

CalSAWS | Notes from Welfare-to-Work (WTW) Committee

Date: March 20, 2025

Notes Location: Web Portal > Meetings > Committees
> Welfare to Work > 2025

Time: 9:00 am – 11:00 pm

Meeting Called by: Gingko Luna

Meeting Materials: CA-282331 ACL 24-74 Cal-Learn SB
521 Design Document.docx,
CA-286658 (1).pdf,
CA-286996 Cal-OAR – Update logic
for WTW_CWEX (Variable #53) per
SIRFRA 4009.docx,
CA-287199 CalOAR – Update logic
for PAR_ACT (Variable #40) –
condition 1b.docx,
WTW Committee Meeting Agenda
3.20.25.docx

Attendees:

1	Contra Costa Monterey Napa Sonoma	Sonya Hopkins Debra McAlahney Jose Camacho Latrice Babers
2	Placer Sacramento Sacramento	Jamie Pellow Jasmin Perrigo Kim Casalta
3	Humboldt	Colleen Ridlon
4	Fresno Kern Stanislaus	Roselinda Rolph Torres Connie Shin Sajida Alkhateeb
5	Riverside San Bernardino San Diego Santa Barbara Orange	Rene Lara Barbara Cole Linda Sevilla Esther Herrera Adrian Barrera
6	Los Angeles	Mareta Melkonyan Xochitl Avila Lorraine Sinelkoff Magin Argueta Soila Caballeros Patricia Gonzalez
	State Partners	Shawn Mainville., Jaspreet Kaur, Elizabeth Cao, David Dauer, Alex Singh
	Consortium	Lien Phan, Carlos Albances, Eric Fortenberry, Connor O'Donnell, Shining Liu, Eric Delaney

Topic	Important Points
Introduction to Cal-OAR	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explained the purpose of the meeting, focusing on the review of two Cal-OAR SCRs submitted by CDSS. • Provided background on CDSS's SAWS Internal Requests For Research & Analysis (SIRFRA) and how they are submitted to CalSAWS for review and approval. • Introduced Design Analysts who presented the Cal-OAR, CA-287199, which involves a change to the PAR_ACT (variable 40) condition 1b and SCR CA-286996 Cal-OAR - Update logic for WTW_CWEX (Variable #53) per SIRFRA 4009.
CA-287199 Cal-OAR - Update logic for PAR_ACT (Variable #40) - condition 1b	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Analyst explained the current criteria for variable 39 (SCH_PACT) and the conditions for variable 40 (PAR_ACT) to return 02. • Design Document includes examples that illustrate how the changes to variable 40 will affect the PAR_ACT variable, including scenarios where the status changes from Active Attending to Closed with specific Status Reasons. • Analyst clarified that the changes will be reflected in the preview reports once implemented; however, there will be no changes to the previous generated reports. • The Project addressed questions from Sacramento, confirming that the activity measurement month is based on the earliest activity Start Date and explaining the rationale behind the changes. • CDSS provided additional background information on the initial submission of the SIRFRA and the rationale for broadening the activity status types to ensure they reflect as 02 in the numerator. • CDSS explained the difference between variable 39 (denominator) and variable 40 (numerator) and why the clause "at any point in the measurement period" was removed from variable 40. • Region asked for clarification on the progression of the activity status and how it affects the measure, ensuring that the training materials are accurate. • CDSS confirmed that the changes ensure that participants with an active attending status at any point in the measurement period are counted as 02, regardless of subsequent status changes. • The Design Analyst stated partner integration testing will be conducted for this SCR and that Cal-OAR 19B test files will be generated once the changes have been made. • Design Analyst noted that there will be no changes to execution frequency or dependencies for the Cal-OAR 19B file. • The Project addressed a final question about how an activity updated to "Complete" without ever having an "Active Attending" status will be captured. The Project confirmed that it would still return 02 under criteria 1c.
CA-286996 Cal-OAR - Update logic for WTW_CWEX (Variable #53) per SIRFRA 4009	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Design Analyst introduced the next SCR, CA-286996 focusing on variable 53 for former Welfare to Work

individuals who participated in education while on CalWORKs.

- This variable identifies individuals who did or did not participate in education while on CalWORKs and exited CalWORKs in the measurement period.
- The update is for the Cal-OAR 19E semi-annual report which includes the denominator of the Educational Completion Rate.
- The current criterion for this variable is being updated to check for changes in status from “discontinued” or “sanctioned” to now look for “sanctioned” or “deregistered”.
- Analyst explained that all existing functionalities will remain unchanged unless specifically called out in the SCR.
- Regression testing will be conducted, and any changes will be reflected directly in the preview report.
- Analyst provided examples to illustrate how the updated criteria will be applied, assuming variable 41 indicates enrollment or training activity.
- Analyst mentioned that partner integration testing will occur with this SCR, generating Cal-OAR 19E test files for CDSS review.
- The files will be sent to counties participating in Partner Integration testing for validation.
- Region asked if the process of deregistering after 60 days of CalWORKs discontinuance will negatively affect Cal-OAR data. Analyst confirmed that it should not be due to the six-month data lag.
- Analyst confirmed that participants outside the population for the measure would fall outside the logic and be counted as 99.
- Facilitator mentioned that additional questions submitted via email will be addressed and updated in the design document if needed.
- The Project will provide email responses for outstanding written questions.

CA-282331 -ACL 24-74 Cal-Learn SB 521

- The SCR adds four new status reasons for exemptions for the Cal-Learn Program, with future updates for CL 3 to be implemented in a separate SCR and fiscal changes cataloged in CA- 288946.
 - Homelessness or imminent risk of homelessness
 - A lack of safety due to domestic violence.
 - Untreated or undertreated behavioral and mental health needs.
 - The misuse of controlled substances or alcohol
- Analyst explained the validation process for the new status reasons, ensuring the begin month is January 2024 or later.

Topic	Important Points
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Analyst clarified that the new reasons are based on those provided by the state, implying no generic reason is currently available. Region asked if the new exemption reasons are reflected in the STAT 45 report, and it was confirmed they are not, meaning cases with these new status reasons will not be pulled in the report. Further confirmation and follow-up on the generic other reason for exemptions was requested.
CER CA-286658 -Delink Medical Conditions Page from WTW Program and Work Registration Status	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Facilitator introduced the topic, mentioning the need to delink the Medical Conditions page from the Welfare to Work program, a request that was discussed in the November Committee meeting. Explained that the technical feasibility of delink was confirmed only this month, hence the delay in bringing it to the Committee. The Committee will vote on the general idea of disconnecting the Medical Condition page from the Welfare to Work program and Work Registration logic. Additional input from Region 6, suggests disabling exemption batches for the disabled and SSDI Welfare to Work and Work Registration exemptions. It was clarified that the voting will focus on the general concept and not on the detailed design, which will be reviewed later. RCMs, expressed strong support, highlighting the ongoing issues in Humboldt County regarding the Medical Condition screen's impact on eligibility.
0-23 Month Once in a Lifetime Exemption	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Region RCM explained the issue with the system only allowing up to 12 months of exemption at a time, despite the exemption potentially lasting up to 23-24 months. Highlighted the impact on workload and supportive services, including potential erroneous overpayments. There was an ask for other counties' practices. Humboldt County shared that their county enters the exemption at 23 months and notes that most issuances are based on work registration status, not Welfare to Work status. Another county indicated they enter two exemption lines with one feature dated. Region 6 Analyst suggested updating the system to remove the 12-month validation for the exception, referencing SCR CA-234341. Monterey County suggested contacting customers at the one-year mark to discuss volunteer participation and services and extending the exemption for a year at that time.

Topic

Important Points

- RCM mentioned that Lake County only allows entering the expected end date in year format.

(Optional Items)

Escalation of Payment Issues

Facilitator reminded everyone to escalate issues with child care and supportive service payments to their regional manager and the Welfare to Work Committee facilitator responsible for that area. Specific to customer payments, not general processes or communications with PPOCs.

Specific Tickets

Facilitator acknowledged ticket about the November child care payments and offers to discuss specific issues one-on-one.

#	Action Item	Assigned To	Assigned Date	Due Date	Status
1	Further confirmation and follow-up on the STAT 45 for generic other reason for exemptions was requested.	Gingko Luna	3/20/2025		Completed- emailed response committee on 3/20

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#	Decision Made	Who Made the Decision	Date
1	N/A		

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