



Maternal and Child Health Access

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### MCH Access Monthly Meeting

Thursday, February 16, 2006 (third Thurs monthly) 10-12

1111 W. 6<sup>th</sup> St., corner 6<sup>th</sup> and Bixel. Free parking enter structure in back, on 5<sup>th</sup> St.

### Dental Health Month

Panel of Representatives from Seven Dental Health Plans in LA County (see flyer)

Brief health program, budget and legislative updates

#### In this mailing:

- **AB 1948 (Montanez) introduced!** See packet of information about CHDP Gateway and need for improvement!
- "Dental Services Now Available to All Pregnant Women" client handout
- LA Times 2-7-06, "More Fluoridated Water Needed, Officials Say" First Five Monday Morning Report, 2-6-06, "Study Shows 20 of 3 California Children Affected by Dental Disease"
- **Feb. 23** – Early Intervention Experts; T. Berry Brazelton, MD, et al.
- **Feb. 28** – CAA/Enroller Forum and Advocacy Training – Enroll Now!
- **Mar 4** – Intl Women's Day!
- Change in DPSS Public Access Hours

#### Materials 1-19-06 (call for copies):

- Preschool for All Initiative Qualifies for the (June) ballot
- Facts about the Tobacco Tax of 2006 (Nov.)
- National Center for Health Statistics, "Prelim. Births for 2004: Infant and Maternal Health"
- *LA Times*, 1-2-06, "Med-Cal Cut Threatens Poor, Disabled"; 1-11-06, "Scientists Debate Bill to Restrict Chemicals"; 1-7-06, "Inglewood Hospital to Close Obstetrics Ward"; 12-19-06 "Babies born small have a craving for salty foods"
- Emergency Extension of Medicare drug coverage for people dually covered by Medi-Cal and Medicare

- Medi-Cal Share of Cost fact sheet
- **Save the Date - May 4**, "In Harm's Way 2006" Children's Institute, Inc. 5<sup>th</sup> National
- **Save the Date April 28**, "Family-Centered Strategies for Effective Transition for Youth with Special Health Care Needs" A training for Providers and Families

#### Budget discussion:

- Western Center on Law and Poverty, "Governor's Election Year budget: Buildings First, People Second"
- Medi-Cal and Healthy Families, "Governor's 2006-7 Budget"

#### Meeting Notes – 1-19-06

**Dental Care for Pregnant Women on Medi-Cal:** Attendees were reminded of the expansion of preventive dental benefits to all pregnant women on Medi-Cal regardless of aid code, and the ability of all pregnant women, men and children on Medi-Cal to get emergency dental benefits with proper provider justification. For more information, see last month's mailing. The California Immigrant Welfare Collaborative has created a Question and Answer handout for clients.

<http://www.nilc.org/ce/ceindex.htm#calbens>  
Will be in multiple languages soon.

**Healthy Kids Wait List Update:** Currently, 42,990 children are enrolled in Healthy Kids: 35,233 6-18 year olds and 7,757 0-5 year olds. About 425 have been enrolled through the new

Centinela Foundation funding for children in certain zip code areas (see Nov. mailing or call Celia or Liz). Kaiser Child Health Plan is also an option, but it is taking longer to enroll in some instances and costs are higher than Healthy Kids.

**Birth Certificates** – Remember that Birth Certificates are not required for Medi-Cal. The joint application asks for a birth certificate on each citizen child applying, but in truth, it is only a requirement for Healthy Families.

Attendees had stories of problems getting birth certificates in Los Angeles and from other states and sometimes holding up health coverage while waiting for them. Remember that the birth certificate can be sent up to 60 days AFTER ENROLLMENT – the client's enrollment should not be held up for the birth certificate. No one in Medi-Cal should be required to provide a birth certificate.

**Centinela Hospital** – Daniel Freeman hospital moved its obstetrical services to Centinela effective, officially, 1-9-06 but unofficially from the end of the year onward. Many groups are concerned about the way the change was made, the loss of services in the area and the smaller and older delivery areas at Centinela. If you have clients who are affected or want to get involved, call Lynn Kersey (213) 749-4261 ([lynnk@mchaccess.org](mailto:lynnk@mchaccess.org)) or Nancy Watson at Community Health Councils [nancy@chc-inc.org](mailto:nancy@chc-inc.org)

**Guest Speaker: Nancy Berlin, Director, The California Partnership, "The State and Federal Budgets and Effects on Low-Income People"**

The Federal Budget was originally passed late last year, but had to be re-voted due to significant policy changes made in the House version. That vote is due Feb. 1 (note: did pass 216-214). Some of the changes that would be allowed states, which have to pass their own legislation, are:

- Require high work participation rates, 50% of all families (which we have now) and 90% of two-parent families (we don't have)
- State's caseloads must drop
- elimination of high performance rewards (in FY 2004, California received 12 million)
- Cut federal funding for child support enforcement

- Slow down SSI payments

- Increase interest payments on college loans. CAP and SEIU will hold an Action Day at Congressman David Dreier's district in Glendora on Jan. 26

State cuts include no cost of living increase for people on CalWORKS, disallowing the care of disabled kids as a "work activity" for parents in addition to no cost of living increase for SSI recipients.

See [www.california-partnership.org](http://www.california-partnership.org) for more information on the California Partnership.

Health care proposals in the state budget include funding for caseload growth in Medi-Cal and Healthy Families, funding for outreach activities and for chronic disease pilot programs. The wholesale enrollment of aged, blind and disabled Medi-Cal recipients into managed care plans is not in this budget, but enrollment will be "encouraged".

### **February - African American History Month**

See Aetna's 2006 African American History Calendar, "Celebrating Life: Empowering a Lifetime of Healthful Outcomes". This 25th Anniversary Edition celebrates all stages of life -- from early childhood to middle age to older age -- with advice, healthful messages and important perspectives from respected, accomplished, and dedicated African American health professionals throughout the country.

To view and/or order, visit

<http://www.aetna.com/foundation/aahcalendar/index.html>

Free Guides, "Breastfeeding for African American Women" US DHHS, Office of Women's Health,

Call 1-800-994-WOMAN



### **A Good Read**

- *The New Yorker*, Feb. 6, 2006, "Swamp Nurse" Nurse Home Visitation Program in Louisiana's Bayou

- The California Endowment, "Oral Health: Successes and Opportunities for Children's Health Initiatives" Feb., 2006

- "Mommy, It Hurts to Chew" The California Smile Survey - An Oral Health Assessment of California's Kindergarten and 3rd Grade Children. The Dental Health Foundation. <http://www.dentalhealthfoundation.org/topics/public/index.shtml>