



Maternal and Child Health Access

1111 W. Sixth Street, Suite 400
Los Angeles, CA 90017-1800
Tel 213. 749. 4261
Fax 213. 745. 1040
info@mchaccess.org

MCH Access Monthly Meeting

Thurs. July 21, 2005, 10AM – 12 Noon,

1111 W. 6th St. Fourth Fl. Parking in back, enter on 5th St.

Updates: California's Hospital Medi-Cal Waiver

California Budget signed, legislation pending

Split in LA County Health – public health and clinic/personal health – what does it mean?

Presentation on Office of Patient Advocate – Liz Ramirez

Celebrating World Breastfeeding Month in August – see enclosed

What are your clients experiencing with health coverage and access? Bring your issues!

NOTE: NO MEETING IN AUGUST; NEXT MEETING THURS., SEPT. 15

In this mailing:

- Tues. Aug 2-Weds. Aug 3: Newborn Home Visiting Conference
- Sat. Aug. 13, Comm. Meeting – language communication issues at hospitals and clinics
- Two Breastfeeding workshops for World Breastfeeding Month:
 - 8/5 – The Power of Breastmilk
 - 8/24- An Informed Mother's Choice
- 7-14-05, LA Times, "Years Have Done Little to Help Local Blacks" for full info, see www.unitedwayla.org
- 211 information launches in Los Angeles
- Office of Patient Advocate - information

Materials provided June 16 (call for copy):

- Information to nominate employment sites as breastfeeding-friendly (breastfeedingworks.org)
- COPE – job opening in Community Health
- Key findings from Kaiser Women's Health Survey – see kff.org
- Esperanza Community Health Promoters Program for 9/05 – 3/06 – info, application
- National Governor's Assoc. Medicaid Recommendations
- From speaker: flyer on SB 644 (Ortiz) Patient Prescription Protection Act

- Sample letter to Governor about Medicaid waiver
- June 14 - Kaisernetwork.org article on gestational diabetes and pregnancy
- LA's Best Babies – new brochure
- *LA Times*, 6-16, "50 Governors Unite Against Federal Cuts to Medicaid"; 6-15, "Illegal Population Flows to Southeast"; 6-10, "State Plan for Poor's Healthcare Draws Fire"

**"The State of Reproductive Health in Los Angeles and the State" Susan Berke Fogel
Background**

California has strong constitutional protections for reproductive rights, but there are many barriers to access. The government can't interfere with reproductive rights, but it also has no duty to make services available or accessible. Federal funds cannot be spent on abortion unless the woman's life is threatened by "a physical disorder, physical injury, or physical illness, including a life-endangering physical condition caused by or arising from the pregnancy itself." In California, Medi-Cal covers abortion regardless of age or immigration status. Susan then covered the following:

Pharmacy access:

SB 644 creates duty in the law (excepting medical judgment); individual pharmacists can opt out if there is a protocol for timely filling of prescriptions

by another pharmacist or other pharmacy. The FDA has still not approved allowing over-the-counter access to Emergency Contraception (EC). Even if they did, one would still have to ask the pharmacist since the Since they are rolling out statewide over 6 months, no one will know at any EC would be behind the counter. AB 21 (Levine) is not a companion bill to SB 644 and is problematic for 2 reasons: 1) the protocol is not specific enough to ensure access; 2) it allows substitution of drugs (i.e., generic), which would mean that Plan B (the EC of choice because it has fewer side effects) would not be required. Women should not only have access to EC, but to the preferred EC—Plan B.

Humane treatment of women prisoners:

AB 478 would make shackling of pregnant prisoners during labor illegal and would require that pregnant prisoners receive nutrition supplementation/vitamins, prenatal care and dental cleanings. (Note: the bill has made it through its policy committees and will be heard in Senate Appropriations on Aug. 15)

Minor consent services:

Under minor consent Medi-Cal, teens are required to maintain their eligibility 30 days at a time. For pregnancy-related services, this creates a barrier to receiving prenatal care.

Parental notification initiative:

This initiative will be on the November ballot. It requires a 48 hour mandatory waiting period while parents are notified that their teen daughter is seeking an abortion. Research shows that 61% of teens talk to their parents and that many will go to other states or have unsafe abortions if this passes. It would also change the state constitution to redefine the fetus as a person from the point of conception. Note that legislation passed three times by the House but blocked by the Senate would make criminals of anyone other than a parent or legal guardian who assists a minor (someone under age 18) in crossing state lines to have an abortion if the minor has not met her home state's requirements for abortion. **Abortion access in Los Angeles County:**

Research is being conducted on abortion access at County hospitals and findings are that Olive View Medical Center says it performs the procedure only if there is a fetal anomaly and King-Drew Medical Center is

closing its abortion clinic and referring to Harbor-UCLA and LAC-USC, which perform first trimester procedures only. Family Planning Associates will no longer accept Medi-Cal for procedures after 16 weeks, which is overwhelming services at Planned Parenthood. Women are being pushed into 2nd trimester abortions due to access barriers.

Stem cell research: Prop. 71, which established a state-funded Stem Cell Research program, claimed that the State would save money by creating more jobs and through health improvements. There are concerns that many of the claims will not pan out, leading to further legislative proposals, such as SB 18 which requires a performance audit and provides for donor protections. Proposed State Constitutional Amendment 13 requires that treatments/drugs that are developed as a result of stem cell research be made accessible to low income people.

NEW since last mailing:

July 11 - Expanded Newborn Screening Is Beginning!

MCH Access created a brief and presented guest speakers and information on Expanded Newborn Screening at our Feb. meeting (call for a copy). Expanded screening is now beginning, rolling forward with the addition of classical congenital adrenal hyperplasia (CAH) and multiple additional metabolic disorders detectable via tandem mass spectrometry (including amino acid, organic acid and fatty acid oxidation disorders). Newborns whose NBS test request form and specimen collection card arrive at the Newborn and Prenatal Screening (NAPS) Laboratories on or after July 11, 2005 will be tested for these additional disorders as part of the mandatory screening program. For more information, see the state website:

<http://www.dhs.ca.gov/pcfh/gdb/html/NBS/NBSExpansionJuly05.htm> and the March of Dimes website: www.marchofdimes.com



Save the date!

Friday, Dec. 2, 2005 (new date): "Innovations and Challenges in Serving the Underserved" – 5th Annual Health Care Symposium. Sponsored by Community Clinic Assoc. of Los Angeles County
Weds, Jan 18 – Fri., Jan 20 – 6th Annual March of Dimes Health Professional Conference. "Preventing Prematurity, Birth Defects and Infant Mortality – Threats, Opportunities and Challenges". For Registration, 714-456-6706.