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## Maternal and Child Health Access

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Non-outdated materials from November meeting (call or email for copies:

[info@mchaccess.org](mailto:info@mchaccess.org)

- LA's Best Babies Network, "Perinatal Scorecard"
- MCHA-PAC/LAC MCH-related final legislation, 2009 Session
- Children's Hospital LA "Parent University" (parent classes) free, 1st Sat of every month. Free parking, giveaways. Call (323) 361-7698.
- Materials from March of Dimes:
  - o Why the Last Weeks of Pregnancy Count
  - o If your pregnancy is healthy, it's best if your baby is born at 40 weeks
  - o 2009 Premature Birth Report Card

### Bills Signed and Vetoed

See our website or PAC/LAC's for a list of the MCH--related bills signed

## January MCH Access monthly meeting: CANCELLED

We apologize - we are in the process of expanding and don't have meeting space THIS month, and are a little concerned about folks possibly driving in bad storms. We should be back on track for **Thursday, Feb. 18!**

## From our last meeting November 2009

Highlighting Prematurity Awareness Month - November

**Lisa Pettinato, MPH**, Program and Public Policy Manager Perinatal Advisory Council/Leadership, Advocacy, Consultation (PAC/LAC)

**Vickie Lombardo, MSN, RN**, Associate State Director of Program Services, March of Dimes

Lisa Pettinato discussed PAC/LAC's origins - in place to implement recommendations from the original March of Dimes report, "Toward Improving the Outcome of Pregnancy". PAC/LAC focuses on the perinatal regionalization system - the idea that not only should women deliver in a hospital designed for her level of risk, but that her prenatal care is provided at risk-appropriate levels as well. In 1989, 48% of Very Low Birthweight babies were born in Level III hospitals; in 1998 that percentage dropped to 42%. The Regional Perinatal Programs of California are 14 programs up and down the state with at least one regional medical center that provides high-risk maternal and infant care. Los Angeles is several subregions that until 1995 were part of PAC/LAC, then became independent. Toward this end, PAC/LAC works on quality of hospital care with the California Perinatal Quality Care Collaborative, works to improve the accurate completion of birth certificates, visits hospitals and discusses their "Perinatal Profile" data and helps with educational efforts toward continuous quality improvement - [CLICK HERE](#) to see the data.

Vickie Lombardo, MSN, RN, focused on a number of issues: 1) Lack of progress toward Healthy People 2010 that has resulted in the March of Dimes Birth Report Card grade of a "D" for the United States. Three areas were highlighted - there has been no change in the percentage of uninsured women at 20.1%; percentage of women smoking has slightly improved, going from 21.2% to 20% and late preterm birth improved from 9.1% to 9%. The objective for 2010 was 7.6%; unfortunately the US is at 12.7% preterm births, even though early data for 2007 shows the overall preterm birth rate decreasing. 2) The important research conducted by the March of Dimes. This research is translating into a

or vetoed. Since the 2010-11 year continues a two-year legislative period, some bills will continue. We will be posting current bills introduced SOON.

### Save the Dates!

**Weds, 1/20/10 (TODAY)**  
**(Trafficking Awareness Panel Discussion)**

Dr. Susie Baldwin,  
Physician, Stephanie  
Richard J.D, Trafficked  
Survivor 6:00-7:30  
101 Kaufman Hall, 120  
Westwood Plaza, UCLA

**Sat. Jan 23, 9 AM - 2 PM**

18th Annual  
Empowerment Congress  
Summit

Join Los Angeles County  
Supervisor Mark Ridley-  
Thomas and other  
Second District residents  
and elected officials on  
for the 18th Annual  
Empowerment Congress  
Summit at California  
State University,  
Dominguez Hills.  
Workshops will inform  
participants about  
opportunities to build  
healthier communities,  
exciting developments at  
the new Martin Luther  
King, Jr. Medical Center  
Campus, light rail on  
Crenshaw, flood control  
efforts and more. For  
more information, please  
call 213-743-7200.

National children's rights  
advocate Marian Wright  
Edelman, founder and  
CEO of the Children's  
Defense Fund, is the  
keynote speaker. To  
assist in planning, please  
RSVP **HERE**. Admission  
and parking are free.  
Refreshments will be  
served

campaign to help women understand the need for at least 39 weeks of pregnancy, and against early scheduled C-section births. Several good handouts were provided (see "materials", above). C-Sections from 36-38 weeks are increasing.

## Cuts to California Breast Cancer Screening Effort Spark Worry, Legislation

Scaled-back eligibility rules for a state program that provides mammograms to low-income uninsured women are drawing criticism from health care advocates and state lawmakers, the Torrance Daily Breeze reports (Evans, Torrance Daily Breeze, 1/16). Last month, the state announced that beginning on Jan. 1, enrollment in the Every Woman Counts program would be frozen for six months. Moreover, when enrollment in the program is reopened, state officials plan to limit eligibility to women ages 50 and older. Prior to Jan. 1, the program provided no-cost mammograms to eligible women ages 40 and older. The program is targeted at low-income women who do not qualify for Medi-Cal, California's Medicaid program (California Healthline, 12/17/09).

Criticism - Iraj Khalkhali, chief of radiology at Los Angeles County Harbor-UCLA Medical Center and a professor at UCLA's medical school, said that the eligibility changes have triggered a drop in the number of women seeking mammograms, adding that the decline will compromise training for medical residents who now are reading significantly fewer mammograms.

**In addition, Sen. Jenny Oropeza (D-Long Beach) has introduced legislation (SB 836) that would restore funding for the program.**

Please note: MCH Access has updated our fact sheet on the Every Woman Counts program to reflect the cuts [CLICK HERE](#) to see doc.

Remember also that Family PACT provides screening mammograms to eligible women over 40, [CLICK HERE](#) for our fact sheet.

## State Budget Update: 2010-11

The governor's budget, released on Jan. 8, seeks to close a nearly \$20 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 are listed below, along with sources of budget information for further reading. Thanks to Health Access and other sources for this list, below:

### Medi-Cal Cuts Proposed:

- \$750 million in cuts to Medi-Cal by placing limits on services and utilization controls, increasing cost sharing for Medi-Cal beneficiaries, and making "other programmatic changes," potentially affecting all 7 million Californians on Medi-Cal;
- \$118 million to eliminate Medi-Cal coverage for recent legal immigrants (within last 5 years, now covered by state funds), effective March 1, 2010, affecting about 90,000 legal immigrants;
- \$104 million to eliminate the Medi-Cal adult day health care benefit, one of the last of the state "optional" benefits that is left, effective March 1, 2010, affecting about 35,000 frail adults;
- \$55 million to delay payment to Medi-Cal institutional providers,

**Mon, Jan, 25**

Bixby Lecture "In Trying to Find Common Ground, Do We Hurt Abortion Rights?"

Dr. Tracy Weitz, UCSF  
5:00 - 6:00 Dean's  
Conference Room (16-059 CHS), UCLA School of Public Health

**Feb. 12, 2010**

Public comments due on draft US National Health Disparities Plan

The National Plan for Action, which captures the status of health disparities in the United States and proposes 20 strategies for their elimination, is a collaborative effort of representatives from community, faith-based and non-profit organizations, academic institutions, foundations and Federal, State and local agencies. It was initiated by the Office of Minority Health in the US Department of Health and Human Services. Comment forms are set up so that you may comment on individual chapters of the report or on the report overall. Comments will not be posted, but will be used for development of the final plan.

The plan is available for your comment until February 12, 2010 [CLICK HERE](#) to see site.

**Advocacy Tip!**

requiring doctors and hospitals to "float" the state;  
- \$26.4 million from aggressive elimination of fraud in Medi-Cal; and  
- \$28.7 million to rescind a rate increase for Medi-Cal family planning services.

**Healthy Families Program Cuts Proposed:**

- \$85.3 million (including \$10.5 million for the current fiscal year) from reducing eligibility from 250% of the federal poverty level (FPL) to 200% of the FPL, effective May 1, 2010, affecting roughly 225,000 children  
- \$3.9 million cut to the California Children's Services program for Healthy Families-eligible children  
- \$21.7 million by eliminating vision coverage from the HFP benefit package and increasing monthly premiums in families 151-200% of the FPL, effective July 1, 2010, affecting 167,000 children.

**Other cuts to Health and Human Services programs:**

These, too, are maternal and child cuts!

- \$950.5 million in reducing eligibility, payments and services in the IHSS program;  
- \$146.1 million by reducing benefits for CalWORKS recipients;  
- \$306.9 million by reducing benefits for recipients of SSI/SSP;  
- \$60 million by eliminating the California Food Assistance Program;  
- \$200 million by reducing support for Regional Centers;  
- \$18 million by eliminating the Substance Abuse Offender Treatment Program.

**Redirecting funding to avoid more health care cuts:**

- Reduce \$240 million from children's coverage to be replaced by newly enacted hospital fees;  
- Reduce \$36 million from Medi-Cal to be replaced by one-time Proposition 99 reserve funds;  
- Reduce \$25 million from the Access for Infants and Mothers (AIM) program to be replaced by one-time use Proposition 99 (tobacco tax) reserve funds;  
- Reduce \$550 million in General Fund health and social programs serving children to be replaced by state and local Prop 10 (First Five) funding, subject to voter approval; and  
- Reduce \$452.3 million in General Fund EPSDT services for children and mental health managed care to be replaced by Proposition 63 (Mental Health Services Act) funds, subject to voter approval.

IF \$6.9 billion in federal funding not received, the Governor proposes these "trigger" cuts:

- Reduce Medi-Cal eligibility to the minimum allowed under current federal law (about 72% of the federal poverty level for most adults and 133% of the federal poverty level for children and pregnant women). This cut would not be allowed under the stimulus package until January 1, 2011. After that, it would eliminate coverage for 250,000 Californians in the first six months, 450,000 adults in the year after that, and hundreds of thousands more adults in future years.  
- Scale back no-cost Medi-Cal coverage for some seniors and people with disabilities just over the SSI/SSP level.  
- Eliminate many Medi-Cal programs (including the Family PACT program for family planning services, the CHDP Gateway for transitional children's coverage, Breast and Cervical Cancer Treatment Program, and the Medically Indigent long-term care program)  
- Eliminate most remaining benefits not required by federal law (including medical supplies like diabetic test strips, prosthetic limbs, orthotics, wheelchairs and other durable medical equipment, hearing aids and other benefits).  
- Eliminate the Healthy Families Program, affecting all 874,762 children currently enrolled (\$126 million)

**Increase in Unemployment Benefits - how is it counted for health benefits eligibility?**

Unemployment benefits have been increased by the Federal Stimulus. The increase is NOT counted for determining eligibility for Medi-Cal or Healthy Families. The counties should know how to address this, but you should carefully calculate income when/if someone receives unemployment income. Furthermore, One-e-App computers have not been programmed in any way to compute the exemption for the increase for Medi-Cal and Healthy Families screening purposes. The unemployment benefits paystub will show the amount of the increase, which is \$25 each week (for a total of up to \$100 extra per month). Clients MUST report all their income - it is up to the various screening mechanisms (county workers, LEADER, One-e and Health-e) to exclude that additional funding. [See All County Welfare Directors Letter # 09-22, April 29, 2009 here](#), which shows how the check stub and check itself will differ. Please call us if you run into difficulties.

**Resources!**

- Eliminate various health services programs, (including Access for Infants and Mothers, MRMIP's high-risk pools for those denied coverage for pre-existing conditions, Every Women Counts cancer screening, Asthma Control Program, and Expanded Access to Care Program), funded by Proposition 99 (tobacco tax) funds, subject to voter approval (\$115 million);
- Eliminate current services funded by Proposition 63 (Mental Health Services Act) to redirect the \$847 million to fund existing mental health services;
- Eliminate CalWORKS, the state's welfare-to-work program (\$1.044 billion); and
- Eliminate the In-Home Supportive Services programs that provides home care to those not able to assist themselves (\$495 million).
- Make other reductions to state workers, counties, courts, human services, etc.

[California Budget Project, Governor's Proposed Budget Includes Deep Cuts, Assumes More Federal Funds](#)

[California Health and Human Services Agency, Budget Facts: Governor's Proposed Budget for FY 2010-11](#)

[Governor's Budget Summary 2010-11](#)

[Insure The Uninsured Project, Summary of the Governor's Proposed Budget for FY 2010-2011](#)

[Health Access, Inc. A First Look at the 2010-11 Health Care Budget Proposal \(January 8, 2010\)](#)

[California Foundation for Independent Living Center](#) - under "Disability Action Coalition" tab

[LAO, The 2010-11 Budget: Overview of the Governor's Budget](#)

[MRMIB, Healthy Families: November 2009 Summary](#)

See the Health Access report

[Damage Already Done: A Report on the 2009 Health Care Budget Cuts Six Months in](#)

An impact analysis showing that just six months after severe cuts in spending on public health programs went into effect, millions of Californians hurt by the recession are being denied the basic services they need now more than ever. (January 7, 2010)

What to do?

- NOTE YOUR STORIES of people already hurt by cuts in place (optional benefits cuts, reductions in services, overcrowding at DPSS, etc) for groups using stories (ask us if you're not aware), or for your own letters
- Join visits to your legislators - it doesn't take that long! see California Partnership/Stop the Cuts:

February 3, 2010, 3:00PM - 5:00 PM

CHIRLA Conference Room, 2533 W. 3rd St., Los Angeles, CA 90057  
Contact Astrid Campos [acampos@communitychange.org](mailto:acampos@communitychange.org)

- WRITE and CALL Governor and your lawmakers see [www.legislature.ca.gov](http://www.legislature.ca.gov) or Governor: [www.gov.ca.gov](http://www.gov.ca.gov)

**[CLICK HERE](#) to access all presentations from the National Children's Health Insurance Summit, Nov. 4-6, 2009**

(under "presentations")

All presentations include downloadable transcripts and audio recordings of each speaker

Please send any questions to:

ChildrensHealthInsuranceResource@ketchum.com

### Positions!

MCH Access is hiring! Two administrative assistants, a Financial/Executive Assistant, an Oral Health Policy Coordinator and a Case Manager, as well as positions for Welcome, Baby! - nurses and other home visitors - posted [CLICK HERE](#) to see all! and the application process

### Join Our List

[Join Our Mailing List!](#)

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

### Vacancies on Healthy Families Advisory Panel

The Managed Risk Medical Insurance Board is seeking applicants for vacancies on the Healthy Families Program (HFP) Advisory Panel to advise the Board on policies, regulations, operation and implementation of the HFP. The Advisory Panel is comprised of 15 members who serve three year staggered terms on a voluntary basis. They are compensated for necessary travel expenses and receive \$100 per meeting. The Advisory Panel meets quarterly and the meetings are usually from 10 AM to 1:30 PM in West Sacramento. The next scheduled meeting is Tuesday, Feb. 9, 2010. MRMIB is seeking representatives for the following categories:

- 1 Business Representatives
- 1 Representatives from a Non-Profit Clinic
- 1 Subscriber with a Special Needs Child
- 1 Licensed, Practicing Pediatrician
- 1 Substance Abuse Provider

To learn more about the Panel's activities, see the minutes of the HFP [Advisory Panel Meetings on the MRMIB website](#)

If interested in serving on the HFP Advisory Panel, submit a resume, name and HFP family member number of the child (for subscriber representatives only) and a brief statement indicating why you are interested in serving to:

Managed Risk Medical Insurance Board  
1000 G. Street, Suite 450  
Sacramento, CA. 95814  
Attn: Ernesto A. Sanchez, Deputy Director  
Eligibility, Enrollment and Marketing Division

To submit your resume by fax, send to: (916) 327-6560.  
All resumes should be received by MRMIB no later than February 15, 2010. The Advisory Panel members selected will begin his/her term in May, 2010.

### HMO Wait Times

New rules developed by the Department of Managed Health Care in response to legislation passed in 2002 will set standards for patient visits and wait times in HMOs. HMOs must comply by January of next year:

- Patients must be seen within 10 days of requesting an appointment
- Patients must be seen within 15 days of requesting a specialist visit
- Urgent care that does not require prior authorization must take place within 48 hrs
- Telephone calls must be returned within 30 minutes
- Physicians or other health professionals must be available 24 hrs/day.

### Contact us

## Maternal and Child Health Access

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Los Angeles, CA 90017

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213 745 1040 fax

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