



Maternal and Child Health Access

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MCH Access Monthly Meeting

Thurs., April 21, 10 AM – 12 Noon (Third Thursday monthly)
1111 W. 6th St., Fourth Floor. Free parking in back – enter 2-story parking on 5th St.

“Current Maternal and Child Health-Related State Legislation”

Dena Jenson, PACLAC, and MCH Access staff

Updates – Budget, Health Care Programs

Time for: What are you seeing with health programs and enrollments for pregnant women, children, families? Bring your issues...

In this mailing:

- New Health Care Countable Income Comparison Chart!
- Maternal and Child Health-Related Proposed Legislation list
- Important notice to those enrolling in Healthy Kids (“Dear Children’s Health Initiative Partner”) and notice of training 4/27
- Additional Health Coverage Trainings
- Sat., April 23: Child care budget forum
- Tuesday, May 3: “Catch Your Breath” Day of Action on Asthma
- Sat., May 21: “Coordinated School Health and Achievement: Making the Connection”
- “Facts and Figures about our TV Habit” TV Turn Off Week April 25 – May 1. See their website at: www.tvturnoff.org

Materials - Mar. 17 (call for copies):

- 2005 Public Policy Summer Fellowship
 - 2005 State Legislative Hearing Schedules
 - Fact Sheet: SB 840 (Kuehl): California Health Insurance Reliability Act.
 - 4/27 Youth HIV Prevention Conference
 - *Sacramento Bee*, 3-14-05, “Activist Takes Office, Comes Out Swinging” on Karen Bass, new State Assembly member
 - Californian’s for Healthy Kids Update 3-16
 - Immigrant Day in Sacramento: May 23
- From Guest Speakers:

- LA Language Access Collaborative – info
- Legal Services Hotlines for monolingual Asian Pacific Islanders
- Alas para tu salud – Access to Linguistically Appropriate Services
- Earned Income Tax Credit brochure

Meeting Notes Feb. 17, 2005:

Hemi Kim and Susan Choi presented from the Los Angeles Language Access Collaborative. They presented an exceptional power-point presentation describing language rights in health care and elsewhere, what various groups offer and how people can get involved in monitoring and reporting language rights issues. The group has been working with LA DHS and public hospital administrators to develop recommendations for hospitals, and with community organizations to educate and train community members. They made important suggestions for agencies such as: create a line item in your budget for language needs support and advocate for data collection and funding to support language access. They are looking for groups to join them in their efforts with hospitals, and would like to provide trainings: Contact Hemi Kim, hkim@apalc.org.

The coalition is planning a Town Hall meeting in late August of this year to elicit community concerns about language access.

Change in Healthy Families fees: On July 1, premiums for families in the 200-250% of Federal Poverty Level (see chart, enclosed) will increase to \$12 per child with maximum \$36/month payment for three or more children (if enrolled in Community Plan) or \$15 per child with maximum of \$45/month for three or more children for health plans other than the Community Plan. Families in this income bracket will soon begin getting letters explaining the increase.

Single Point of Entry Issues: If your clients' applications have been rejected for problems with verification (copies of income proof, etc.) or other reasons, even though you believe the application is correct, please let Celia Valdez at MCHA know (ext. 116).

Guest Speaker: Marco Martinez, Children's Planning Council (CPC), on Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC)

LA County created a Task Force on EITC, with the CPC as partners. The EITC is a federal program to support low and moderate income people and generates about \$30 million annually in revenue. It consists of two parts: a refundable tax credit for workers, regardless of whether they have a child, and a refundable child tax credit of \$1000 per child. The credit can be applied for up to three years retroactively. In addition, this year free banking and financial education courses are offered and free checking accounts, to help people deal with their funds and work toward microenterprises, loans for home-buying or college savings accounts, for example. Undocumented people with I-10 work permit numbers from IRS can get the child tax credit, but not the EITC. EITC can be added monthly to checks to supplement child care costs, etc., instead of taken in a lump sum and it is not taxable at the end of the year. The EITC can be applied for at any time of the year – not just at tax time. VITA tax assistance sites offer help for FREE: (800) 601-5552.

New Online Health and Budget Advocacy calendar:

<http://www.health-access.org/calendarhome.htm>

There are over 30 events of interest to health advocates listed just for April, and many more listed for May and beyond. Health advocates can list their own public events and activities directly through our online form, at: http://www.health-access.org/calendar_request.htm

Assembly member Judy Chu recently announced the second annual 49th District Asian Pacific Islander American Heritage Month Awards and Reception, to be held on Friday May 13. APIA Heritage Month was established in 1978 when the first week of May was officially named "APIA Heritage Week." In 1990, the designated week was expanded to include the entire month of May. The 49th District event will be held at The Grapevine, located at 324 S. Mission Drive, in the city of San Gabriel. Chu is accepting nominations for people who "reflect the diversity of the APIA community and have made significant contributions to the 49th District. For more information the event and the nomination process, call Susan at (323) 981-3426. The nomination deadline is Monday, April 25, 2005.



Save the Date

Weds., April 27: Y.O.U.T.H. HIV Prevention Conference (323) 660-2450 x 2390

Tues., May 17: "The Big Picture" Focusing on Diverse Communities in Managed Care" HMO Consumer Advocacy Symposium.

Office of Patient Advocate (916) 608-8686

Weds., May 4, 10 AM – Housing for All Demonstrate at City Hall South Steps - Save Section 8 Coalition (213) 439-1070 or garrick@lacehh.org

May 19, 20, 21 "Ending Poverty 2: Connecting the Threads". Conference at Pasadena Hilton, sponsored by Springfield College (San Diego) and the Western Regional Organization of Human Service Professionals. Call 619-582-4002 for info.

Tues., May 24: Improving Medical Services to Foster Youth – Alliance for Children's Rights: 562-438-80083