



Maternal and Child Health Access

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**April Monthly Meeting**  
**Thursday, April 20 (Third Thursday Monthly)**  
**1111 W. 6<sup>th</sup> St., Fourth Fl. Free parking in back, enter on 5<sup>th</sup> St., or street parking**

**PLEASE BRING BACK TO THIS MEETING THE PETITIONS FOR CHILD HEALTH INITIATIVE TAKEN AT MARCH MEETING!**

**Guest Speaker: TO BE ANNOUNCED**

**Updates on state budget, health coverage programs, legislation!**

**In this mailing:**

- New income guidelines for Medi-Cal and other health programs!
- Breastfeeding Resource Directory 2006
- IMPACT Prostate cancer treatment program
- Save the Dates:
  - April 19 Denim Day (anti sexual violence against women)
  - May 6 World Asthma Day!
  - May 16 Hunger Action Day!
  - May 22 Immigrant Day!
  - May 26 – Conference: Impact of Birthing Practices on Breastfeeding!

**Distributed 3-16-06 (Call for copies):**

- Fact Sheet AB 1948 (Montanez)
- Sample letter of support AB 1948
- 3-14-06, Kaiser Daily Women's Health Policy, "Pregnancy & Childbirth/USA Today Examines Effect of Depression During Pregnancy"
- IMPACT Becomes a Permanent Program (see enclosed)
- MCH Access Training Calendar
- *LA Times*, 3-16-06, "Senate Bill Would Override State Health Coverage Rules"; 3-10-06, "Poll Shows More Support for Illegal Immigrants"; 03-16-06, "State Loses Foster Children Lawsuit"; 3-16-06, "Officials Lambaste EPA on New Perchlorate Goal"
- May 10: Obesity Prevention: Finding the Answers Together

- Breastfeeding Resource Directory 2006: A Free Service of The Breastfeeding Task Force of Greater Los Angeles (see enclosed)

From Guest Speakers:

- List of Children's Law Center-sponsored Foster Care legislation, 2005-6
- Alliance for Children's Rights – Information
- "Raising a child who is not your own? You may need Legal Guardianship" (brochure – English and Spanish)
- Caregiver's Affidavit Sample

**March 16: Lisa Milton, Executive Director, LA Voice/PICO on tobacco tax initiative for children's health - November, 2006**

Lisa Milton presented information on the tobacco tax initiative for the fall ballot. Children's health groups convened with American Lung, Heart and Cancer Associations to form the "Coalition for a Healthy California" to ensure a winnable ballot measure. The funds will provide:

- health insurance for California's uninsured children,
- funds for hospital emergency rooms and community clinics,
- education to teens about the dangers of tobacco, since about 80% of smokers become addicted by age 18.
- prevention, treatment and research for major health, lung and cancer illnesses, including asthma
- nursing education to train more nurses
- anti-smoking/quit programs

The measure would tax cigarettes an additional \$2.60 per pack and is expected to raise about \$2.1 billion annually by 2007-8.

Please return any petitions to the next MCH Access meeting or call Lisa Milton at 323-669-0012 ext 12—thank you!

**Guest Speakers: Barbara Fascher and Ellie Dellor, Alliance for Children’s Rights: Health Care Coverage Issues - Children in Foster Care**

Call the Alliance for Children’s Rights for help with any situation of foster care or guardianship health coverage: (213) 368-6010. Over 360,000 children are in “out of home” situations in Los Angeles County, either informally or in foster care or guardianship. Ms. Fascher and Ms. Dellor explained various ways of caring for children out of home, and the concurrent health coverage issues. According to our speakers, almost all caretakers could be eligible for funding support for these children. It is generally to the benefit of relatives and non-relatives to get legal guardianship. Contrary to popular belief, the arrangement suspends, it does not terminate, parental rights to the child. If there is no legal guardianship, a parent almost always has the right to get the child back. Legal guardianship takes place through the probate court – it must be a court appointed guardian. Notarized letters and written or verbal agreements do not establish guardianship. A court-appointed guardianship allows a caregiver to make decisions about a child’s education, medical care and welfare benefits. Therefore, the guardian can sign up the child for health care coverage. California Children’s Services will not allow caregivers to apply for services without guardianship, but in an emergency a temporary guardianship can be received more quickly. A Caregiver’s Affidavit can be filled out without a court appearance, on one’s own (copies were distributed at the meeting). It allows decisions about medical care and schools – they must accept these documents – but does not prevent a parent from taking custody of a child, seeking visitation, or overriding any decisions made by the caregiver. The minimum age of the person seeking caregiver’s status is 18, but over 21 is obviously better. Immigration status of the caregiver is irrelevant. The speakers discussed “Kin-Gap” funding for support for a child when a foster care case is closed and noted that it can be possible to obtain residency status for juveniles here with no parents, “Special

Immigrant Juvenile Status”. For special problems such as orthodontia for teens, the Department of Children’s Services has an orthodontia unit. The problem of denials of treatment and who gets the notices was also noted. Foster care children are often moved around a lot and their records and treatment requests are not well tracked. MCH Access has worked on several individual foster care and guardianship health-related situations with the Alliance and we find them wonderfully responsive.

**Advocacy Tip of the Month**

**Newborns of teen moms DO qualify for “Deemed Eligibility”**

Eligibility Workers are sometimes confused about what happens when a baby is born to a teen mom. If the teen was on Medi-Cal at the time of birth, or applies for and receives retroactive Medi-Cal to cover the birth, and the baby lives with the mother, a Medi-Cal application is NOT necessary for the baby. Call the EW, OR use the Newborn Referral Form OR the CHDP Gateway. MCH Access has had a number of teen clients with problems and we want to reassure case managers, advocates and CAAs that these babies are eligible for Medi-Cal coverage up to age one without a new application. This is true whether the teen is on her parent’s Medi-Cal case, or Minor Consent Medi-Cal. See All County Welfare Director Letter #03-49, October 6, 2003:

<http://www.dhs.ca.gov/mcs/mcpd/MEB/ACLs/>

Call MCH Access with any questions or problems.

Note: Dental care billing: potential problems with billing for preventive dental care for pregnant women under aid code **7G** (Presumptive Eligibility). Dentists may not be familiar with “PE” for pregnant women and how to bill on the paper PE card. The issue should be addressed in an upcoming Provider Bulletin – please let MCH Access know if you know of dentists having problems at: dental@mchaccess.org or Lynn, Donald, Liz or Celia (213) 749-4261.

**Save the Date:**

**Saturday, April 22, 8AM – 1 PM:** The California Endowment’s “Healthy Neighborhood Festival” 1000 N. Alameda St., near corner with Cesar Chavez Blvd. Kid’s Fitness Zone and community health information fair, Kid’s Fun Run, Bounce Houses and free health screenings.

