



Maternal and Child Health Access

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**First MCH Access Meeting of 2006!**

**Thursday, January 19, 2006, 10 AM – 12 noon  
(Third Thursday Monthly)**

**1111 W. 6<sup>th</sup> St., Fourth Fl. Parking in back, enter 2-story parking on 5<sup>th</sup> St.**

**Guest Speaker on The Governor's Budget – what lies ahead for 2006!**

**Updates: Dental Care for pregnant women, bills introduced, Gateways, health programs and services**

**Please note:** the UCSF Study in which MCH Access is interviewing first-time pregnant Latinas has been postponed until February or March. Please contact Julie Gates at extension #103 at MCHA if questions.

**Please note:** MCH Access, Community Health Councils, Legal Services of Los Angeles and other organizations learned at the end of December that Daniel Freeman Memorial Center Hospital, now part of Centinela Freeman Regional Medical Center, planned to close its obstetrical unit and transfer all deliveries to Centinela Hospital. That transfer is currently taking place. Please call us (Lynn, Luz or Liz) if you have clients who have experienced any problems due to this transfer or if you want to get involved in obtaining more information about the transfer. We are extremely concerned that Centinela is not ready for this change.

**In this mailing:**

- **Dental Care for Pregnant Women Expanded!**
- **Medi-Cal rate cuts: see also articles at**  
<http://www.contracostatimes.com/mld/cctimes/13538192.htm>  
<http://www.latimes.com/news/local/la-me-medical2jan02,1,7753965.story>

**on effect in Los Angeles and Contra Costa**

- **Save the dates:**
  - 1/12 – Mentally Ill Among Us
  - 1/24 - Children's Health Initiative Forum
  - 1/31 – Tissue Bank Laws and Breastmilk
  - 2/9 - Perinatal HIV Transmission
  - (multiple dates) South LA Community
  - (multiple dates) Lactation Educator
- **MCH Access training calendar**

**Materials: November meeting (call for copies):**

- Flyer on federal budget reconciliation bill
- Kaisernetwork.org – Pregnant, Postpartum Women at Increased Risk of Fatal Blood Clots
- California Low Cost Auto Insurance
- AHRQ August, 2005, “Black and Hispanic Mothers are much more likely than white mothers to suffer from early postpartum depression
- Cafeteria Reform Motion (see following notes)

- Preventing Prematurity – March of Dimes Conf.
- Materials from Guest Speakers: LA County WIC Data - set of tables.
- Packet on LA Mommy and Baby Project (LAMB)

**Minutes: November 17, 2004 meeting:**

**Guest Speaker: Shannon Whaley, Public Health Foundation Enterprises WIC, “The WIC Data Mining Project”**

Funded by First Five Los Angeles and the California WIC Branch, seven different WIC agencies in Los Angeles County have worked to combine their demographic and other data on over 550,000 individuals in one site:

[www.phfewic.org/DataMining](http://www.phfewic.org/DataMining). Since 1996, the 82 state WIC agencies have been connected by a statewide data system. Demographic data is available by race/ethnicity, by year and by SPA – next is by zip code. It is hoped that the data might become “queriable” - i.e. that you can manipulate the data tables but that is uncertain.

In addition, a survey of 5015 WIC families was recently completed in order to examine additional

data about the low-income 0-5 population in LAC. Reports will be posted as they become available. Some findings include: an increase in childhood obesity among WIC recipients from 17.5% in 2003 to 20% in 2005. WIC invites you to visit their website and to comment on the data collection and survey instrument.

### **Los Angeles Mommy and Baby (LAMB) Project**

#### **Margaret Chao, Giannina Donatoni and Ginger Macias, LAC/DHS MCAH Programs**

Margaret, Giannina and Ginger presented a packet of information about the LAMB Project – a survey of women who've recently given birth (0-7 months after a live birth) to identify factors associated with poor birth outcomes (low birth weight, preterm birth or anomalies) and to estimate the prevalence of certain maternal experiences before, during and after pregnancy.

The study is based on a previous project in SPA 1/Antelope Valley conducted from October, 2004 to April, 2005 of 366 postpartum women – an astonishing 23% of whom had a low birth weight or preterm infant (see report at: [www.lapublichealth.org/mch/LAMB/LAMB.htm](http://www.lapublichealth.org/mch/LAMB/LAMB.htm))

The survey is needed for planning purposes to address the increase in low birth weight and premature babies - to better identify at-risk groups and influence policies and programs developed. There is a huge lack of timely, local data – we only have state data that is similar.

The survey went county-wide in mid-2005. Surveys are mailed in English, Spanish and Chinese. In order to improve response rates for this broader survey, \$20 Ralphs/Food4Less gift certificates are being offered and the LAMB staff is doing more outreach at agencies, health fairs and through the media. Surveys can be done over the phone if the woman would rather call in.

The LAMB staff needs the help of all agencies working with pregnant women so that they return the survey. Answers are kept private, surveys can be done in all languages (call 866-706 LAMB)

and women are compensated with gift cards and a chance for additional raffle prizes.

### **School Board Vote: Passed!**

Please note that the Healthy School Food Coalition of the Center for Food and Justice is was successful in passing the Cafeteria Reform Motion highlighted in November. It was introduced to the

LAUSD Board by President Marlene and calls for increased participation in school meal programs by ensuring that students have sufficient time to eat, increasing nutritional standards of the food served, offering healthier options and viewable nutritional information in order to facilitate students' ability to make healthy choices. For more information, please contact Catherine Packer or Francesca de la Rosa at 323 341 5097.

### **Program Updates:**

- Healthy Kids Wait List will start to move – currently there are over 4,000 kids waiting, but some kids will have dropped off in December and new kids enrolled in January, and the Centinela Medical Care Fund catchment area kids are enrolled (certain zip codes - see November mailing). 35,027 6-18 year olds and 7,825 0-5 year olds are enrolled in Healthy Kids (as of 11-17-05). MCH Access redistributed its document, “What can I do for a child or teen that will be put on the waiting list for Healthy Kids?” about alternatives available to the Healthy Kids population.
- Request to utilize ethnic identification on Healthy Kids application – so we can see who is not being enrolled

**REFER YOUR CLIENTS!** Like many agencies doing outreach, MCH Access welcomes your referrals to work with low and moderate income families and individuals who may qualify for a free or low-cost health program. We receive a lot of calls to trouble-shoot problems, but would also welcome your enrollment calls if this is not a function of your agency.

**Call and request anyone in Outreach for assistance with health programs.**

**Se Habla Español.**