



## Maternal and Child Health Access

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### Save the Dates!

Saturday April 17 11-6 Earth Day South LA: The 2nd Annual EARTH DAY SOUTH Los Angeles event. Normandie Avenue Elementary School, 4505 S. Raymond Ave, Los Angeles, CA 90045. Dance and music performances, community mural, graph art pieces, recycled art exhibit and fashion show, and art sale. Local food will be showcased with recipe demos, food vendors and produce for sale. Information: (323) 299- 7075 or see their website [HERE](#).

Sat. April 24, 1-5 PM, Center for Nonviolent Education and Parenting Festival of Childhood. Art, Music and Fun! 1226 No. Alvarado, 1 blk north of Sunset on Alvarado (street closure of Reservoir St.) See their website [HERE](#) (flyer also in Spanish).

Mon-Tues April 26-27, 2010: California Partnership's Sacramento April Action Days- great opportunity for clients to come to Sacramento and be trained and visit legislators! Contact Astrid Campos [acampos@communitychange.org](mailto:acampos@communitychange.org) for any openings and prices (\$35-50).

Tues. April 27 - May 3, 2010, Remote

### MCH Access monthly meeting:

We are in the process of expanding and will be moving around our meetings - check each month

Thursday, April 15, 10 AM - 12 noon

Moseley Salvatori Conference Center  
Good Samaritan Hospital  
637 S. Lucas Street  
Los Angeles, CA 90017  
(between 6th and Wilshire Streets)

#### Parking:

Free at MCH Access, enter on 5th St. to 2-story parking and walk across street or pay \$6 at Good Samaritan, entering on Lucas St. across from the conference center

PLEASE ALLOW TIME TO PARK AND WALK!

#### Topic:

Celia Brugman, Senior Community Liaison  
Dena Herman, Study Coordinator

National Children's Study - LA-Ventura Study Center  
UCLA School of Public Health

About progress with the National Children's Study here in Los Angeles

[We're on Facebook - become a fan!](#)

### March 18, 2010 meeting - National Nutrition Month - Nutrition/Food Updates

Sheila Bina, RD, CLE, TLC Supervising Nutritionist, PHFE WIC Program  
Donald Nollar, MA, MCH Access, Food Stamp Coordinator/Training Specialist

Ms. Bina presented information on the changes in WIC foods implemented last October in Los Angeles County - WIC foods have been "reinvented". Background information was provided as well as WIC's goals and client eligibility. WIC began in 1976. Did you know that women can receive WIC up to six months after the end of a pregnancy, including miscarriage and other fetal demise? Or that almost half of all infants and about a quarter of all children ages 1 to 4 in the United States participate in the WIC program! 9/10 of the infants eligible ARE receiving WIC. Newborns may be enrolled in WIC over the phone for the first month. The Southern California programs combined serve over 750,000 people.

WIC realized it was time for a change, since not much had happened to the food package since 1974, even though there had been changes in the food supply and food consumption, changes in diet-related health risks, including major increase in obesity rates and changes in nutrition knowledge and dietary guidance. What did WIC do?

**Area Medical (RAM) Free Medical, Dental, and Vision Care.** Los Angeles SportsArena 3939 North Figueroa Street , near USC. 1,200 people a day will be treated-possibly more depending on the final number of volunteers and participating organizations. For more information visit their website [HERE](#)

**Fri. April 30, 2010 - National Association of Hispanic Nurses (NAHN)** Los Angeles Chapter their Annual Conference, this year partnered with the March of Dimes and themed Health Care Reform and the Impacts to the Latino Mother and Baby. At The California Endowment in Los Angeles. Registration fees:  
NAHN Members - \$60.00  
Non-Members - \$70.00  
Students (Generic-Non licensed) - \$35.00  
On-Site Registration - \$75.00  
For more information and to register, please click [HERE](#)

**Tues May 18-Weds May 19 - Hunger Action Day-Sacramento**  
SPACE LIMITED. Call for details (213) 388-8228  
Legislative visits and hearings around poverty and hunger policy issues in California

**Wednesday June 2 - 4:30-6:30pm Hunger Action Day-LA**  
City Hall South Lawn, Los Angeles CA 90012  
Rally, speakers, and invited elected officials to discuss state and city budget issues impacting Seniors, kids, disabled persons, and needy families  
Especially around programs such as Summer Lunch for kids and Senior Meal programs as well as Cash assistance programs for low income working families and disabled persons

### RESOURCES

County Homelessness Prevention and Rapid Re-Housing Program (HPRP) Lost your job? Work hours reduced? Through this program, you could receive monetary support for: Back rent, Rental subsidy, Past Due Electric Bills, Security deposit, Utility turn-on fee.  
Serves the following geographic areas:  
1) The unincorporated areas of LA County;  
2) The City of Alhambra and the City of Huntington Park; and  
3) 47 cities with a population of less than 50,000.  
TO FIND OUT IF YOU MAY QUALIFY:

- Added fresh fruits and vegetables
- Added baby food fruits and vegetables for infants
- WIC "reduced the juice" - none for infants and less for children and women
- Only whole grain cereal allowed now, added whole grain bread
- Lowered fat - less cheese, eggs except for fully breastfeeding, less milk and only reduced fat milk for those over 2 years
- Added canned beans, salmon/sardines and milk alternatives such as tofu and soy
- Incentives to breastfeed - exclusively breastfeeding moms receive most variety and largest quantity food; exclusively breastfed older infants get baby food meat and larger quantities baby food fruits/vegs
- Compared to "old WIC", partially breastfed infants receive less and varying amounts of formula; moms feed more breast milk to their infants.
- Compared to "old WIC", partially breastfeeding moms receive food DEPENDING on HOW MUCH formula they receive from WIC (mostly or some breastfeeding).
- Moms who do SOME breastfeeding will NOT GET ANY FOOD beyond 6 months
- New soy products for women do not require a prescription (soy milk/tofu) A prescription for soy for children is needed only once
- New since April 1 - 2 pounds of bananas replaces 16 oz of infant fruits and vegetables
- New formula - Enfamil Premium Infant
- Infant Cereal not limited to Gerber anymore
- As of April 5, 2010, the Shopping Guide will list the following as allowable: mint, cilantro, parsley, and basil (cooking classes abound - maybe "growing herbs" next?)

We were also informed of Farmer's Market coupon availability - in limited amounts (not everyone gets one) in May and June, for one-time use (something to work on!). WIC is adding more peer counselors and conducting more research on childhood obesity preventing childhood hunger and the summer food program.

Donald Nollar, MCHA, spoke of changes in food stamps, now called "SNAP" (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program) at the federal level, but without a new name (yet) in California. Food stamps are an important economic generator program, since they are 100% paid for by the federal government, which also gives money for administration of the program, and since for every \$1 spent, \$1.84 is generated in economic activity. Because California only serves 51% of our eligible population, we are losing \$3.7 - 6.7 billion annually in general and matching funds. Missouri has 94% of their eligible population participating; only Wyoming has a smaller percentage of eligible participants!

However many barriers exist - in our own programs we have seen parents afraid of applying for their citizen children. The fingerprint requirement does not help this situation - as Donald pointed out, fingerprinting is associated with criminals and no one wants to feel like a criminal when applying for public benefits. Only Texas, Arizona and New York City fingerprint. California's logic is that people will be stopped from fraudulently applying in more than one county, but there are other systems in place for this.

What can be done?

- Move to semi- annual or annual reports ( SB 1358 would do that AND eliminate finger prints)
- Drop the asset test (proposed in current budget)
- Align recertification of Medi-Cal and Food Stamps
- Raise the allowable income limit from 133% to 200% of Federal

Call 211 or go to the Los Angeles County Housing Resource Center (LACHRC) website at: for a pre-screening tool. Other cities may be offering this program; call 211 for more information or go to their website [HERE](#) to access the HPRP Program Referral List.

The Los Angeles County, Department of Public Health, Injury and Violence Prevention Program (IVPP) is excited to announce the release of the report Los Angeles County Domestic Violence Data Resources. This resource includes information regarding criminal justice, law enforcement, public health and survey data resources which pertain to domestic violence in Los Angeles County. The report is available in its entirety on our website.

For questions or requests for copies of this report: Injury & Violence Prevention Program Los Angeles County Department of PublicHealth 3530 Wilshire Blvd, Suite 800 Los Angeles, CA 90010 (213) 351-7888

**The Grocery Gap: Who Has Access to Healthy Food and Why It Matters:** [PolicyLink and The Food Trust](#) present The Grocery Gap, the most comprehensive [review of studies](#) of healthy food access and its impacts -- 132 studies conducted in the United States in the past 20 years

### Positions!

MCH Access is hiring a **Human Resource Director** as well as positions for our Welcome, Baby! program- nurses and other home visitors [CLICK HERE](#) to see all positions available.

### Join Our List

[Join Our Mailing List!](#)

### Poverty Level

These changes are all allowable under federal law. Other pending food stamp legislation:

AB 1198: Lifts the life time ban on Food Stamps for recovered addicts.  
AB 537: Facilitates the use of Food Stamps at farmers' markets and swap meets.

AB 1914: Requires the state to extend emergency food stamps to applicants awaiting approval of their unemployment benefits.  
For ongoing updates, meeting participants were referred to the Hunger Action LA weekly list-serves: [frank@hungeractionla.org](mailto:frank@hungeractionla.org)

## Maternal deaths fall worldwide from a half-million annually to less than 350,000

However, mothers in the US now die at a higher rate than in most other high-income countries, four times the rate of Italy and three times the rate of Australia.

A massive new analysis of worldwide maternal mortality shows that deaths are down significantly around the globe - but in the United States, deaths are up to 17 per 100,000, compared to the last U.S. estimate of 12 per 100,000. This suggests that California's most recently reported rate of 19 per 100,000 is not an outlier or a fluke, but a representation of a national problem. This study, which comes from the Institute of Health Metrics and Evaluation at the University of Washington, is much more powerful than previous analyses. The team spent two years assembling a dataset three times larger than the set of numbers used to make previous estimates. "Just to give you some perspective," said Christopher Murray, one of the study's co-authors, "a sample that's 5 percent larger is a big deal in public health."

Click [HERE](#) for full story

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Deadly Delivery: The Maternal Health Care Crisis in the USA  
In March, Amnesty International released an important report on maternal health care in the United States. The report analyzes the barriers to health care that result in our country's troubling maternal mortality and morbidity statistics. Among other issues, the report examines discrimination; financial, bureaucratic and language barriers to accessing care; information about maternal care options; participation in care decisions; staffing and quality questions; and accountability and oversight. For full report click [HERE](#)  
For summary click [HERE](#)

## Important Update: AIM Regulations to Allow an Enrollment Freeze

Background: The AIM caseload has been plummeting over the past year, likely as the result of women not being able to afford AIM's premiums in this bad economy and/or experiencing income dropping to Medi-Cal's level for pregnancy-related care (i.e., 200% of poverty). With this downward caseload projection, the funding that has been budgeted for AIM is expected to last the full fiscal year (ending June 30, 2010).

Nevertheless, MRMIB adopted emergency regulations last fall to authorize an AIM enrollment freeze should MRMIB believe funds have run out. MCH Access opposed those regulations: with the caseload dropping, the budget gap was narrowing every month (see our

September 2009 comments).

New emergency regulations filed to allow an AIM enrollment freeze: On Friday, April 2, 2010, MRMIB proposed another set of [emergency regulations](#), for "advance" comment in 5 calendar days. MCH Access filed its [comments](#) on April 7, again opposing implementation of an AIM enrollment freeze. We have included in our comments financial considerations to a potential enrollment freeze as well as historical information from when AIM was closed before. We also have the experience of how disruptive it was to families to close the Healthy Families program last year.

If a program freeze DOES take place, this new filing improves the regulations along lines [MCH Access had proposed last fall](#). For example, when a pregnant woman submits her application during an enrollment freeze, the application will not be simply sent back to her; instead, it will be reviewed for eligibility once the freeze is lifted. This essentially replaces automatic rejection with at least a waiting list for AIM.

But more needs to be done. For example, copies of the AIM applications should also be forwarded to the woman's county for a Medi-Cal eligibility determination. Some women's income may drop to the Medi-Cal range; and even women who qualify for Medi-Cal with a "share of cost" will benefit greatly by having a payment source for hospital delivery services so that they can make prior arrangements with providers instead of just showing up in labor at the ER.

The new emergency regulations are expected to be filed with the Office of Administrative Law (OAL) sometime during the week of April 12. The public will have 5 days to comment to OAL and MRMIB. If OAL allows these emergency regulations to go into effect, MRMIB will have to hold a public hearing within 180 days, with at least 45 days for public comment before that hearing.

Next steps:

Please join MCH Access opposing the AIM enrollment freeze and these regulations. Write to OAL and MRMIB this week showing "re: ER-5-09" (see MCHA's letter as a sample):

The California Managed Risk  
Medical Insurance Board  
1000 G Street, Suite 450  
Sacramento, CA 95814  
By electronic mail: [dknox@mrmib.ca.gov](mailto:dknox@mrmib.ca.gov)  
FAX: (916) 324-4878

The Office of Administrative Law  
3000 Capitol Mall Suite 1350  
Sacramento, CA. 95814  
By electronic mail: [staff@oal.ca.gov](mailto:staff@oal.ca.gov)

Later, MRMIB will also hold a public hearing with at least 45 days advance notice. Please stay tuned for the time line for comment on whether these emergency regulations should continue in effect as is.

**It's that time again! Order your Mother's Day card today!**

Maternal and Child Health Access

Mother's Day Card 2010

Mother's Day is a special time to celebrate all of the women in your life who have given you love, strength, and guidance.

We hope you will honor these amazing women with a donation that will make a lifelong change for another mom. Give the gift of health care to a family in need with a contribution to [Maternal and Child Health Access](#).

A card displaying original artwork created by renowned community artist Jose Ramirez and mothers from MCH Access on a floral background will be sent to each of your special moms, acknowledging the exceptional gift you've made in their honor.

### Medi-Cal Managed Care

During March through May 2010, DHCS's contracted External Quality Review Organization, Health Services Advisory Group (HSAG), will conduct the Consumer Assessment of Healthcare Providers and Systems (CAHPS) survey for adult and child members of all contracted Medi-Cal managed care plans (excluding specialty plans). Surveys are not sent to all plan members, but rather to a sample of members selected in accordance with National Committee for Quality Assurance specifications. Surveys are available in [English](#) and [Spanish](#).

The first mailing date is scheduled for March 2, 2010. For your reference attached is the initial survey letter that members will receive with the surveys. The survey vendor also will conduct mail and telephone follow-up. The State Medi-Cal Managed Care Division will release a summary report of the survey results on the Medi-Cal Managed Care Division's webpage in early 2011, although plans will receive detailed plan-specific results before the aggregate report is released.

As you will note in the survey letter, the survey vendor provides a toll-free help line that members can call if they have questions about the survey or need help completing it. Medi-Cal Managed Care has learned from past surveys that some members will call this number with specific questions regarding their managed care plan that cannot be answered by the survey vendor. In these situations, the survey vendor will provide the member with the toll-free number for MMCD's Office of the Ombudsman (1-888-452-8609).

The Medi-Cal Managed Care Division wanted you to be aware that CAHPS will be underway during March through May since the mailings could result in some phone calls to plans or advocates. Please feel free to contact Helen MacDonald, Chief, Performance Measurement Unit, with questions or concerns. Her phone number is (916) 449-5146 and e-mail [Helen.MacDonald@dhcs.ca.gov](mailto:Helen.MacDonald@dhcs.ca.gov).

### Once again - Healthy Families Open Enrollment date change

Make sure your Healthy Families address is correct!  
The Healthy Families Program allows families to change their health, dental, and vision plans each year. This is called "Open Enrollment" and is usually April 15th to May 31st of each year, with new plan transfer start dates of July 1st.

This year, the 2010 Open Enrollment period will start July 15th and end August 31st with new plan transfer start dates of October 1st. Before Open Enrollment begins, Healthy Families will send families Open

Enrollment information in the mail. It is very important for families to contact Healthy Families if they have a change of address so that they receive their Open Enrollment information in the mail. In case of a move, families must give HFP their new address by calling 1-888-439-4741, even if Open Enrollment has not yet started.

### Help clients or take the CCS Survey:

Are you:

A parent with a child in the California Children's Service (CCS) program (now or in the past)?

A youth in the California Children's Service program (now or in the past)?

If you answered YES to any of the above questions, please make the time today to fill out a survey.

It's that simple! This survey is an opportunity to get your voice heard and provide input to the State of California as it evaluates the California Children Services program and makes decisions about its future.

English survey: [CLICK HERE](#)

Spanish survey: [CLICK HERE](#)

Please forward this email on to other groups, centers, families.

### Federal Health Reform

Many groups have analyzed the new health reform bill, the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act. Below are just a few; MCHA will be highlighting those issues missed or not well noted. MCHA's emphases will be on public benefits (Medi-Cal and CHIP, the intersection with private insurance in the new "exchange", women's health and the uninsured.

[National Women's Law Center](#)

[Georgetown University Health Policy Institute's Center for Children and Families](#)

[Center for Budget and Policy Priorities](#)

[Families USA](#)

[Health Access](#)

[California Budget Project](#)

[Insure the Uninsured Project](#)

### Advocacy Tip!

Suspension of Medi-Cal Benefits for Incarcerated Juveniles

Thanks to SB 1147 (Calderon, 2008) as of January 1, 2010, juveniles on Medi-Cal entering a detention facility or juvenile hall will have their Medi-Cal benefits suspended rather than terminated as they have in the past. SB1147 also requires the restoration of Medi-Cal benefits on the very day the juvenile is released or is no longer an inmate of a public institution, without having to reapply, if within a year from the date of incarceration, and if still eligible for Medi-Cal, i.e. not over 21 years old. Medi-Cal benefits will be terminated if the juvenile is incarcerated for more than a year or if the juvenile is found no longer eligible due to changes in family size, age and/or income reported by the family at annual renewal. Counties are required to send a 10 day notice informing of the suspension, restoration, and termination of benefits to the affected beneficiaries.

Important: When a juvenile is incarcerated:

- (1) his/her family's Medi-Cal eligibility must be reevaluated for the family's continued eligibility, since the family size decreases, and
- (2) SB 87 must be applied, meaning other eligibility categories for the client must be explored and all records for state welfare, food or Medi-Cal benefits should be searched for continued Medi-Cal eligibility before the family has to provide additional documents.

#### Contact us

#### Maternal and Child Health Access

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Los Angeles, CA 90017  
213 749 4261 phone  
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