



Maternal and Child Health Access

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Next MCH Access monthly meeting:
Thurs., February 19, 2009, 10 AM – 12 noon (arrive early for parking!)
MCHA 1111 W. 6th St., Fourth Fl. Free parking in back, entering on Fifth St.
African American History Month and Children's Dental Health Month

Panel of Denti-Cal Representatives from the EIGHT Denti-Cal plans in Los Angeles (invited)
Regarding: Use of services by young children in the plans
Updates – state and federal health care



We need your e-mail addresses! We are going green! See survey – let us know if you'd still like to receive mailing through postal service; we will begin e-mailing news and documents soon....

In this mailing

- **Positions!** More home visitation workforce, secretary, data clerk - posted on our website soon
- **Mon. Feb. 23, 9 AM** – bringing Touchpoints to your organization and to LA
- **Friday March 13** – CA Budget teach-in
- **AIM residency** now correct for online application
- **Survey** – send it back to us or go online next week

Distributed January 15 (except events no longer timely) – call for copies

- Fri., 2-27 Maternal Depression conference, \$115, at Calif. Endowment see www.projectabc-la.org
- Healthy Kids Demographic Profile and Fact Sheet on Health Insurance Among Children in LA
- CMS Jan. 14 letter re: maintaining Family PACT; terms and conditions
- National Health Law Program announcement of CHIP passage in House of Representatives
- Calendar of organizations' CA Budget Actions
- South LA Health Equity Scorecard
- 2009 Scorecard, Children NOW – Setting the Agenda for Children

State Budget news: According to the Sacramento Bee, Governor Schwarzenegger is ready to send layoff warnings to at least 20,000 state workers if he

and the Legislature can't reach a budget deal this week. If the Legislature can produce a budget by Friday that saves \$750 million without job reductions, Schwarzenegger won't send the letters. Democratic leaders are proposing to vote this week on a budget with about \$14 billion in increases in sales tax, personal income tax and vehicle license fees, and \$15 billion in deep cuts in spending for programs for low-income people. The fee increases would be in effect for either two years or five years, depending on the outcome of a ballot measure to restrict spending. The spending restriction would require the state to place money into a rainy-day fund after reaching a limit determined by state revenues over a 10-year period.

See the California Budget Project's blog for additional budget information based on best available info: <http://californiabudgetbites.org>
Concerned about the state budget? LA's Stop the Cuts! Coalition's platform includes progressive taxation, no cuts and working together for a fair budget. Stop the Cuts is planning actions for April 15, Tax Day, and sooner depending on state budget outcomes. **CALL NOW:**

Governor Schwarzenegger **(916) 445-2841**
Speaker Karen Bass **(323) 937-4747**
Republican Minority Leader Mike Villanes **(559) 446-2029**

Senate Minority Leader Dave Cogdill **(559) 253-7172**
Senate President Pro Tempore Daryl Steinberg **(916) 651-1529**

Federal stimulus package news: At writing, tentative agreement has been reached between the House and Senate on the federal stimulus package, which you may hear referred to as the “American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009”. Here are some of the provisions; much detail remains to be worked out:

- This increased funding covers 10-1-08 through 12/31/2010, a 27-month period.
- States will get increased federal share of Medicaid 65% of the increase would be an across-the-board, flat-rate basis, while 35% would be distributed based on regional increases in unemployment
- Existing Medi-Cal eligibility in place 7-1-09 must be maintained
- COBRA payments subsidized 60% for 9 months for some unemployed workers
- Transitional Medi-Cal, a program for coverage after 1931(b) Medi-Cal eligibility ends, extended – the program was set to expire in June
- Disproportionate Share Hospitals (“DSH” hospitals) serving large numbers of Medi-Cal clients, will receive temporary increases
- Provides increases in SSI payments
- Creates an emergency fund for states for TANF (CalWORKs here)
- Extensions in unemployment insurance.

Notes – Thurs., Jan. 19, 2009

Annie Park, Policy Analyst, “South LA Health Equity Scorecard”

The coalition of groups producing this report, headed by Community Health Councils, worked for over a year on the Scorecard project. This project highlights disparities found in health in South LA and in the conditions that produce poor health, broadly defined. South LA is defined as “more of a condition” than a place. Several failures in public policy have contributed to the poor health status of the residents: loss of funding from Prop 13, closure of state mental hospitals, underfunding of hospitals and HMOs in the area and less county funding for private partnerships than in other parts of the county. Measures for the area were compared to a baseline for all of LA and then against West Los Angeles. Ms. Park discussed results section by section, coupled with the recommendations. These included reopening Martin Luther King, Jr. Medical Center as a teaching hospital, addressing liquor licenses and improving available food, strengthening preventive health systems and even addressing affordable housing and public schools.

Health, broadly defined, should be incorporated into local government planning.

Setting the Agenda for Children – 2009 Report Card Kristen Moreno and Carol Sison - Children NOW

The Report Card detailed key 2008 public policy developments in California that impacted children’s well-being and provided data on the children’s current status. Notably, health coverage for children received a D – asthma is now diagnosed in 15% of children and 2008 health care reform efforts failed. Not only were existing programs not streamlined, more barriers were created with premium increases in Healthy Families and the imposition of Midyear Status Reports in Medi-Cal. Oral Health received a C-. One in 7 children has never seen a dentist and 21% of kids on Medi-Cal have not seen a dentist. Infant health received a B-, citing high rates of early prenatal care and low rates of underweight status. It is recognized, however, that these statistics vary by race and ethnicity. LA County does better on some measures compared to the state overall and worse on others. See www.childrennow.org.

Advocacy Tip!

Many of us do not know that if someone rents a room in a house to someone else, the rent payment received is not counted in total as income for Medi-Cal. This can make a big difference in eligibility. If a Medi-Cal applicant/beneficiary rents out a room, DPSS should count only 10% of the amount received as income. So, if the room is being rented for \$500.00 a month - only \$50.00 is counted as income. What a difference!

According to DPSS, this calculation is automatic on LEADER, but if you have clients in this situation - be prepared to advocate.

If you are challenged, the policy is found under Title 22 of the California Code of Regulations Section 50508 (also in DPSS Medi-Cal Policy Manual Sec. 50508).

DPSS said they will publish this rule in a Medi-Cal Update bulletin soon and will search for cases that need to be corrected. If you have a past case, let DPSS know to correct it for your client and please inform Donald Nollar - donaldn@mchaccess.org. Applicants/beneficiaries who rent out a house or apartment, not just a room, apply the other rental deduction rules - deduct interest paid on the mortgage, taxes, maintenance, insurance and utilities paid by the applicant/beneficiary (also found in Sec. 50508)