



# VENTURA COUNTY COMMISSION FOR WOMEN

Public Social Services Agency  
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Ventura, CA 93001  
(805) 652-7611

[www.ventura.org/cfw/cfw-home.htm](http://www.ventura.org/cfw/cfw-home.htm)

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January 13, 2003

County Board of Supervisors  
800 Victoria Avenue  
Ventura, CA 93001

Dear Board of Supervisors:

I would like to take this opportunity to bring you up to date on the \$35,000 in Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) and to ask for your assistance to resolve an issue.

The Board of Supervisors allocated the monies to the Ventura County Commission for Women (VCCW) in July 2001. Unfortunately, the VCCW was not made aware of this until January 29, 2002. We then began the process of working out the administrative details for disbursement of the TANF funds. Two different Memorandums of Understanding (MOU) were drafted. The first was to be signed by Supervisor Mikels but it was subsequently determined that the responsibility should be with the County Executive Office (CEO).

On May 9, 2002, a meeting was held with Pamela Grothe of Human Services Agency and Jordana Telias of the CEO. We were told at that time that we needed to get a budget developed as soon as possible. VCCW had already gone ahead with plans for a newsletter, purchase of logo lapel pins and the Mervyn's Closet project. We were advised to go ahead and use our own funds to pay for these items and that we would be reimbursed from the TANF funds. The VCCW held a special meeting on July 13, 2002, to formalize the budget proposal.

On August 1, 2002, Nancy Kirk of Human Services Agency contacted me and said she would now be handling the MOU. Before the end of August, the responsibility was turned over to Barry Zimmerman, Director of Business and Employment Services. A meeting was held with Mr. Zimmerman on August 29, 2002. The budget was presented to Mr. Zimmerman and he agreed to pursue the question of how the funds would be disbursed.

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County Board of Supervisors  
January 8, 2003

On September 20, 2002, Lauri Flack, Deputy Director, Business and Employment Services, took over the administration of the funds. Effective October 11, 2002, a directive was issued funding the organizations selected by the Human Services Agency (attachment 1). The VCCW was advised that there was no way to reimburse the \$504.31 we had spent at the direction of the representative from the CEO's office.

Since the VCCW has not been funded for over ten (10) years, we have maintained a small bank account. We have been able to carry on the work of the VCCW by judiciously utilizing those funds and repeatedly digging into our own pockets. The VCCW became nothing more than a pass-through for the organizations that received the TANF funds. In the process, we expended \$504.31 of our meager treasury.

The VCCW asks the Board of Supervisors to reimburse the \$504.31.

Sincerely,

Lori Zafiropoulos  
Chair

Attachment