



Maternal and Child Health Access

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Save the Dates!

High Noon - Weds., Feb. 17

Rally for Health Care - Sponsored by Health Care for America Now and Health Access. At the Blue Cross Building - 801 S. Figueroa St. LA 90017. [See Invite](#) or contact Angela Woods at 213-413-3587 for more info.

Sat Feb 27 - Sun Mar 7 -

REDCAT International Children's Film Festival - Now in its fifth year, this audience favorite offers a treasure trove of cinematic delights for filmgoers of all ages. Two weekend programs bring wondrous animation, exhilarating live action, rarely shown classics, and highlights from Cinemagic Belfast. [Buy Tickets](#)

Thurs. March 18 -

Reproductive Freedom Day - Sacramento [-click here to register now](#) -Your voice matters!

Friday, March 5, 2010 -

Women's Health and Justice for All Conference University of California, Santa Cruz

Sponsored by the National Women's Health Network (NWHN) and Oakes College/UC

MCH Access monthly meeting: NEW LOCATION FOR THIS MONTH!

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

Thursday, Feb. 18, 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!

Highlighting:

Dental Health Month - focus on oral health care and budget
Toni Vargas, Health Consumer Center, Neighborhood Legal Services
Denti-Cal Cuts - How to Get Services
Sean O'Brien, Director, Health Net Dental Operations Department -
Health Net's Continuing Services to Adults on Medi-Cal

CA State Budget issues and how to plug in
([see also last month's mailing](#))

Highlighting Dental Health Month - February

This month MCHA will host speakers addressing the Denti-Cal cuts that took place last July, what services remain for adults and what is threatened for children. Remember that pregnant women are still eligible for preventive oral health under Denti-Cal, as well as pregnancy-related services and services for the treatment of other conditions that might complicate the pregnancy: [Click Here](#) to state language for pregnancy-related services for the treatment of other conditions that might complicate the pregnancy.

The following is an example for documentation required in the remarks on the claim or as an attachment for a pregnancy-related exemption:

"The dental treatment rendered to the beneficiary was/were part of the pregnancy related services or services for the treatment of a condition that might complicate the pregnancy." The documentation retained in the patient medical record must reflect that the dental treatment rendered was an allowable procedure, as well as documentation that the beneficiary is pregnant.

New guidelines for care during pregnancy have been released: "Oral Health During Pregnancy and Early Childhood: Evidence-Based Guidelines for Health Professionals" is available for download [HERE](#). This significant body of work represents the outcome of a 2-day

Santa Cruz, Women's Health and Justice for All is a conference highlighting feminist perspectives and women's voices in the ongoing struggle for health and social justice, universal access to health care, and reproductive justice.

Come learn about what really goes on behind the headlines in this critical time for healthcare reform and women's health. The conference will offer three sessions featuring the National Women's Health Network's staff and Board members:

Early Bird Session (9:30 am - 11:00 am) "Health and Social Justice: Making Change"

Session II (11:00 am - 12:30pm) "The Ongoing Struggle for Reproductive Justice"

Session III (12:30pm - 1:30pm) "Moving Forward: The Fight for Universal Health Care"

The conference is free and open to the public. Detailed information about the conference and how to register will be available later this month; see www.nwhn.org

Resources!

Keep the heat and lights on: The Los Angeles Times noted Feb. 5, 2010 that the Public Utilities Commission unanimously voted to immediately require utilities to take interim measures to help customers pay their back bills without any interruption in service. A permanent set of rules should be ready for adoption in June. A holiday moratorium on shut-offs took place in parts of December and January

The temporary fix, which could take effect as early as next (now this) week, requires that utility customer service representatives inform people who fall behind on their bills

consensus conference held in Sacramento on February 20 - 21, 2009 in collaboration with the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, District IX. In the next few weeks, a companion policy brief will be posted on the CDA Foundation web site to accompany the Guidelines.

Remember also that beneficiaries may receive dental services that are necessary (precedent) in order to undergo a covered medical service. [See bottom of page 2 Denti-Cal bulletin Vol. 25, #22](#)

First 5LA has some additions to the Ready. Set. Grow! Oral Health Page. If you have a moment, please visit the site and feel free to refer friends, family, and grantees since it is a great way to find low-cost dental care (L.A. County) and pediatric dentists (nationwide). The site includes:

- Low cost dental care in L.A. County
- Link to Finding a Pediatric Dentist
- Dental Care Tips and Fun Facts
- Prenatal Dental Care Tips
- Games and Activities

[ENGLISH](#)
[SPANISH](#)

HMOs Show Improvement in California's Annual Report Card

Most of the state's HMOs received higher patient satisfaction ratings in 2009 than they did in 2008, but many of the plans still are falling short on certain measures, according to the [California Office of the Patient Advocate's Annual Report Card of HMO Performance](#), the Los Angeles Times reports (Helfand, Los Angeles Times, 2/10). The report card grades the health plans on patient satisfaction and meeting national standards of care (Kisken, Ventura County Star, 2/10). About 21 million California residents receive coverage through HMOs (Perkes, "Healthy Living," Orange County Register, 2/10).

Social Security numbers of nearly 50,000 Californians disclosed

According to the LA Times on Feb. 8, California health officials have accidentally disclosed the Social Security numbers of nearly 50,000 of the state's most vulnerable residents. The numbers were printed on the outside of envelopes sent to elderly patients of the Adult Day Health Care program, many of whom are blind or have Alzheimer's disease or other cognitive disabilities. The Department of Health Care Services sent the envelopes, which contained change-of-benefit notices, Feb. 1. Officials have since sent follow-up letters advising recipients to destroy the envelopes and are advising patients to contact credit agencies to put a freeze on new accounts."Why isn't the state doing it for them?" asked Lydia Missaelides, executive director of the California Assn. for Adult Day services, who noted that the disclosure exposed the patients to identity theft. The department sent the list to an outside contractor, who printed and mailed the envelopes.

State Budget Update: 2010-11

The governor's budget, released on Jan. 8, seeks to close a nearly \$20

that they can work out a payment program that gives them as long as a year to bring their accounts up to date without any power interruptions.

Utilities also will be prohibited from forcing customers, who have established prior credit, to put up a new deposit because of slow payment, nonpayment of bills or the need to reconnect after a cutoff. The number of low-income customers disconnected by Edison in parts of Central and Southern California climbed 21%, the Division of Ratepayer Advocates found, while overall disconnections increased 2%. But PG&E's low-income disconnections jumped 75% and overall disconnections rose 40%, the division said.

Healthy City will soon be a resource for all of California. Launching **MARCH 3rd, 2010**

Use HealthyCity.org to:
Search for community services.
Map your neighborhood.
Share community stories and data.
Chart trends, demographics and more. [Join the webinar launch](#) unveiling HealthyCity.org for California. [Sign up](#) for future training opportunities on our home page Not on the mailing list? [Sign up on our homepage](#)

Kidsdata.org, a program of the Lucile Packard Foundation for Children's Health, just expanded statewide, offering data for all counties, cities, and school districts in California -- nearly 1,600 regions. Data are available for dozens of topics measuring the health and well being of children, and much [more data will be phased in](#) over the coming months. Visit kidsdata.org now

Prom clothing: Know of a graduating teenage girl unable to attend a prom due to cost? Teens can be nominated to attend the

billion shortfall, including \$6.6 billion from the current fiscal year (2009-10). The proposal cuts \$2.9 billion from Health and Human Services. The governor proposes an addition \$4.5 billion in cuts, most of which (\$3.5 million) would be in health and human services, if the federal government does not provide \$6.9 billion in additional federal funds, called "trigger" cuts. The most egregious MCH cuts proposed for 2010-11, and the "trigger" cuts were listed in our January mailing, along with sources of budget information for further reading.

Democratic proposals thus far address about one-third of the state's deficit. According to newspaper reports, many lawmakers are trying to avoid discussion of the health and social service cuts until June, giving us a lot of time to fight the cuts! As noted by Anthony Wright of Health Access, "This doesn't mean these programs are safe, merely that the day of reckoning is delayed for a few months. Health and human service advocates need to stay vigilant through the next week of negotiation around a mid-year package, and need to continue our work through May Revise and the spring-summer negotiations." (blog at www.health-access.org)

What to do?

- NOTE YOUR STORIES of people already hurt by cuts in place (optional benefits cuts, reductions in services, loss of Every Woman Counts coverage, overcrowding at DPSS, etc) for groups using stories (ask us if you're not aware), or for your own letters and visits.

- Join visits to your legislators - it doesn't take that long!
see

California Partnership/Stop the Cuts
March 3 , 3-5pm

CHIRLA Conference Room
2533 W. 3rd St.

Los Angeles, CA 90057

Contact Astrid Campos acampos@communitychange.org

Join Community Health Councils' March Madness the first three days in March; the meetings will be held at the Sun Valley School Based Health Center, St. Mary's Hospital in Long Beach and Citrus Valley Health Partners in West Covina. Contact: Shelia H. Claverie

323.295.9372 ext. 231 sheliac@chc-inc.org

WRITE and CALL Governor and your lawmakers see www.legislature.ca.gov or Governor: www.gov.ca.gov

Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger

State Capitol Building
Sacramento, CA 95814

Phone: 916-445-2841

Fax: 916-558-3160 (new number) or

Los Angeles Office

300 South Spring Street, Suite 16701

Los Angeles, CA 90013

Phone: 213-897-0322

Fax: 213-897-0319

Advocacy Tip!

Billing for Beneficiaries with "Other Health Coverage"

"dress to remember" event. Young women from Los Angeles County graduating high school must be nominated by a high school faculty member, social worker, or Prom director. Those accepted will receive a formal prom dress, with some tuxedos available for girls who prefer a tux, hair and makeup styling, and etiquette workshops. See form to fill out and more information, including how to donate dresses/tuxes, [HERE](#) or 866-475-0082.

Positions!

MCH Access is hiring! Receptionist, Oral Health Policy Coordinator as well as positions for Welcome, Baby! - nurses and other home visitors [CLICK HERE](#) to see all! and the application process

Join Our List

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Advocates often come up against the situation in which Medi-Cal recipients are told they have, or have had, "Other Health Care Coverage" or "Third Party Coverage" - some third party/commercial health coverage that was not removed from the state's computer, or that the client never had in the first place. While this coverage shows on the client's Medi-Cal card, the Medi-Cal is considered secondary coverage and providers often refuse to see the client, or bill them.

The County Eligibility Worker cannot remove this coverage code - the state must do so. Advocates can send an e-mail to the state's Third Party Liability and Recovery Division's WATS group giving them the client's information and explaining the problem: WATS@dhcs.ca.gov Provide: the client's name, Date of Birth, address, BIC or CIN Number, and the months client needs coverage removed

Due to advocate pressure, the state recently updated their website to remind providers of their duties in this situation:

"Providers are reminded that they may not refuse to provide Medi-Cal-covered services to eligible recipients with other health coverage (OHC). Social Security Act 1902 (a) (25) (D) and 42 Code of Federal Regulations section 447.20 (b) require that a provider not refuse to furnish services covered under the state plan to an individual eligible for medical assistance on account of a third party's potential liability.

In most situations, providers are required to exhaust the recipient's OHC before billing Medi-Cal. In those situations where OHC utilization is not required before billing Medi-Cal, providers are still encouraged to bill OHC first, as OHC plans often pay more than Medi-Cal. Generally, if the total paid by OHC is less than the amount payable for that service under the state plan, the balance will be paid by Medi-Cal, up to the maximum allowed amount.

Please refer to the Other Health Coverage (OHC) Codes Chart section of the Part 1 section of the provider manual located at www.medi-cal.ca.gov for additional information. For information about billing Medi-Cal after billing OHC, refer to the Other Health Coverage (OHC) section in the appropriate Part 2 section of the manual. Links are listed below for easy reference.

- Part 1
- [OHC Codes Chart](#)
- [OHC Guidelines for Billing](#)
- Part 2
- [OHC](#)

Contact us

Maternal and Child Health Access
1111 W. 6th St., Fourth Floor
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213 749 4261 phone
213 745 1040 fax
info@mchaccess.org email

[Forward email](#)

 **SafeUnsubscribe®**

This email was sent to marting@mchaccess.org by info@mchaccess.org.

Email Marketing by

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