STATE OF CALIFORNIA—HEALTH AND WELFARE AGENCY GEORGE DEUKMEJIAN, Governor

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES
714/744 P STREET
SACRAMENTO, CA 95814

November 7, 1986

TO: All County Welfare Directors Letter No.: 86- 61
All County Administrative Officers

SUBJECT: LYNCH V. RANK (PICKLE) TICKLER SYSTEM

All County Welfare Director's Letter 86-57 described the process necessary to implement the statewide automated Pickle Tickler system. It outlined each step that county welfare departments (CWDs) were required to take to transfer their current tickler system to the state maintained system.

Your current Pickle tickler system is required to contain only former SSI/SSP recipients who currently receive Title II benefits and who were determined Pickle ineligible during the screening process. It is not necessary, unless they are currently included in your tickler system, to report persons who (1) have entered long-term care facilities; (2) have been reinstated to SSI/SSP (these are no longer potential Pickle and will not be accepted into the statewide tickler system); (3) currently receive In Home Supportive Services (IHSS); (4) are deceased; (5) have requested that they not be considered for Pickle eligibility (if documented); (6) have moved and their whereabouts are unknown or (7) are currently Pickle eligible (MEDS will automatically identify all current Pickle eligibles for the tickler system). At such time as a person is discharged from LTC or becomes ineligible for IHSS it becomes the CWD's responsibility to determine Pickle eligibility. At that time it is also the CWDs responsibility to report Pickle tickler status for these persons if they were not included in the initial load.

Using the information in ACWD letter 86-57 CWDs are being asked to prepare a fiscal estimate for the initial costs of transferring the tickler system. This estimate must be provided to Kristi Banion via SYSM HDKBANI no later than close of business November 14, 1986. Any CWDs not responding by that date will be presumed to have no costs associated with this transfer of information.

The estimate must include (only include in the estimate those costs that are not part of your usual costs for updating the county tickler system and sending notices of action each year):

1. The number of people, based upon the above description, in your current tickler system.

2. The method that you will be using for the initial input only (batch/tape or online) to submit this information. If batch, are these people identified in your current county tickler system? If they are not currently identified DHS would not anticipate that CWDs would elect to use the batch input method.

3. The number of staff and the hours necessary to accomplish the initial input by December 23, 1986.

4. Whether staff will have to work overtime, if so how many hours?

5. The classification of those staff members assigned to work on the initial input.

6. The total one time costs associated with this transfer.

7. The associated data processing costs for extracting these records to send them to MEDS (itemized separately).

Once the statewide tickler system is in place, the CWD workload will be reduced as counties will no longer need to maintain a separate tickler system nor will they need to send notices of action to potential Pickle eligibles on a yearly basis. Therefore, there should be no net cost increase to the CWDs resulting from the on-going operation of this system.

Following is a list of the specific actions that will be taken by DHS and those that should be taken by counties on an ongoing basis.

- DHS will use the State Data Exchange (SDX) files to identify and code the MEDS records of new potential Pickle eligibles. This process will capture not only those individuals with Title II income who are discontinued from SSI/SSP due to a Title II COLA, but also those who have been discontinued for any reason. NOTE: This does not eliminate the need for CWDs to screen each ABD person with Title II income and to provide the applicant the opportunity to request a state hearing if he/she fails the Pickle screening process.

- DHS will automatically delete the potential Pickle segment from the MEDS records of those individuals who have been reinstated to SSI benefits.

- Beginning January 1988, DHS will assume the responsibility for mailing the annual notices to all potential Pickle eligibles.

- DHS will exclude from the yearly notification process, those individuals who have been identified as deceased, (termination reason "01" or death code P, R, S). This process makes it unnecessary for CWDs to submit a separate EW60 transaction if another transaction has already identified the record as deceased.

- All records which show long-term care status will be excluded by DHS from the notification process. No update to the Pickle status is needed.

- All records which show current Pickle eligibility or IHSS eligibility will be excluded from the notification process.

- DHS will send CWDs a listing of all individuals to whom notices have been sent.

Counties will be responsible for updating the Pickle tickler information via an EW60 transaction in the following situations:

- Beneficiary is a potential Pickle eligible but was omitted from the initial loading of eligibles onto MEDS due to a county error.

- Beneficiary is a potential Pickle eligible who has moved to California from another state.

- Beneficiary is not currently Medi-Cal eligible but wishes to update address or county of residence for Pickle notification purposes.

- Beneficiary requests not to be contacted or his/her whereabouts are unknown.

- Beneficiary was erroneously identified by the CWD as a potential Pickle eligible.

- Beneficiary is not currently Medi-Cal eligible and is now deceased.

In view of the few situations in which EW60 transactions will be required on an on-going basis we believe that online updates are the most cost effective way of transmitting this information.

After receiving the cost estimate for loading the initial information and any necessary Data Processing (DP) changes DHS staff will evaluate the cost to each CWD and you will be notified as to the amount of reimbursement, if any, that will be provided. CWDs that responded to the October 15, 1986 request for tickler system costs are requested to provide the additional information outlined here as items 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7.

Any questions regarding either this letter or the Lynch v. Rank lawsuit should be directed to Kristi Banion at (916) 324-4961/ ATSS 454-4961 or via SYSM HDKBANI.

Thank you for your cooperation.

Sincerely,

Original signed by

Frank S. Martucci, Chief
Medi-Cal Eligibility Branch

cc: Medi-Cal Liaisons
Medi-Cal Program Consultants

Expiration Date: December 31, 1987