine the amount of time spent on aid and will then have an accurate count of the participant's time clock. WTW Case Managers will use the system to assist in development of the WTW plan, thereby getting an accurate idea for how much time the participant has on their time clock." Kelly Arredondo, Program Assistant, Santa Barbara County Department of Social Services (WCDS county)

"The WDTIP system will be used by our eligibility and social worker staff to view cash program participation information, TANF and CalWORKs time clocks, WTW time clock information and plan sign date. We'll be looking for information on inter-county transfers and other state involvement." Mark Magladry, CalWORKs Program Analyst, Humboldt County Department of Social Services (ISAWS county).

just
an
fyi



wdtip, diversion & YOU

As you may already know, the receipt of diversion benefits by an individual may impact the TANF and the CalWORKs 60-month clocks, depending on the circumstances surrounding the diversion payment and the client's aid status. The WDTIP system will have the functionality to record diversion payment information and calculate the diversion payment's affect on the time clocks.

Diversion payment information necessary to compute the time clocks can be provided to the WDTIP system in one of two ways. If diversion payment data is captured in the county's eligibility system, the information can be sent via the daily batch data file. If the information is not retained in the eligibility system, the data can be provided by the utilization of an online update screen in the WDTIP system.

Diversion payment related information that will be sent to and stored in the WDTIP system will be used for two purposes. First and foremost, the

information will be used as a part of the system's time clock formula for accurate calculation of the TANF and CalWORKs 60-month time clocks (with respect to the diversion payment or payments). Secondly, the system provides a complete historical record of the diversion payments received by the individual on a statewide basis. This gives counties the ability to review earlier diversion payments prior to issuing any future payments. Prompt and complete entry of all diversion payment information, including the diversion period start and end dates, allows a county to determine if the individual is reapplying for CalWORKs during the diversion period. This diversion information will prompt the client's decision whether to repay the diversion amount or have the months of the diversion period count against their CalWORKs 60-month time clock.

Capture and display of diversion payment information in the WDTIP system promotes the accurate calculation of the affected time clocks as well as provides the most complete recording of statewide diversion payment information.

Q & A continued...

Q. When will counties use the update screens?

A. Counties will only use the update screens when they cannot send the required information electronically. This occurs if the county does not track the required information in their eligibility system, but tracks it manually (e.g., diversion payments and supportive services only).

Q. How will information received in the batch process be corrected and/or updated?

A. Any information that is sent to the WDTIP system via a county/consortium system must be updated or corrected through that county/consortium system. The county/consortium system would need to be corrected first, with the information then being passed to the WDTIP system through the daily batch file process.

Q. Can counties do online updates prior to converting their data?

A. All counties will have access to the WDTIP system on the day the system "goes live." If counties have the capability, they may do online updates prior to converting their data to the WDTIP system as it will be populated with data from the MEDS extract file until conversion occurs in their county.

For a complete listing of the questions and answers, please visit the WDTIP website library at www.wdtip.cahwnet.gov. □

status check

IMPLEMENTATION TEAM

The WDTIP Implementation Team has finished conducting Regional Meetings. Information regarding the project history, data conversion approach, system functionality, training strategy, communication approach and Help Desk strategy was shared with county representatives. Questions, issues and design requests were posed to the Implementation Team. The issues were logged into the WDTIP issue database for resolution and the design requests were submitted to the Change Control Board. The questions and their corresponding answers are provided in the *in's & out's* article

of this publication. The issues, design requests and resolutions have been presented in the January 2000 issue of the *WDTIP Bulletin*. □

Currently, the Implementation Team is finalizing the *Implementation Plan*. This document is due at the end of January 2000 and outlines the plans for WDTIP data conversion, system rollout, training, change leadership, Help Desk and change requests.

The Implementation Team is also preparing for User Acceptance Testing (UAT). UAT will occur with county and CDSS participation in mid March 2000. This UAT Team will be comprised of representatives from each of the consortium systems and independent counties and the CDSS.

The UAT Team training will focus on the WDTIP system and testing processes. The UAT Team will also conduct testing and compile the results. Later in the spring, a county conversion UAT will be coordinated with the individual county contacts. The date for county conversion UAT will be determined later.

fyi... □

did ya' know

- Effective January 1, 2000, the Health and Welfare Data Center changed its name to the California Health and Human Services Agency Data Center (HHSDC).
- The correct acronym for the California Health and Human Services Agency is **CHHS**, not CHSA.
- No major problems were reported on the State of California's Y2K transition. By all accounts, the transition has been very successful. For more information, visit the State's Y2K website at www.year2000.ca.gov/ □
state.

upcoming ACTIVITIES

JANUARY

1ST

Say hello to the new millennium!

24th

Our website, www.wdtip.cahwnet.gov, will be updated with the latest project info! If you want to provide feedback about contents or layout, please call Jenniefer Speak, at (916) 229-4470.

28th

Monthly *WDTIP Bulletin* published. For more information call the toll free Help Desk at (877) 365-7378 or check out the website for a more detailed calendar!

Implementation Plan completed.

31ST

Completed Source Modules/Unit Test approved.

FEBRUARY

18th

Training Curriculum completed.

25th

WDTIP Bulletin will be sent out.

28th

WDTIP website will, once again, be updated.

29th

Integration/System Test sign-off.

MARCH

17th

WDTIP Phase III workplan completed.

20th – 24th

WDTIP User Acceptance Testing (UAT) Training.

27th

Website will be updated.

31ST

Time again for the *WDTIP Bulletin*.

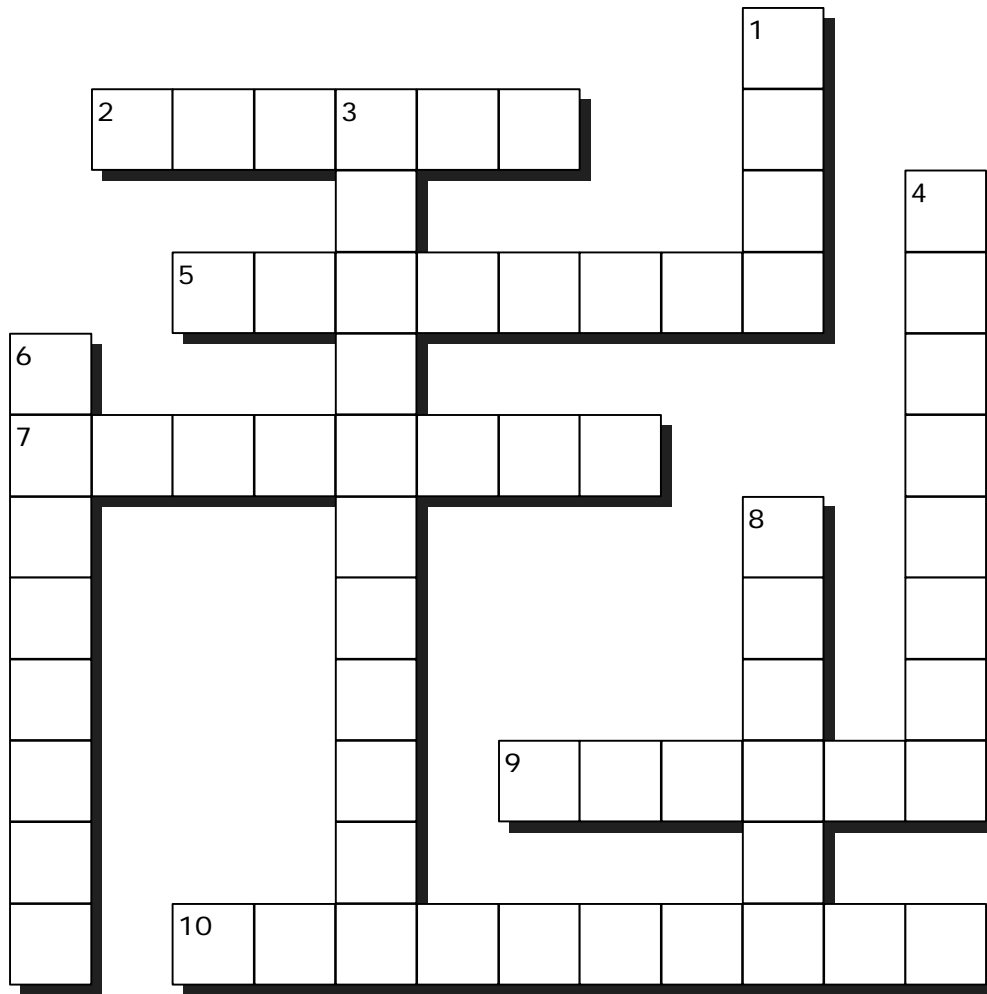


editor's NOTE



What would you like to see in the WDTIP Update? Have any interest in writing an article? We would love to hear from you. Please contact Jenniefer Speak (916) 229-4470 if you would like to contribute any information or have any feedback.

WDTIP PUZZLE



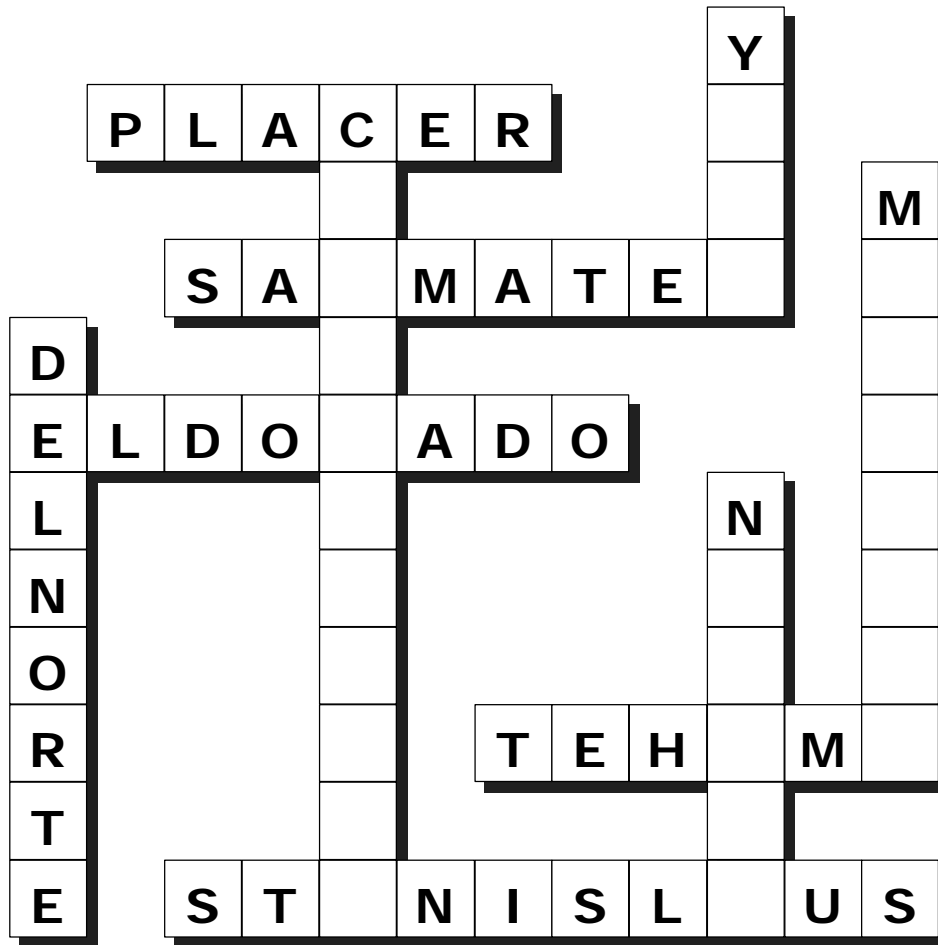
[Across]

2. Probably named after a contraction of the words plaza de oro or "place of gold."
5. This county bears the Spanish name for Saint Matthew (2 words).
7. This county's name means "the gilded one" in Spanish. Named after a mythical Indian chief who was said to have been covered in gold dust during the performance of religious rites (2 words).
9. Suggested possible roots for the name of this county are the Arabic word of the same name meaning "hot low lands" or the Mexican word, tejamanil, meaning "shingle."
10. Named after Estanislao, an Indian chief who led a band of Indians in a series of battles against Mexican troops.

[Down]

1. This county is an Indian name believed to be a variation of an Indian tribal name Yo-loy or "a place abounding in rushes."
3. The name signifies "opposite coast," because of its situation opposite San Francisco (2 words).
4. Spanish word for "butterflies." Named after a creek that was named by Spanish explorers who found great clusters of butterflies in the Sierras.
6. Two words meaning "the North." This county derived its name from its extreme northwest geographical position in the state.
8. The word in Spanish means "snowy" or "snow covered."

WDTIP PUZZLE ANSWERS



[Across]

2. PLACER
5. SANMATEO
7. ELDORADO
9. TEHAMA
10. STANISLAUS

[Down]

1. YOLO
3. CONTRACOSTA
4. MARIPOSA
6. DELNORTE
8. NEVADA