



## **DHA: TOA Clock Changes**

UPE met with representatives from DHA over changes to the Cal-Works time-on-aid clock. The Cal-Works clock is now 60 months, and the Welfare to Work (WTW) 24-month clock has been repealed. As a result, a large number of cases may be eligible for benefits. CalWin will automatically update the clock on May 16th. For workers, this means potentially thousands of cases that will have to be reevaluated for exemptions, reengagement with WTW to work, or sanction. After the CalWin update, the County will have a more complete understanding of how many cases they are dealing with and whether they are on existing WTW caseloads, at the CW continuing service center or even potentially closed. The Department developed a plan to have existing CW continuing cases reviewed at the Service Center for exemptions before being transferred to WTW caseloads.

UPE is beginning to review the Department's plans but expressed concern to the Department about the potentially very large increase in workload associated with these changes. In particular, UPE's main worry is that the Department sent notice to all clients of these changes and the potential impact on their cases. UPE believes this could lead to an influx of walk-in clients to open-lobby locations, which could strain WTW WODs at these locations. UPE noted that the Department did not yet have a plan in place to deal with these clients. UPE requested the parties meet again prior to the May 16th automation in order to continue reviewing Department plans. Additionally, the parties agreed to meet a third time following the CalWin automation. At this point, a more precise caseload will be known, and the Department can better develop a plan to handle the workload. UPE wanted the additional meeting to ensure every opportunity to review the Department's plans and offer solutions to improve conditions for workers.