



Maternal and Child Health Access

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Welcome to 2007!

MCH Access monthly meeting, Thursday, January 18, 2007, 10-12
Guest speaker: Nancy Berlin, Executive Director, California Partnership
The Governor's Welfare budget
Update on bills, policies new for 2007

1111 W. 6th St., Fourth Floor, L.A., CA 90017 – Free Parking in back, entering 2-story lot on 5th St.

The November meeting was cancelled due to construction near our parking entrance; October minutes were sent in November.

In this mailing:

- *LA Times* 1-6-07, "Mandatory dental exams called "a baby step" for children's health
- Order Form: Posters for Dental Care for Pregnant Women (or pick up at meeting!)
- March of Dimes Newborn Screening Medical Foods – now that more children are screened, how do parents get the special foods needed? Remember that children on Medi-Cal are eligible through EPSDT.
- Center for Non -Violent Ed. and Parenting
- Oppose cuts to welfare for children

THE GOVERNOR PROPOSES HEALTH CARE FOR ALL CALIFORNIANS!

Governor Schwarzenegger has proposed health care coverage for all Californians. Two other new proposals exist, authored by Senate President Perata and Assembly Speaker Nunez, and Senate Health Committee Chair Sheila Kuehl will reintroduce SB 840, a universal health care, single-payer proposal which was passed by both houses last year but vetoed by the Governor.

Copies of these proposals, along with analyses and newspaper articles and editorials can be found at the following websites:

www.lahealthaction.org LA Health Action
www.cfhc.org California Family Health Council (in the policy alert section)
www.health-access.org – Health Access

www.californiahealthline.org – California Healthline has summaries links to news releases and stories about the health proposals
www.cbp.org California Budget Project
www.100percentcampaign.org - 100% Campaign, Health Insurance for Every California Child

Copies of the Governor's Budget documents can be found at:

<http://govbud.dof.ca.gov/home.htm>

A summary of the Governor's health care proposal, which is NOT reflected in the proposed budget, can be found at:

http://gov.ca.gov/pdf/press/Governors_HC_Proposal.pdf. The California Budget Project has a good summary of the Governor's Health Care Proposal on p. 2-3 of their document at www.cbp.org.

Some of the health-related items in the Governor's proposed 2007-8 budget apart from his coverage proposal)

Human Papillomavirus Vaccinations

(HPV) - \$11.3 million (\$5.6 General Fund) in 2007-08 to provide HPV to approximately 52,000 Medi-Cal-eligible women ages 19-26.

- **HIV Surveillance** - \$2.0 million General Fund to provide additional local assistance funding to increase surveillance staff for HIV reporting. The funding will accelerate the conversion process to names-based reporting.

- **Newborn Hearing Screening Program** – Includes \$1.5 million General Fund to expand the Newborn Hearing Screening Program to

ALL California hospitals with licensed perinatal services – funding begins July '07 and services most likely Jan '08.

- Proposition 63 Mental Health Projects -

An increase in the \$300-\$500 MILLION range for totals in the BILLIONS of dollars in FY 07-08. The program for Integrated Services for Homeless Adults with Serious Mental Illnesses is slated for elimination, citing the Prop. 63 funding, but Prop. 63 is not allowed to supplant existing projects.

MRMIB/Medi-Cal

- **Healthy Families Program** - Increased by \$32 million General Fund (8.9%) to reflect an increase in caseload.

- **Access for Infants and Mothers Program** Increased by \$11.2 million (8.8%) to reflect an increase in caseload.

- **Medi-Cal** – Increased by 2.3 billion from 2006 budget, due to caseload growth and cost per eligible person.

-**EPSDT** - Increase of \$92.7 million general fund.

- **Self-Certification of Income** – Assumes increased enrollment for pilot projects for income self-certification for either Healthy Families or Medi-Cal in two counties (not LA County) required by SB 437 signed in 2006.

King Drew Medical Center – Los Angeles County Department of Health Services continues downsizing KDMC under the “Metrocare” plan. For a copy of available clinics and phone numbers, see under “Recent Health News” on www.ladhs.org You may call the County’s toll-free 2-1-1 information line for recorded updates in English and Spanish on King/Drew services, appointments, pharmacy, transportation, and related information. From a cell phone, callers can dial 800-339-6993.

KDMC will have only 42 beds by March, a basic emergency department and general medical services. NICU, pediatrics services and high-risk OB services were moved to Harbor UCLA at the end of November. A shuttle service is being set up for patients; for more transportation info call 323) 846-4419. For more information and to get involved with the Coalition for Health and Justice, see

the Community Health Councils’ website at: www.chc-inc.org

Family and Medical Leave Act: *From the National Partnership for Women & Families*

The FMLA is being subjected to a potentially damaging federal review. We urge you to voice your support for the FMLA, so that America's families don't have to choose between keeping a job and caring for themselves or a loved one. **Write to the Department of Labor to express your support of the FMLA before February 2, 2007.** Submitting your comments is easy. E-mail the Department of Labor (a sample support letter is provided) at:

http://www.democracyinaction.org/dia/organizationsORG/chn/campaign.jsp?campaign_KEY=6476

Since 1993, the FMLA has allowed roughly 80 million Americans to take job-protected leave to care for themselves or a loved one when they need it most. The FMLA has been a tremendous success: it has made America's workplaces more family-friendly and helped individuals be productive workers and responsible family members. The U.S. Department of Labor has issued a 'Request for Information' on the FMLA, requesting public comments about employer and employee experiences with the FMLA. Together we must urge the Administration to stand up for working families and strengthen, not weaken, our nation's only family leave law.

You can submit your comments before **February 2** by either 1) Email, 2) fax to 202-693-1432 for comments of 20 pages or fewer, or 3) mail to:

Mr. Richard M. Brennan, Senior Reg. Officer
Wage and Hour Division, Employment Standards Administration
U.S. Department of Labor, Room S-3502
200 Constitution Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20210

If you have any questions about the FMLA or need help writing your comments, contact the National Partnership for Women & Families at 202-986-2600 or info@nationalpartnership.org