



Maternal and Child Health Access

1111 W. Sixth Street, Suite 400
Los Angeles, CA 90017-1800
Tel 213. 749. 4261
Fax 213. 745. 1040
info@mchaccess.org

MCH Access Monthly Meeting

Thurs., Feb. 17, 10 AM – 12 Noon (Third Thursday monthly)

1111 W. 6th St., Fourth Floor. Free parking in back –enter 2-story parking on 5th St.

Focus: Newborn Screening Expansion

Speakers: Barbara Foley Ferreira, RN, GCN, Project Dir., and Brenda Ramirez, Community Liaison, Newborn Screening Program Area Service Center Harbor-UCLA Med Ctr.
Katherine Jew, RN, MPH, Project Director for UCLA-Area Service Center
Vicki Lombardo, MSN, RN, Director of Program Services, March of Dimes, California Chapter Greater Los Angeles & Inland Empire Divisions

California State Budget and Health Coverage Program Updates

- Flyer, “The Governor’s Budget threatens Low – Income and Working Families by...”
- Flyer, ‘How Will Governor Schwarzenegger’s CalWORKs Cuts Affect Struggling Families?’
- **Medi-Cal Redesign Briefing 1/21**
- **CHDP Gateway** Issues for “Deemed Eligible”
- **Health Consumer Center flyer:** 800-896-3203 for assistance with health program and access issues
- **DPSS Offices and Director’s list**, January, 2005
- **LAC/DHS** Phone Numbers for Info & Reporting
- **LA Times**, 1-18-05, “Kennedy Unveils ‘Medicare for All’”; 1-20-05, “Kuehl Pushes for State-Run Health Plan”; 1-14-05, “Alarcon Proposes Fines to Fund Trauma Care”; 1-20-05, “Cancer Leads in Deaths Under 85”
- Feb. 24, **Say Yes to Children Network** Award Ceremony and Banquet, (213) 747-4211
- 6-11-05 **Norwood Health & Peace Family Festival** (213) 744-1639
- **Project D.A.D.** starts dads’ support group 2-8-05, 323-669-5982.
- **Women’s Wellness Health Center** opens, 1340 S. Bonnie Brae, 2nd floor, (213) 842-5519

In this mailing:

- Fri., Feb. 18: **LA Woman’s Heart Day**
- Feb. 19-20: **The Future of Transportation**
- Mon., Feb. 21: **Breastfeeding: Grand Challenges, Creative Solutions**
- March 5 International Women’s Day Celebration
- April 13 or 16: **First 5 Kit - Training Conf.**
- April 30 **WalkAmerica** – March of Dimes
- How Will **CalWORKs Cuts** Affect Struggling Families/The Governor’s Budget Threatens Low Income and Working Families
- **Expanded Newborn Screening Flyers:**
We recommend you add phone numbers for the test kits to the back or front of the flyer, since only the website is listed. Since Medi-Cal doesn’t cover costs until the program is implemented, probably August, help pregnant women purchase these expanded tests (something MCHA is working on systemically). Test kits for a pregnant woman may be purchased from any ONE of the following companies:

Baylor: 1-800-4BAYLOR \$25

www.bhcs.com/MedicalSpecialties/MetabolicDisease

Mayo: 1-800-533-1710 \$57.30

www.mayoreferenceservices.org/mml/mml-sns-intro.asp

Pediatrics: 1-866-463-6436 \$89

www.pediatricscreening.com

More info on this at meeting!

Distributed January 20 (call for copies):

Meeting Notes Jan. 20, 2005:

Bus Rider’s Union - Transportation Conference:

Cynthia Rojas, Labor-Community Strategy Center (see enclosed flyers). The conference addresses the Future of Transportation in Los Angeles County broadly, including bus emissions’ impact on health

and global warming. Featured speakers are Assembly Members Karen Bass and Fran Pavley.

State Health Budget: Lucy Quacinella, Health Policy Consultant for MCH Access, spoke to us by phone about Gov. Schwarzenegger's proposed health budget. The Medi-Cal changes are proposed as part of the Medi-Cal Redesign process, see www.medi-calredesign.org or the State DHS website, www.dhs.ca.gov. The changes are designed for cost savings over the next five years:

- Capping **adult dental** benefits at \$1000/year (we have recently learned the year would start at the time the service is received; so the one-year period would be a "look back" to be sure services did not exceed \$1000 (Medi-Cal costs) in the prior 12 mos.
- Imposing monthly **premium** payments on certain groups of children, pregnant women, the aged, blind and disabled, and other adults
- Expanding **managed care to 13 additional counties** and expanding managed care to **require enrollment by aged, blind and disabled people**, including children, as they become eligible and as they annual redetermine their eligibility. These two changes would begin phasing in by 2007 and would affect some 816,000 people.
- Processing children's Medi-Cal applications at the "Single Point of Entry" (SPE) in Sacramento rather than sending them to the Counties for processing
- **Improving "bridging" for children**, when a child goes from Medi-Cal to Healthy Families or from Healthy Families to Medi-Cal.
- **Federal funding for prenatal care:** A recent federal regulation allows states to draw down federal funds at a two-thirds matching rate to cover fetuses.
- Reinstating application assistance fees for Medi-Cal and Healthy Families
- **Support for local children's health insurance initiatives** to help counties seeking to establish their own local children's health insurance initiatives, as 8 counties have already done; and allowing counties to avail themselves of the Healthy Families infrastructure by "buying into" the program as a way of providing coverage

Lucy discussed the pros and cons of these and several other health-related budget proposals. MCH Access released a budget analysis in mid-January, included in the January mailing. For a copy, contact Angela at (213) 749-4261 or angelao@mchaccess.org

State Welfare Budget: Nancy Berlin, LA Coalition to End Hunger and Homelessness spoke to us of CalWORKs cuts that will devastate our clients, friends and community:

- Denying families a Cost of Living increase
- Cutting CalWORKs grants by an additional 6.5%
- Cutting CalWORKs work incentives
- Cutting child care for working families
- Ending future CalWORKs Cost of Living Increases
- Denying both State and Federal SSI Cost of Living increases to seniors and people with disabilities
- Slashing pay for IHSS workers from \$10.10/hr to \$6.75/hr, minimum wage.

MCH Access urges you to work with the LA Coalition to End Hunger and Homelessness (213) 439-1070 to fight these cuts. Identify your clients who can testify to the effects of the cuts or who will allow their stories to be used (See example of Anna's three-person family on flyer, included.) We will need everyone's involvement in the coming weeks and months.

Changes in BIC cards: All recipients are being mailed new BIC cards with 14 alphanumeric identifier. Old cards should be used and accepted until the new cards arrive, over a six-month period. Scattered reports of providers not accepting the cards and some pharmacies even posting signs saying the old cards are not accepted have been noted. If problems, beneficiaries should try and call their Eligibility Worker, then the state Ombudsman (888-452-8609) or the Health Consumer Center (800-896-3203) for assistance.

Trainings available: Liz Ramirez announced that MCH Access offers health coverage program trainings: Core "We've Got You Covered" trainings, and ½-day Review and Updates. In April, we will announce new training topics and dates. Call Liz for more information (213) 749-4261.

Hold the Date:

Tuesday, March 14: Sacramento, "The Culture of Quality" Medi-Cal Managed Care Division. Register by Feb. 18 (free) : www.delmarvafoundation.org/html/cal-eqro/

Look it UP!

"Job-Based Coverage Drops for Adults and Children, but Public Programs Boost Children's Coverage" (Feb. 2005) Policy Brief from UCLA Center for Health Policy Research, www.healthpolicy.ucla.edu