



Maternal and Child Health Access

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MCH Access Monthly Meeting

**THURS. APRIL 22 (NOTE CHANGE IN DATE – too many conflicts with 15th!)
1111 W. 6th St., free parking. Entrance in rear, on 5th St. (see covered parking entrance)
“Environmental Contaminants and MCH - What can you do?”**

Johanna Congleton, Physicians for Social Responsibility-Los Angeles

“How to communicate risk and exposure prevention strategies about mercury”

Cynthia Rojas/Carla Gonzalez Labor/Community Strategy Center

“Clean Air, Clean Buses” Campaign

MCH - Environmental bill review

Updates – Medi-Cal “Reform”, State budget

In this mailing:

- **Thurs. April 8 – Save Section 8!!**
- **MCH Bills – MCHA and PACLAC**
- **Walk America – March of Dimes 4/24**
- **Festival of Childhood – April 24**
- **April 28 – Better Choices for Children**
- **PACLAC May 6 – Improving Outcomes**
- **May 17 – Immigrant Day in Sacramento**
- **MCHA Fact Sheet: Infants in Medi-Cal**
- **All-County Letter 03-46 CalWORKS cannot hold up Medi-Cal for Infants!**
- **CHDP Advisory - Newborn Enrollment**
- **Childbirth Assistant/Doula Workshop**

Distributed March 18; call (213) 749-4261 for copies:

- On agenda: “What you can do” and brief client profiles for stories - state budget cuts
- March for Children – 3-25-04
- All County Letter 03-46 – CalWORKS processing of Medi-Cal for Newborns
- SB 1275 (Ortiz) Right to Informed Feeding Choices: supporter form, sample letter and information sheet
- *LA Times* 3-13-04, “The Risky Business of Cheap Living”
- Flyer, “New Directions for Hospital Care” SEIU Community Forum 4-1-04
- LA Health, Feb., 2004: “Children’s Health Insurance” and March, 2004: “Breastfeeding Practices”

- “Cuts in Medi-Cal for Pregnant Immigrant Women” MCHA testimony to Senate 3-8-04
- 3-15-04 NIEHS “Study Shows Effects of Prenatal Exposure to Second-hand Smoke Greater for Socioeconomically Disadvantaged Children”
- First Five Evaluation Toolkit available
- Medi-Cal Redesign schedule of mtgs; website
- Western Center on Law and Poverty, “Working Guidelines for Evaluating Medi-Cal Reform” 3-17 (newer version – see below)
- Assembly-Senate Daily File –hearings
- Benefits tier and cost sharing proposal for Medi-Cal, shared at first Benefits workgroup for Medi-Cal “reform”

Medi-Cal Reform Workgroups -Lynn Kersey

The Governor has embarked on a proposal to “redesign” Medi-Cal and cut upwards of \$400 million for the 2004-2005 fiscal year, primarily by applying for a federal “waiver” or rules change, to allow Medi-Cal changes. Any change in state law would still have to come through the legislature, but the fear is, with federal funds promised, the legislature would be hard pressed to say “no” to any proposals, no matter how onerous. No savings are forecast for this year; in fact, over \$2 million will be spent in the redesign and waiver application process for 2003-4. The redesign process is planned for a very short timeline, with workgroups in five topic areas completing by end of April. The workgroups are:

Redesign website at www.medi-calredesign.org.
You can also e-mail DHS at info@Medi-calredesign.org

Save the Date!

Tuesday, May 11th (8am – 4:30pm)

***The Roots of Health Coverage for California
Children: Local Efforts and Beyond***

Doubletree Hotel, Sacramento, CA

Community Health Councils, Inc. and the *Covering Kids & Families Coalition* invite you to explore strategies to increase healthcare coverage for children. In the midst of state budget constraints and future uncertainties, local efforts continue to grow as counties strive to maximize on current public health coverage programs and expand coverage for children. To broaden local efforts, a series of workshops will feature best practices and lessons learned on maximizing and expanding healthcare coverage for children. Emphasis is on building on local children's healthcare initiatives and practical tools to ensure all children have access to affordable and quality healthcare coverage. Participants include stakeholders and leaders from health departments, health providers, health plans, education, advocacy groups, foundations and community-based organizations. For additional information, please contact Catherine Sepulveda at 323-295-9372 or catherines@chc-inc.org

June 18-19: Founding Statewide Convention to End Poverty in California. Sponsored by a host of organizations: more info at meeting or www.californiadreamfoundation.org or call 818-725-7900.