



## Maternal and Child Health Access

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CONTACT US

### RESOURCES

Presentations from California Breastfeeding Summit posted on the [California Breastfeeding Coalition website](#).

New Report: [Medicaid and CHIP: Given the association between Parent and Child](#)

## Next MCH Access Monthly Meeting:

**This Thursday, February 24, 2011 10 AM - 12 noon**

### New Site:

1125 W. 6th St., LA, CA 90017  
in the building next to ours, 2nd Floor

### Parking:

Free at MCHA, enter on 5th St., to 2-story parking (between Lucas and Bixel) and walk across alley to 1125

## National Children's Dental Health Month

### Speakers

Arlene Glube, Center for Oral Health  
Sean O'Brian, Health Net Health Plans

### Topic:

Ms. Glube will present on The Early Entry to Care program which provides free dental care for pregnant women and children under five in San Bernardino County.

Mr. O'Brien will discuss the dental coverage that comes with Health Net's Medi-Cal plan and how it has been serving adults. Oral health resources and information provided.

**Medi-Cal Managed Care for Seniors and People with Disabilities NOTE: Disabled children and adults on Medi-Cal only (and not Medicare) will begin to receive notices in March (based on their birth date) preparing them for June mandatory enrollment into Medi-Cal Managed Care Plans. See info [Here](#). Watch for MCHA's additional informational blast; more info at meeting**

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## January 20, 2011 Meeting Notes

Please call for copies, if necessary...

### LA Times, 1-19-11

"US Supreme Court to decide if California can cut payments to Medi-Cal providers"

### Surgeon General's Call to Action

- Improving Support for Breastfeeding Mothers

### State Budget documents

California Partnership's Documents:

[insurance Status, New Expansions May Benefit Families. GAO-11-264, February 4.](#)

- [Highlights](#)

California ranks 44th in children's health! In the BOTTOM fourth of the country

- see new state scorecard: [Securing a Healthy future: The Commonwealth Fund State Scorecard of Child Health System Performance, 2011.](#)

Best Start Metro LA is providing small grants (up to \$25,000) for Collaborative Partner projects. See [SITE](#)

**SAVE THE DATE**

**Feb. 26, March 19 and April 2: Free Tax Preparation. Register By Calling 323-980-1221.**

All Family Services are open to the public. Free Tax Preparation service is by appointment only more info [here](#)

**Carson**

**February 26, 2011**  
CSU Dominguez Hills  
1000 East Victoria St  
Carson CA 90747  
10:00 am - 3:00 pm

**Los Angeles**

**March 19, 2011**  
Los Angeles City College  
855 North Vermont Ave  
Los Angeles CA 90029  
10:00 am - 3:00 pm

**Long Beach**

**April 2, 2011**  
Long Beach City College  
4901 East Carson St  
Long Beach CA 90808  
10:00 am - 3:00 pm

[Mon, March 7 and Tues. Mar. 8 - March of Dimes 2011 Conference for Health Professionals Irvine, California](#) Health professionals are invited to join the Eleventh

-California Family Recovery Budget: Paving the Way to a Sustainable Economic Recovery

-Talking Points for Corporate Tax Breaks Messages

- Governor Brown releases 2011-12 Budget, But [We Still Need a Family Recovery Budget!](#)

- Children's organizations document, "Governor's Budget Would Slash Children's Health at Worst Possible Time" [\[Download\]](#)

-State Dept of Health Care Services notice of new aid codes for Medi-Cal for foster care children [ACWDL 10-28 \(December 17, 2010\)](#)

-Western Center on Law and Poverty, ["Brown's Budget Proposes Painful Cuts Affecting Low-Income Californians"](#)

-California Budget Project: [Governor's Proposed Budget Balances Spending Reductions with Additional Revenues, Includes Deep Cuts to Health and Human Services Programs.](#)

[Guest Speaker Jan 20: Frank Tamborello, Hunger Action LA and Stella Kim, California Partnership](#)

**Frank Tamborello, Executive Director and Community Educator for Hunger Action LA**

Mr. Tamborello started off with a song, accompanied by guitar, about the poor and the fight for justice. He noted that 43 million people in the US get food stamps. People may know "food stamps" by 4-5 names - CalFresh is the new name in California, but recipients still call it food stamps, EBT (the card uses), SNAP (the federal name) and "Golden State Advantage" which is on the actual card.

Food stamp benefits are almost entirely federally funded. In New Mexico, enrollment can take place entirely by phone. In 2011, advocates will continue fighting to get rid of finger imaging, since we are one of four states only that requires it; and quarterly reporting. The latter was passed in the legislature in 2010, but vetoed by Gov Schwarzenegger. AB 6, authored by Assembly Member Felipe Fuentes (San Fernando) will eliminate the costly, unnecessary finger imaging of public benefits applicants, reduce the amount of paperwork in the CalFresh and CalWORKs programs, and help thousands of Californians get an increase in food assistance benefits, based on their high electric bills. AB 69 is sponsored by Assembly Member Jim Beall. It will require the state to set up a pilot program in which the Social Security Administration could help low income seniors getting Social Security more easily get CalFresh benefits. Only 5% of eligible persons getting Social Security in California are getting CalFresh. Federally, the Child Nutrition Bill increased dollars to schools for healthier food, but the price was eliminating the 13% increase in food stamps to states!

Annual Conference for Health Professionals, highlighting advances in perinatal care and best practices to improve maternal and neonatal outcomes. This year's theme is 'Navigating Perinatal Care: When the Everyday Becomes Complex'

**Saturday March 12, 2011: Mother's March**  
During International Women's Week for recognition and support for all the work we contribute to society, end state and federal cuts, poverty & discrimination. Come with your children, relatives & friends. **For info and to help plan, contact 323-276-9833**  
[la@allwomenscount.net](mailto:la@allwomenscount.net)  
[globalwomenstrike.net](http://globalwomenstrike.net)

**Tues, March 15, 2011**  
**1pm - 4pm**  
**Managing Infant Complications to Maximize Breastfeeding**  
**Success: Susan Wu, MD**  
San Gabriel Valley Medical Center, San Gabriel, CA

This half day seminar shares important and current information on managing infants who have complications that could impact breastfeeding. For registration information and to download the seminar brochure, see the Breastfeeding [Task Force](#) website or call Gwendolyn Lipsey, CLE, PCD(DONA) Education Coordinator, Breastfeeding Task Force of Greater Los Angeles 213.596.5776

**Tues, March 29, 2011,**  
**1:00pm - 2:00pm**  
People with disabilities and seniors who have Medi-Cal only (not Medicare) are

Locally, the City Council in LA in December passed a surplus food act sponsored by Jose Huizar: tons of surplus food from city-sponsored events would be donated to the needy. New guidelines would encourage contractors such as caterers serving city events to donate surplus fare to food banks or other assistance groups. Lawmakers are seeking to insert language in all city contracts promoting donations of surplus food. One in six people now receiving emergency food aid in Los Angeles has never received such assistance in the past and some 5 million tons of consumable food is wasted each year in California. In the future, the phone number 311 will allow people to find out where/how to donate excess food through several groups who are able to pick it up. Frank noted that HALA has meetings on the last Friday of the month at 464 S. Lucas, and that Hunger Action Days will be May 16-17 in Sacramento. HALA can bus people up and encourages involvement. See [www.hungeractionla.org](http://www.hungeractionla.org)

### **Stella Kim, Policy and Communications Specialist, the California Partnership (CAP)**

Ms. Kim presented on CAP's proposal for a Family Recovery Budget. California faces unprecedented deficits, yes, but not because we have a "spending problem". Ms. Kim explained how the state came to be in this dilemma. Tax revenues have been decreasing since 1978's Proposition 13, yet more corporations are receiving tax breaks to pay less taxes, and the state has been running on credit. Since federal welfare "reform" in 1996-97, welfare spending has decreased by more than one-third in California. The current budget proposes to decrease CalWORKS by another 25%. Tax deals passed in 2008-9 will cost the state almost \$9 billion in eight years; the list of corporations benefitting was provided. Governor Brown has proposed closing one major loophole that allows corporations to choose which tax they want to pay by mandating the "single sales factor". Ms. Kim also clearly explained the impact of Proposition 13, passed in 1978 when housing prices and property taxes were rising. It limits property taxes to 1% of the home's assessed value at the time of purchase and holds annual tax increases to no more than 2% per year until a change in ownership. Property tax rates dropped an average of 57% due to Prop. 13.

After the November election and Property 25- we can now pass a budget with a simple majority, 50% plus one, but we can't raise the revenues we need to fund such a budget due to Prop. 26!! It imposed a two-thirds majority on fees.

The current budget has \$12.5 billion in spending cuts, seeks \$12 billion in revenues and achieves these by extensions of current tax levels and borrowing from special funds and one-time measures. A massive realignment of programs to the counties is also proposed, but counties are concerned that not enough funding will come with the programs shift. The cuts to health and human services include:

- \$1.6 billion to Medi-Cal
  - Limiting to 10 doctor visits a year
  - Limiting to 6 prescriptions/month
  - Eliminate Adult Day Health
  - Eliminate over-the-counter meds
  - Reduce provider payments
  - Impose \$50 copay for ER
  - Impose \$100 copay hospital per day

encouraged to come to a free presentation to learn about Medi-Cal changes. Rancho Los Amigos National Rehabilitation Center 7601 E. Imperial Hwy, Downey 4719 RSVP: Call 1-800-946-4719 more info [here](#).

## **EMPLOYMENT**

MCH Access continues to hire for Welcome Baby! positions - nurse and Bachelor-level home visitor - see positions [HERE](#).

### **Join Our List**

[Join Our Mailing List!](#)

- \$22.2 million to Healthy Families
  - Increase copays to \$30/month per child for families 150-200% poverty
  - Increase copays to \$42/month per child for families 200-250% poverty
  - Increase to \$50 (from \$15) ER copay
  - Impose \$100 copay hospital per day
  - Eliminate vision coverage
- \$1.5 billion to CalWORKS
- \$177.3 million to SSI
- \$486.2 million to IHSS
- \$750 million to child care
- \$750 million to developmental services

Ms. Kim ended with the budget timeline and explaining how everyone can help - getting involved with legislative visits, press conferences, hearings and actions; collecting stories of those affected, and getting out the vote in June. Her e-mail is: [skim@communitychange.org](mailto:skim@communitychange.org)

## **US Supreme Court to decide if California can cut payments to Medi-Cal providers**

Lynn Kersey noted that it is a very bad sign that the US Supreme Court has accepted three separate appeals from California. It means there are likely enough votes on the Court to make it much harder, perhaps impossible, for people to get into FEDERAL court to challenge state actions that conflict with certain federal Medicaid laws.

Fortunately, here in California we have STATE court procedures to enforce the federal laws governing Medi-Cal. But people in other states are not so lucky. And even in California, we could lose access to federal courts on Medi-Cal issues. Stay tuned...

## **House of Representatives Votes to Eliminate Funding for Planned Parenthood**

Following is the text of Planned Parenthood's Announcement and request for help: On Friday, Feb. 18, the U.S. House of Representatives voted to strip Planned Parenthood of all federal funding for any purpose, whatsoever. By far, this is the most dangerous legislative assault on women's health in our history. (Click here to view the roll call. It may take a few minutes to post.)

Please visit [www.istandwithplannedparenthood.org](http://www.istandwithplannedparenthood.org). This site features an open letter to the House of Representatives and the Senate, meant to be an immediate emotional response calling out the House action. Feel free to share with other supporters.

Although this outcome in the House was not unexpected, this marks a dark moment in time. Thank you for all that you have done to stand with us - we WILL beat this in the Senate.

## **GENERAL TALKING POINTS**

The vote today reflects the pursuit of an extreme political agenda by the Republican House leadership. The vote is not a surprise but it is radically out of step with mainstream American values.

In attacking Planned Parenthood they have launched an outrageous assault on women's health that would deny preventive

health services, birth control and reproductive care to 3 million Americans and would certainly guarantee an increase in the number of unintended pregnancies. It is difficult to understand why people who say they are opposed to abortion would do so much to undermine the family planning and contraception that prevents it.

Planned Parenthood is a community based provider of life-saving health and reproductive care to three million patients each year and the largest provider of reproductive health care in America. Even the supporters of this extreme legislation don't pretend that this political attack on Planned Parenthood will save a single cent in the budget, nor have they explained how the three million Americans currently served by Planned Parenthood's more than 800 health centers.

It now falls to Senators from both parties to join together to reject this extreme approach, restore common sense and guarantee that Planned Parenthood and the millions of Americans who count on them for health care are protected.

### Senator Noreen Evans introduces SB 155 - Maternity Coverage Availability Act!

This bill is being introduced for the FIFTH (and hopefully last!) time. It requires any health insurer with a pending or approved individual or group health insurance policy form on file with the California Department of Insurance as of January 1, 2012, to submit on or before March 1, 2012, a revised policy form that provides coverage for maternity services. Current law requires HMO and group insurers to include maternity services, but individually marketed plans are not subject to that requirement. As a result, cheaper "maternity-free" policies have increased. The percentage of policies containing maternity coverage has dropped from 82% in 2004 to only 19% in 2009, leaving a growing number of women priced out of the insurance market. In some geographic areas, policies may not even be available at any cost.

Click [here](#) for the bill's Fact Sheet, [News article](#) and [Sample Letter of Support](#) to the author. Please be on the lookout for any pregnant women who have found themselves without health coverage for maternity in their individual health insurance. If you help women get on AIM, you may be enrolling women in the very same insurers who denied coverage through individual plans! Tell their stories or better yet, connect these women with Sen. Noreen Evans' office: [brandy.deornellas@sen.ca.gov](mailto:brandy.deornellas@sen.ca.gov). Let MCHA (Lynn, Celia, Liz) know if we can help.

### IRS Decision - Breastfeeding Equipment to be Allowed as Medical Tax Deduction and Reimbursed by Flexible Health Spending Accounts

In response to a request from Senators Jeff Merkley (D-OR), Tom Harkin (D-IA), and Representatives Sander Levin (D-MI) and Carolyn B. Maloney (D-NY), the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) announced they will reverse a ruling that denies equipment used

to help women breast feed from being covered as a health care expense. The previous ruling excluded breast pumps from coverage under flexible health spending accounts and made them non-deductible on tax returns.

A tax ruling by the IRS last year disallowed breast pumps and other breastfeeding supplies as medical deductions, thus also excluding them as permissible expenses under flexible health spending accounts.

Rep. Maloney and Sen. Merkley secured a provision in health care reforms passed earlier this year that employers of hourly workers are be required to provide breastfeeding employees with "reasonable break time" and a private, non-bathroom place to express breast milk during the workday, up until the child s first birthday.

Twenty-four states, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico have laws related to breastfeeding in the workplace; fully 43 states and the District of Columbia and the Virgin Islands have laws which allow women to breastfeed in any public or private location. View the list and more at the [National Conference of State Legislatures](#)

### National Children's Study Officially Begins in Los Angeles! Potential enrollees receiving letters TODAY!

The first lead letter to NCS potential participants were mailed Friday Feb. 18 to six neighborhoods. This means the National Children's Study in Los Angeles County has officially launched! The lead letters are expected to reach LA residents by TODAY in Downey, Highland Park, Lancaster, Lennox, North Hills and San Pedro. The rest of the 14 selected communities will receive a letter in mid-April. For more information see <http://UCLA.NationalChildrensStudy.gov>

Sign up for NCS-LAVSC updates at <http://lists.ucla.edu/cgi-bin/mailman/listinfo/ncs>

### Remember - The Clock is Ticking, Open Enrollment for Children with Pre-Existing Conditions Underway

Assemblyman Michael Feuer, D-Los Angeles, last year authored a bill that penalizes insurers who refuse to sell child-only policies by banning them from the broader individual market for five years so the insurers rejoined the children's market as the state law went into effect January 1.

The California law limits how much insurers can charge for children with pre-existing conditions, provided that they sign up during an open enrollment period. **Under the state law, insurers cannot charge a child with health issues more than twice what they charge a healthy child.**

This is an important improvement. The federal law prohibits outright denials, but it does not place a limit to what insurers can charge due to health status.

In order to get the price protection, **children must be signed up during the open enrollment period, from January 1 through March 1.** Other enrollment periods include the month of a child's birthday and changes in family circumstances, such as a job switch, marriage, divorce, or a move to California.

The families that will take greatest advantage of the new law will be those who get their coverage through an employer but don't elect dependent coverage for their kids.

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