



Maternal and Child Health Access

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MCH Access Monthly Meeting, Thursday, April 19, 2007 10 AM – 12 noon
Free parking in back, enter on 5th St. or paid lots across the street

Guest Speaker: Barbara Siegel, Managing Attorney, Neighborhood Legal Services
“Presumptive Disability for Medi-Cal” (see enclosed materials)
Also: Services Available through the Health Consumer Center of Los Angeles
Maternal and Child Health-Related Proposed Legislation

Note: Updates have been posted to all MCH Access training sheets and income grids to reflect 2007 Federal Poverty Level Guidelines, which change every April 1. See http://www.mchaccess.org/training_materials.htm (or click “training materials” on home page!)

In this mailing:

- MCHA-PAC/LAC list of MCH-related proposed legislation
- County of Los Angeles Key Indicators of Public Health – April, 2007
- Press Release – Health Disparities in LA
- MC Manual Letter – Presumptive Disability
- Sat. 4/28 - Safety Seat Checkup
- Medi-Cal reimbursement notices
- Sats. 4/21 and 4/28 – Center for Non-Violent Education and Parenting Day of Dialogue and Festival of Childhood! For flyers in Spanish, see www.cnvep.org

Materials distributed, except dated flyers, on 3-15-07 (call for copies)

- Feb., '07 *The Public's Health* – LAC DPH newsletter, “New State Law Underscores the Importance of Oral Health”
- “Oral Health Link to Preterm and Low Birth Weight Births”, *Perinatal Care Matters*, Winter, 2007
- Know Your Rights Guide for Section 8 Tenants, ordering information
- *LA Times* 3-2-07, “Few Latinos advised on AIDS, study says”
- California Immigrant Policy Center Action Alert
- Save the Date Thurs May 24 2007 Women's Health Policy Summit
- From Guest Speaker Frank Tamborello:

- California Hunger Action Coalition State Legislative Priorities List
- Flyer – free training – educating on hunger and poverty, 4-17-07

Guest Speaker Frank Tamborello, Hunger Action LA

Frank spoke to us about statewide priorities for hunger organizations belonging to the statewide CA Hunger Action Coalition, training taking place Tuesday April 17 on educating public officials, and Hunger Action Day in Sacramento, Tuesday May 8.

The biggest statewide priority is to work against the governor's proposal to cut or restrict CalWORKS grants to children and the elimination of Cost of Living increases to the current CalWORKS grants. These cuts will weaken the safety net for low income families, especially children.

Additional priorities include: 1) improving the food stamp program (all recipients of Medi-Cal categorically eligible for Food Stamps and school meals), six month reporting instead of quarterly and renaming the program to get rid of “stamps” that no longer exist; 2) enhancing child nutrition via AB 92 (Garcia) to require school sites that meet federal “severe need” to offer school breakfast and increased school meal reimbursement tied to improved school meal

nutrition standards; 3) expanding access to nutritious foods (food bank improvements and support) and the Healthy Purchase Pilot for affordable, healthy foods in low-income pilot communities and bonus value to Food Stamp recipients for purchasing fresh fruits and vegetables); 4) supporting a strong federal nutrition bill.

The “How to End Hunger One Million People At a Time” training will be held Tuesday, April 17, 2007 at two times: either 1-3 pm or 6-8 pm, to help prepare people to speak with elected officials about hunger. Contact Frank Tamborello at frank@hungeractionla.org. The training will help prepare people for the May 8 Hunger Action Day in Sacramento.

Guest Speaker Dick Rothschild, Western Center on Law and Poverty, “The Conlan Settlement: A New Way for Medi-Cal Clients to be Reimbursed”

The Western Center on Law and Poverty, Bay Area Legal Services and Neighborhood Legal Services filed this lawsuit to create another process for repaying Medi-Cal recipients or Medi-Cal eligible people who have paid out of pocket for care. Kevin Conlan, who is disabled spent money out of pocket during his 1 1/2 year wait to get on Medi-Cal. Under the old system of repayment, since providers have been paid by Medi-Cal already, there is little incentive to repay clients who later prove their Medi-Cal coverage. In addition, providers may make more by charging a patient, versus the Medi-Cal rate that they will get if they bill Medi-Cal instead and finally, it is very difficult to work with DHS around payment issues.

Beginning in November-December of 2006, the enclosed notices began to be sent to ALL Medi-Cal recipients. Note that people who may have been on Medi-Cal for any time since June 27, 1997 are still entitled to refunds under this new process. The refunds are for expenses paid out of pocket during any of the following periods:

- 1) the retroactive eligibility period (up to 3 months prior to the month of application to the Medi-Cal Program) During this time period, services do NOT have to

have been provided by a Medi-Cal provider;

- 2) the evaluation period (from the time of application to the Medi-Cal Program until eligibility is established) – during this time period, services do NOT have to have been provided by a Medi-Cal provider if they were between June 27, 1997 and Feb. 2, 2006 , and
- 3) the post-approval period (the time period after eligibility is established).

These are types of refunds we may never have considered that may be extremely helpful to our low-income clients! As Dick Rothschild spoke, it was clear that wheels were beginning to turn for many of us as CAAs and specific questions were asked that had to do with case situations. There are still two ways to be refunded: the client must first call or write the provider to be refunded what was paid. If not successful, the client files a claim with the state under this new process, a “Conlan” claim. The state then pays client directly; however, payment will be at the Medi-Cal rate which is what the provider would be paid. Remember that if a client requests repayment from a provider they MUST repay the client.

It is important to note that DPSS Eligibility Workers cannot do anything for the client but refer him/her to the state phone numbers. Note that there are important dates by which these claims must be made. For help if you think your client has a claim, contact: Dick Rothschild, (213) 235-2634 or Mike Keys at Bay Area Legal Services (415) 354-6339 or clients may call the Health Consumer Center of Los Angeles (800)896-3203 (various languages spoken).

Resources: Denti-Cal Facts and Figures: A Look at California’s Medicaid Dental Program, March, 2007, available at: <http://chcf.org/topics/medical/index.cfm?itemID=131431>

Save the Date May 1-2, Burbank: Office of Patient Advocate’s annual symposium www.eventswebpage.com/opa/opa.htm#Schedule.

