CalSAWS | Buzz

Volume 2 | Issue 1: Functional Design Sessions Outcome

We are pleased to distribute the third issue of the CalSAWS Buzz. Since the first issue, the Project Team has been working on becoming the CalSAWS Consortium. Bringing 58 Counties together in governance, committees, decision-making, and communications is a major workload and an evolving process with the goal of continuous improvement.
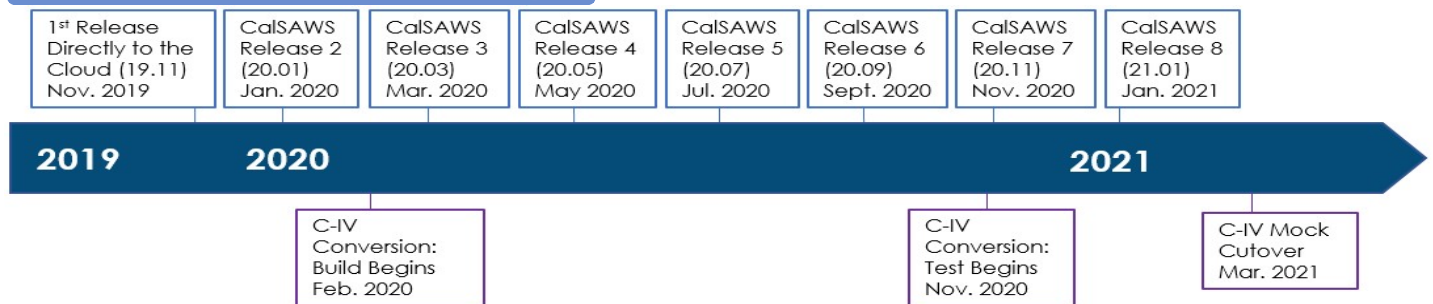
CalSAWS Schedule News
The CalSAWS Team has been working to finalize the outcomes of the Functional Design Sessions (FDS) conducted mid-2019. These sessions included capturing and confirming specific requirements on various topic areas, such as, Imaging, Task Management, General Assistance/General Relief, Non-State Forms, Ancillary Conversion and Application Programming Interfaces (APIs) topics.

Each of these topic areas include a plan, requirements and effort/timing estimate. To determine how this now specific scope of work will be incorporated into the CalSAWS Release schedule, an overall schedule review is being conducted. An option that is being considered is to complete the FDS scope of work in a phased approach. This approach would incorporate certain functionality prior to the C-IV Counties' go live planned for September 2021 and the additional functionality phased in before the CalWIN Counties' go live waves begin. Additional time is needed in order to complete all of the work before the CalWIN waves begin, so the CalWIN counties go live dates would have to be shifted (about 9 months out) to late 2022 and 2023 timeframes.

Stay tuned for the next CalSAWS Buzz for the final Schedule Change News. ⛄

Visit our newly launched website www.CalSAWS.org for more information on the CalSAWS Project's activities, and provide suggestions & feedback to your Regional Managers or by emailing AskCalSAWS@CalSAWS.org.

CalSAWS Release Roadmap

1st Release Directly to the Cloud (19.11) Nov. 2019	CalSAWS Release 2 (20.01) Jan. 2020	CalSAWS Release 3 (20.03) Mar. 2020	CalSAWS Release 4 (20.05) May 2020	CalSAWS Release 5 (20.07) Jul. 2020	CalSAWS Release 6 (20.09) Sept. 2020	CalSAWS Release 7 (20.11) Nov. 2020	CalSAWS Release 8 (21.01) Jan. 2021

2019   2020   2021

- C-IV Conversion: Build Begins Feb. 2020
- C-IV Conversion: Test Begins Nov. 2020
- C-IV Mock Cutover Mar. 2021

In This Issue

Upcoming Meetings & Events

01/2020	General Membership Meeting
01/2020	CalFresh/CalWORKs C-IV User Labs
01/2020	Welfare-to-Work C-IV User Labs
01/2020	Medi-Cal C-IV User Labs
02/19/20	Region 6 Management Site Visit
02/03/20	Region 5 Management Site Visit
03/20/20	Region 1 Management Site Visit

The Six CalSAWS Regions

Region	# of Counties	# of Votes	% Person Count
1	12	2	15.12%
2	13	1	6.49%
3	14	1	2.84%
4	11	2	16.35%
5	7	3	30.53%
6	1	3	28.66%

Meet Your Regional Managers: Region 4

Region 1 – Greg Postulka, Daisy Villasenor, Yolanda Banuelos

Region 2 – Julie Conwell, Jennifer Hobbs

Region 3 – Kimberly Lamb, Nichole Nava

Region 4 – Joe Mendoza, Justin Stephenson, Matt VanderEyck

Region 5 – J.R. Dessai, Ricardo Miranda, Martha Zepeda, Veronica Lara

Region 6 – Ayana Alvarez, Monica Gonzalez, Lorena Montes, Angelo Salazar
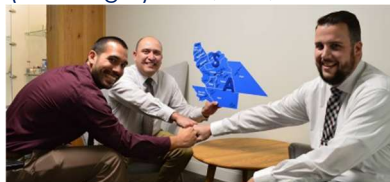

The Region 4 Regional Managers are sometimes affectionately referred to as the **Trinity of Awesomeness**. These 3 road warriors work as a cohesive unit to serve Region 4 and represent the goals and values of the CalSAWS Consortium. The trinity is made up of the following gentlemen:

Region 4 (R4) RMs:
(left to right) Matt, Joe, Justin

Did You Know

Region 4 is home to roughly 73% of the state's cows? Studies have shown that farmers who called their cows by name reported higher milk yields than those who did not. "Get over here, Clarabelle!"

Joe has worked for Stanislaus County for about 18 years in a variety of areas from Case Management, System Support, Training, and Contact Center. He has been a Regional Manager since 2013. Joe has been married for 17 years and has two children- a 15yr old and 13yr old. He loves watching his children play basketball and soccer and watching football. **Matt** has worked with CalWIN since his start in Yolo County in 2011. He came to the CalWIN project in 2014 to serve as the Client Correspondence lead prior to his role as "RM". He completed his undergraduate studies at UC Davis and earned his MBA from Drexel University. He and his wife, Shauna, have a 2.5 year old daughter who is firmly disrupting the hegemonic order of the household. They are expecting a son in late January. **Justin** is the newest member of our Region 4 Team and prior to joining the Consortium he spent the last 8 years working in Merced County. He started out in All Aids Intake before making the move to Merced's CalSAWS team, where he served as Merced County's PPOC and Helpdesk Supervisor. In this role, he also served as an analyst for Reception, Lobby Management, and C-IV Security. Justin has been married to his wife, Sarah, for 16-1/2 years and they have two children. He enjoys camping and visiting theme parks with his family. ☃

A Byte of Release Management

Release management is the process of planning, coordinating, and verifying the deployment of software to the end user.

For CalSAWS, the software development will occur over a series of CalSAWS Releases. The CalSAWS migration changes are delivered in alignment with existing LRS bi-monthly releases, along with other application changes such as defect fixes and system change requests (SCRs). This will transform the LRS application into the CalSAWS application.

The CalSAWS requirements will be combined into SCRs and packaged into the CalSAWS releases. CalSAWS system testing will be performed for each release. This includes tests for positive and negative verification of CalSAWS requirements.
Testing is performed throughout the release cycles to validate functionality, as appropriate.

As the migrating counties prepare to go live with CalSAWS, specialized testing will also be conducted to ensure the readiness of the system to support all 58 California counties. This includes converted data testing, batch regression testing, batch and online performance testing, state and county partner interface file exchange testing, and county user acceptance testing. ☃
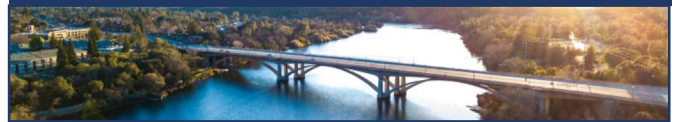
Meet Your CalSAWS Release Management Team

Cristina Contreras

Cristina Contreras is an Information Technology Manager I, assigned to the Application Development, Test and Release Management Section led by JoAnne Osborn. Cristina has been with the project since 2013 managing various LRS project teams. Cristina started her career with L.A. County as an Eligibility Worker. Cristina is part of the Consortium, CalSAWS project team. In her Release Manager role, she works with various stakeholders. Cristina is responsible for managing staff and resources that provide a full-range of information systems analysis and design for complex systems. She also works with L.A. County on validation of migration releases and Maintenance and Enhancement type changes. Cristina resides in Hawthorne, California and is married with 5 children. One daughter (married), twin boys age 24, one has a BS in technology and coding, the other is a Marine, now in college, she has another boy in H.S., and her youngest boy in 2nd grade. ☃

Roger Perez

Roger Perez is a Technology Delivery Lead and Associate Director with Accenture's North America Health & Public Service practice based in Sacramento, California and has been with Accenture for 15 years. Since 2005, Roger has been a team member, delivery lead and/or manager on several of the C-IV and LRS project teams, including Reports, Eligibility, ISAWS Conversion, ISAWS Converted Data Test, CalSAWS Migration Planning and Release Management.
As part of the CalSAWS Project, Roger and his Release Management/System Test team will work with the Counties, Consortium, and Development teams to ensure the CalSAWS requirements, LRS M&E, and C-IV system changes are delivered on-time and with high quality. Roger is married living in Rancho Cordova, CA, with his 3 young boys (ages 8, 6 & 2). ☃

CalSAWS

ANALYST
APPLICATION
CALSAWS
COMMITTEES
CONSORTIA
COUNTY
CUSTOMER
ELIGIBILITY
GOVERNANCE
MANAGEMENT
ORGANIZATION
POLICY
PROCUREMENT
PROJECT
RELEASE
STAKEHOLDERS
TEAM
TECHNICAL

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B O E Y L K A M D Q I M U L I Y E N I O
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A recollection from CalSAWS Executive Director, John Boule

The Team has accomplished major milestones towards creating the CalSAWS system. As 2019 closed, we were reminded of the following accomplishments:

- In March, the Design, Development, and Implementation (DD&I) scope of work for the CalSAWS Project was approved.
- From January through May, all 58 California counties obtained an affirmative vote from each of their Boards of Supervisors creating the CalSAWS Joint Powers Authority (JPA) as the legal entity to oversee the DD&I and Maintenance and Operations (M&O) of the single statewide automated welfare system to be known as CalSAWS.
- In June the CalSAWS JPA/Consortium officially came into existence and elected its first Board of Directors and Project Steering Committee representing the six CalSAWS regions.
- Beginning in April through present, the progression to transform to the new, 6 region based committee structure has been taking place.
- In the summer, the ClearBest team was brought on board to perform Quality Assurance services for the CalSAWS DD&I; and Cambria Solutions was brought on board to re-platform OCAT for integration with SAWS in 2020.
- From May through September, the Project and counties conducted Functional Design Sessions to further define the CalSAWS scope for necessary functionality such as statewide imaging, task management, APIs, General Assistance/General Relief, ancillary conversion sources and non-state forms.
- In August, the CalSAWS.org website was launched bringing about enhanced communications and transparency with our CalSAWS counties and the general public.
- Continuing since March, we are onboarding dozens of new county, contract, and vendor employees to enhance our capabilities and bandwidth for delivery.
- In October, the CalSAWS team migrated the LEADER Replacement System (LRS) to the AWS Cloud. LRS is currently the largest integrated eligibility welfare system ever to have made the transition from an on-premise data center to the AWS Cloud.
- In November, the first of eight CalSAWS releases, which will transform the LRS into CalSAWS, was deployed to LA County for use in production, with high-quality and few errors.
- Less than a month ago, Marin County was the first C-IV County to migrate to the Amazon Connect Contact Center platform.
- All of the above was accomplished while major functional system enhancements for program policy and other necessary changes and enhancements were being deployed in support of our approximately 50,000 users of our three SAWS (LRS, C-IV, and CalWIN) in support of our counties and almost 15 million Californians.
  2020, we will continue working together towards the CalSAWS reality. ☃