



Maternal and Child Health Access

1111 W. Sixth Street, Suite 400
Los Angeles, CA 90017-1800
Tel 213.749.4261
Fax 213.745.1040
www.mchaccess.org

MCH Access Monthly Meeting – Thursday April 17, 2008 10 AM – 12 noon
At MCHA: 1111 W. 6th St., Fourth Fl., free parking in back, enter on 5th St.

Guest speaker: to be announced
Budget and legislative updates, new Medi-Cal/Healthy Families application

May 11 is Mother's Day – A special time to celebrate your mom and all the women in your life who have given you love, strength, and guidance. This year honor these women with a Mother's Day donation to Maternal and Child Health Access.

In this mailing: (See mailing on our website to use hyperlinks)

- **Mom's Day** appeal - artwork by Dolores Carlos!
- **April 15, 4:30 pm – Tax Day Protest** against state budget cuts! Parking information: metered parking @ lots 4 & 5, enter off Hoover & MLK OR \$6 flat fee enter on 39th St. & Figueroa
- **March 8, 2008, Sacramento Bee, "California Coalition backs tax hikes over budget cuts"**
- **April 23 – Denim Day in LA** – Sexual Violence Prevention and Education Campaign (see below).
- **Sat. April 26 – Festival of Childhood** - This is a magnificent afternoon - 36 booths confirmed! Art and more art for children provided by community artists and volunteers, a mobile skate park (bring skateboard, helmets provided) sidewalk chalk artists, Music Together with Maggie Beard, Masanga Marimba, Contra Tiempo dance company, Capoeira Batuque and so much more!!!!
- **Coverage for Depression During Pregnancy – New Flyer!** At the request of the LA's Best Babies Network in preparation for its "Building Capacity to Address Maternal Depression" workshop, Maternal and Child Health Access has put together a fact sheet that explains the mental health coverage that is available for low to moderate-income pregnant women. See <http://www.labbn.org/news/news.htm> for information from the workshop.

No March meeting due to electrical problems in our building. Thank you for your patience!

State Budget and Health Care

The Senate Budget Subcommittee 3 on Health and Human Services is meeting – see agenda at: www.senate.ca.gov/ftp/sen/committee/sub/BFR_3_HEALTH/home1/PROFILE.HTM. Committee members are: Elaine Alquist, Chair, Dave Cogdill and Alex Padilla.

Their hearing on Monday, April 7 covered proposed cuts in Medi-Cal such as adult dental and Quarterly Status Reports, and Healthy Families premium increases and the dental care cap. Subcommittee staff recommended that these items be "held", or no action taken; none was taken. The Assembly Budget Subcommittee 1 on Health and Human Services also met on April 7 to consider cuts in Office of AIDs funding (held open), reduction in poison control funding of 10%, a proposed increase in bioterrorism funding (not passed) and cuts in Emergency Medical Services (passed). For more information, see "April 7-DPH-EMSA" on <http://www.assembly.ca.gov/acs/subcommittee/frame.asp?subcommittee=1>

The committee consists of Patty Berg, Chair, Jim Beall, John Benoit, Hector de la Torre, Edward Hernandez, Bill Maze. John Laird and Roger Niello serve as alternates. The subcommittee will meet Monday, April 14 to consider Medi-Cal and MRMIB items.

It is generally conceded that not much will happen on major cuts until after the "May Revise" when the Governor considers the results of April tax revenues and the impact on budget. The May Revise revisions are generally announced May 10.

Dr. Bruce Chernof resigns as Director of Health Services in LA; Pacific Hospital declines to pursue takeover of MLK Hospital

As we go to print, not much is known except that Dr. Chernof has decided to leave to head a new foundation focusing on health care for seniors. He is the fourth director to hold the job since 1995 and the highest paid county official. He was hired for the job in 2006 after Dr. Thomas Garthwaite resigned.

At the same time, news reports cited “unspecified concerns” as to why Pacific Hospital had decided to pull out of talks with Los Angeles County about reopening Martin Luther King-Harbor Hospital. Pacific Hospital is a 184-bed hospital in Long Beach that has been the only entity to engage Los Angeles County in negotiations about MLK.

New Joint Medi-Cal/Healthy Families Mail-In Application Released

Over the two years that stakeholders met with State DHCS and MRMIB, Maternal and Child Health Access and others made a number of important suggestions that have improved the final product immensely. Included is a mechanism for families to have their application sent to Healthy Kids programs in their counties, if the child is ineligible for Medi-Cal or Healthy Families; new counting of multiples in pregnancy; better identification of how to apply for an “unborn” child (when the mother is not on Medi-Cal or AIM) and the return of noting a disability on the application, so that the child applying or anyone in the household, might be properly evaluated for Medi-Cal. MCHA and the Western Center on Law and Poverty continue to work on several important issues.

See our website for more information. To see or print the new application, http://www.healthyfamilies.ca.gov/Publications/HF_Full_Application_EN.pdf to order mass quantities, see <http://www.dhcs.ca.gov/formsandpubs/forms/Forms/MC%20370.pdf>

10th Annual Denim Day in LA – Wednesday, April 23

Peace Over Violence is proud to present the 10th Annual Denim Day in LA 2008, a campaign to raise awareness and educate the public about rape and sexual assault. In 1998, an Italian Supreme Court decision overturned a rape conviction because the victim wore jeans. People all over the world were outraged. Wearing jeans became an international symbol of protest against erroneous and destructive attitudes about sexual assault.

Last year on Denim Day an unprecedented 300,000 people signed up to wear jeans in support of raising awareness about the need to end sexual violence. This year, Peace Over Violence aims to at least double that amount.

Managed Risk Medical Insurance Board (MRMIB) considers final regulations to allow ability to cap enrollment and create waiting list for Healthy Families program

Last fall, emergency regulations were passed to create a process for disenrollment and to create a wait list for enrolling in Healthy Families, as a result of a pending federal S-CHIP shortfall. That shortfall was averted and the regulations were never activated. MRMIB staff is now proposing that the ability to disenroll at annual redetermination and to create a wait list become permanent in the Healthy Families regulations. Advocates are concerned about creating a permanent process to limit enrollment in Healthy Families. It may become a way to address state budget shortfalls and sends the wrong message about the need and willingness to work for comprehensive health coverage for all. We're now in the official comment period, which ends with a public hearing on April 21. MRMIB staff will then review and suggest to the Board that the regs become permanent, either as-is or with changes. The Board will then vote at a subsequent meeting. See

http://www.mrmib.ca.gov/MRMIB/HFP_Proposed_Regulations_Disenrollment_Waiting_List.pdf for information about the public hearing and how to comment. For a list of speaking points, contact Cliff Sarkin at Children's Defense Fund csarkin@cdfca.org or Lynn Kersey lynnk@mchaccess.org.

April is STD Awareness Month STD Awareness Month Resources

Link to CDC's STD Awareness Month site:

<http://www.cdcnpin.com/stdawareness/>

Additionally, the CDC has now integrated STD testing sites into www.hivtest.org to allow searching by zip code for both HIV and STD tests.

Data Up-to-date data for statewide and local health jurisdictions:

<http://www.dhs.ca.gov/ps/dcdc/STD/stddatasummaries.htm> For more information about these and any

other STD Awareness month activities, see www.stdhivtraining.org or contact Joyce Lisbin at joyce.lisbin@cdph.ca.gov or at (510) 625-6032.