



Maternal and Child Health Access

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Next MCH Access monthly meeting:
Thurs., April 16, 2009, 10 AM – 12 noon (arrive early for parking!)
MCHA 1111 W. 6th St., Fourth Fl. Free parking in back, entering on Fifth St.
April 20-24 Week of the Young Child!
Celia Brugman and Emily Barrett of
The National Children's Study – Health, Growth and Environment
What is the study and what is it doing in Los Angeles? www.nationalchildrenstudy.gov
Updates – state and local health issues



We have gone green! This is our temporary mailing until we settle on a design template for our monthly announcements and notice about the upcoming meeting. Feedback welcomed!

Normally this mailing would include a summary of the prior meeting. We apologize for the need to cancel our March meeting – we were unsure of how street closures around our office for President Obama's speech would affect the ability to get to our office. Thank you all for your patience!

Mother's Day is May 10 here and in Latin America!

Maternal and Child Health Access will once again deliver personalized and handcrafted Mother's Day greetings to honorees of donors who contribute to the organization.

*** A \$25 donation delivers a beautiful card to your favorite mom.**
*** With a \$100 donation for an order, a handmade apron will be included with her card.** Including the apron will help sustain the MCHA-sponsored economic development project, *Colectiva Mujeres en Movimiento* (Women in Action), our arts and crafts collective. You will not only be

celebrating your mother, but honoring each of the talented mothers who crafted the aprons. In essence, giving numerous gifts at once - what a great present for everyone!

Go to www.mchaccess.org to order.

New this mailing

- **How can health program enrollment policies be improved while the state moves toward "Enrollment Modernization"?** MCH Access recommends a number of simplifications now available to the state that improve enrollment and may help make California eligible for new bonus payments under CHIPRA (New name for what was S-CHIP - the federal children's health program). Read more here: <http://www.mchaccess.org/pdfs/alerts/MCHA%20Enrollment%20Improvement%20Policy%20Options%204-10-09.pdf>
- **Community Data Training:** South Los Angeles Healthy Eating, Active Communities (HEAC)'s Health Sector is partnering with Community Health Councils to host a Community Data Training on May 7, 2009 from 8:30 am to 4 pm. This introductory training is designed for new data users who want to 1) learn how to evaluate their projects

2) learn how to access and use existing data from the county Health Assessment unit, Census and CHIS.

Participants can register via Survey Monkey http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=l57_2blMDE0JIMRIUP5il1Ng_3d_3d

• **April 1 - New income levels for programs!** Our famous color chart was sent in the last mailing. If you need another copy, or for friends, see:

<http://www.mchaccess.org/pdfs/training-materials/Color%20Inc%20Grid%20Rev%203-08.pdf>

• **Positions!** MCH Access is hiring an AA for our training assistant going on maternity leave; other positions posted at www.mchaccess.org

• **We've Got You Covered** – Still a few spots left for MCHA's Core Health Program and Services Training April 23 and 24 – sign up via our website, www.mchaccess.org – see calendar on left side.

Advocacy Tip!
AIM Income Counting

When submitting an application to the Access for Infants and Mothers (AIM) program, pay close attention if there is income from sources such as self-employment or rental. AIM calculates rental income differently than does Medi-Cal, particularly when a tax form such as Schedule E is used.

Clients should use a Rental Income Worksheet such as that from the Healthy Families program (AIM does not have its own form). If self employment income has changed since the client last filed taxes, use a Three Month Profit and Loss statement (also found on the Healthy Families web site). Under NO circumstances should a pregnant woman be bounced back and forth between the two programs. Please call us if you encounter problems with a client whom neither Medi-Cal nor AIM makes eligible.

Remember that AIM will cover up to \$125 in services up to 40 days prior to the date of application.

Please call us if you encounter problems with a client whom neither Medi-Cal nor AIM makes eligible or who has covered the costs of services when she should have been considered AIM-eligible (213) 749-4261.

An opportunity for your feedback on the support necessary for breastfeeding:

CALL TO ACTION ON BREASTFEEDING

Breastfeeding is unquestionably healthier for mothers and babies compared to feeding with infant formula. The scientific literature is clear. Numerous reviews of the medical literature have confirmed these benefits. But life in America often creates barriers to breastfeeding and makes it hard for women to breastfeed. It is time for our society to get serious about giving families the support they need to be successful with breastfeeding. For this reason, the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services (HHS) would like to open up a national dialogue on how to make breastfeeding easier in this country.

The [U.S. Department of Health & Human Services' \(HHS\) Office on Women's Health, Office of the Surgeon General, and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#) want your input on a new HHS [Call to Action on Breastfeeding](#).

Nearly 10 years ago, the [HHS Blueprint for Action on Breastfeeding](#) was released. This was the first comprehensive breastfeeding policy and action plan for the nation and was the result of broad collaboration and public input. Today, more mothers are starting and continuing to breastfeed, but our society has changed dramatically since 2000, and many problems related to breastfeeding persist. These factors point to a need for a new national plan of action. Public input is key to developing this plan.

We are seeking comments from individuals and organizations about breastfeeding in the United States. We welcome your suggestions about policies, activities, or other initiatives to protect, promote, and support breastfeeding that need to be considered for inclusion in our national action plan for the next decade. We are especially interested in new ideas that will increase equity in breastfeeding rates among all racial, ethnic, and socioeconomic groups. Ideas should build on programs and policies that are recognized to be effective or evidence-based. In addition, we welcome suggestions to adopt, expand, implement, research, or improve existing strategies.

Visit this link to submit your comments (deadline is May 31, 2009):

http://www.blsm meetings.net/owh_call_to_action_on_breastfeeding/index.cfm

On the right side of the page are 12 topic areas for you to submit your comments. Individuals and organizations may comment on any or all of the 12 areas. You may wish to read and comment on

comments from others in any of the topic areas. All recommendations will be considered by the Steering Committee of Federal representatives from the HHS Office on Women's Health, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, the Health Resources and Services Administration, the Indian Health Service, the Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute for Child Health and Human Development, and the Office of the Surgeon General.



Resources

What Would Proposition 1D Mean for California?

Proposition 1D, which will appear on the May 19 special election ballot, would temporarily divert a portion of tobacco tax revenues raised by Proposition 10 of 1998 to help balance the budget. It would also narrow the range of services that could receive First 5 funds. A new California Budget Project Budget Brief provides an overview of this measure and the policy issues it raises. (The CBP neither supports nor opposes Proposition 1D.) To read more, go to CBP's website, which also has briefs addressing Prop. 1E and 1A for May 19: www.cbp.org

Save the Dates!

Fri, April 17 1:30 – 3 PM: Stop the Cuts!

To continue coalition-building, story banking, community calendar developments and upcoming actions against budget cuts and for a fair state budget: 1 -3 PM at UTLA 3303 Wilshire Bl., 8th fl. free parking in lot behind (213) 385-8010 for more information. knavarrete@communitychange.org

CRITICAL BUDGET SUBCOMMITTEE

HEARINGS IN SACRAMENTO: Thanks to CDCAN – California Disability Community Action Network for the information below; see their website for information: www.cdcan.org

APRIL 22, 2009 - WEDNESDAY

ASSEMBLY BUDGET SUBCOMMITTEE #1 ON HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

1:30 PM State Capitol - Room 444

Budget Item or Issue to Be Heard:

- Department of Developmental Services (Budget Item 4300)
- Department of Mental Health (Budget Item 4440)

APRIL 22, 2009 - WEDNESDAY

ASSEMBLY BUDGET SUBCOMMITTEE #1 ON HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

1:30 PM State Capitol - Room 444

Budget Item or Issue to Be Heard:

- Department of Developmental Services (Budget Item 4300)
- Department of Mental Health (Budget Item 4440)

CDCAN COMMENT: The proposals by the Governor, issued by the Department of Developmental Services, that detail how cuts of at least \$100 million in state spending (beginning July 1, 2009) will be heard – and also budget items impacting Mental Health services. Note: CDCAN is – with other groups – organizing a march to the State Capitol and sidewalk demonstration before this hearing (from 11 AM to 1 PM). See details on CDCAN website at www.cdcan.us)

APRIL 23, 2009 - THURSDAY

SENATE BUDGET SUBCOMMITTEE #3 HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

09:30 a.m. or upon adjournment of Senate floor session

State Capitol – Room 4203

Budget Item or Issues to Be Heard:

Department of Health Care Services (Budget Item 4260)

– Federal Medical Assistance Percentage (FMAP)

– California Children's Services

– Medi-Cal Issues

Managed Risk Medical Insurance Board (Budget Item 4280)

– Healthy Families

– FMAP

Department of Mental Health (Budget Item 4440)

– Healthy Families Program

CDCAN COMMENT: This hearing will include a focus on Medi-Cal budget issues, that include elimination of several Medi-Cal optional benefits scheduled to go into effect July 1, 2009.

APRIL 29, 2009 - WEDNESDAY

ASSEMBLY BUDGET SUBCOMMITTEE #1 ON HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

1:30 PM State Capitol - Room 444

Budget Item or Issue To Be Heard:

- Secretary of California Health and Human Services Agency (Budget Item 0530)
- Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development, (Budget Item 4140)
- Department of Social Services (Budget Item 5180)

CDCAN COMMENT: Department of Social Services includes programs such as In-Home Supportive Services, SSI/SSP, foster and adoption assistance programs and CalWORKS. It is not certain at this point what issues will be covered at this hearing (IHSS has been previously heard).

MAY 4, 2009 - MONDAY

ASSEMBLY BUDGET SUBCOMMITTEE #1 ON HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

4:00 PM State Capitol - Room 127

Budget Item or Issue To Be Heard:

* Managed Risk Medical Insurance Board (Budget Item 4280)

* Department of Managed Health Care (Budget Item 2400)

* California Medical Assistance Commission (Budget Item 4270)

CDCAN COMMENT: These departments include Healthy Families and other programs that have impact on persons with disabilities and low income families, seniors though it is not certain at this point what budget issues will be heard.

Saturday, April 25: Festival of Childhood:

Center for Nonviolent Education and Parenting

CNVEP's 10th annual **Festival of Childhood:**

Peace through a Child's Eyes, held in conjunction with the Day of the Child and National Child Abuse Prevention, will be an open-air street festival that is free for everyone. For one whole day the block is filled with music, laughter and color as children and families visit community booths and take part in arts and health activities. All activities are free!! Come join us for a day of fun! See the flyer or www.cnvep.org

Community forums addressing the May 19 ballot measures are being scheduled; here's one and check back for more:

California State Budget Briefing

Weds. April 29, 2009 10 AM – 12 noon

California's Budget Meltdown: Learn more about the May 19 election and its impact on our state budget and the propositions:

1A "Changes to California Budget Process"

1D "Changes to funding for children's health services"

1E "Changes to funding for mental health services"

At: Mexican American Legal Defense & Educational Fund building
634 S. Spring Street, Los Angeles, CA 90014

When the California legislature passed the budget in February, they agreed to place various budget proposals on the ballot. Join us to discuss the impact of these propositions on the health and well being of immigrant and Latino communities. Presenters will provide an overview of the budget recently adopted by the legislature and the most relevant initiatives that voters will be voting on at the May 19 special election and their impact on future budgets. Please RSVP to Joseph Villela at jvillela@chirla.org.

WEEK OF THE YOUNG CHILD at UCLA! Exploring Multicultural Children's Music and Literature

The Early Child Development and Education Network at UCLA invites you to join them at **Workshops on:** "Songs, Games, and Rhymes for the Multicultural Classroom"; "Windows & Mirrors: Multicultural Literature for Young Children" and Story Time - featuring stories told by [Oralia Garza de Cortes](#); [Circle Time - featuring children's music performed by \[Lonnie Martinez\]\(#\)](#)

For more information, visit:

www.studentgroups.ucla.edu/ecden