



Maternal and Child Health Access

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**MCH Access Monthly Meeting, Thursday, July 19, 2007 (third Thursday monthly)  
10 AM – 12 noon**

**NOTE CHANGE IN VENUE - at the Center for Healthy Communities,  
The California Endowment  
1000 N. Alameda St., Los Angeles, 90012 Free parking!**

**Guest Speaker: Irene Dyer, MS, MPH  
Director, Planning and Analysis – LAC Department of Health Services  
LAC/DHS Coverage Initiative, “Healthy Way LA” - option for non-Medi-Cal adults  
Updates on DRA**

**In this mailing:**

- Mon. July 16 - Community Forum on MLK
- Sat. August 11 - The Great LA Health Care Rally
- Job Announcement – Policy position still open!

**Note:** the monthly mailing is available at:  
<http://www.mchaccess.org/meetings.htm>

**Materials distributed, except dated flyers, on 6-21-07 (call for copies)**

- Coalition for Health and Justice update on MLK-Harbor Hospital
- Increases of Fatal Listeriosis in LA County
- *Baltimore Sun* 6-20-07, “Xenophobia’s Victims”
- “In Brief” - Periodontal Disease, LABBN
- Decline in Unintended Pregnancies in California by California State and Assembly Districts UCSF Bixby Center. <http://crhrp.ucsf.edu/>
- Children NOW 2007 California County Data Book, June 2007 see [www.childrennow.org](http://www.childrennow.org)
- LA County Department of Mental Health “Wellness and Client-Run Centers”
- Save the Date – Weds. Sept. 26 - Conference on Women’s Health, San Francisco – The California Wellness Foundation
- Make your voice heard on CalWORKS cost of living adjustments for children – 80% of CalWORKS recipients!
- Update on the California DHS Reorganization [www.dhs.ca.gov/home/organization/reorganization](http://www.dhs.ca.gov/home/organization/reorganization)
- 2007 Directory of Health Programs Serving

Women and the “California Women’s Health 2007”  
<http://www.dhs.ca.gov/director/owh>

**Guest Speaker: Barbara Siegel, Managing Attorney, Health Consumer Center, Neighborhood Legal Services**

**The Deficit Reduction Act (DRA) Medicaid Citizenship Documentation Rule or “How to be a DRAGON Slayer!”**

Barbara gave an excellent presentation on the DRA implementation in California. As you know, the state must begin implementing the DRA citizenship and identity documentation for citizens and nationals applying for Medi-Cal. This is a one-time requirement that a client meets “for life” and it does not apply to non-citizens applying for Medi-Cal; their identity documents stay the same and of course no citizenship requirement applies.

DRA materials may begin to be sent from the state early next month for beneficiaries on Medi-Cal; however, implementation is at the county level and each county may start when it is ready. With the information provided during the presentation, advocates and CAAs should be able to determine which Medi-Cal eligible individuals are subject to the DRA rules and assist individuals having difficulty meeting the new DRA requirements. The state and Los Angeles County have been extremely

helpful gathering input and will also assist clients with gathering their documentation, by requesting the documents from another county if clients report previous eligibility outside of LA County or outside of California. DPSS will even request out-of-state birth certificates. It is important to note that beneficiaries currently on Medi-Cal will maintain their full-scope Medi-Cal as long as they indicate (phone or in writing or even in person) that they are making a good-faith effort to find the documents. Thus, no beneficiary SHOULD lose their full-scope Medi-Cal; contact the Health Consumer Center (1-800-896-3203) or MCHA if there are problems.

For a full DRA training, contact Angela at MCHA. Our thanks to L.A. Care Health Plan for their generous support for these trainings!

The information was received as clear, yet so burdensome for our clients. Separately from the presentation, Lynn presented information on whom to contact (our state senators and the House Energy and Commerce Committee)

<http://energycommerce.house.gov/> (“Who we are” for members) about your concerns and to make the DRA requirement optional via the federal S-CHIP reauthorization bill.

## Updates

**Martin Luther King-Harbor Hospital:** Please join Community Health Councils and the Coalition for Health and Justice to seek answers that involve communities served by the hospital and that recognize the importance of an adequate emergency and trauma network for the entire county.

Call (323) 295-9372 or write Korie Flournoy [kflournoy@chc-inc.org](mailto:kflournoy@chc-inc.org) - next meeting of the Coalition for Health & Justice (CHJ) is Tuesday, July 17th from 2pm - 4pm, but watch for opportunities for Board meeting attendance and/or to voice concern. Don't let silence equal consent! See <http://transformkingdrew.com/> “What's new” for more information on the Board motion for a contingency plan should MLK-Harbor fail its federal recertification. Note that Dr. Bruce Chernof, LAC DHS has invited the Centers for

Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) to come and conduct its unannounced survey of MLK anytime between now and August 15. Los Angeles County and the CMS had agreed that the survey would be invited by July 9, 2007.

### **New Joint Medi-Cal/Healthy Families**

**application.** The state recently sent the following notice: “It was originally estimated that the revised MC 321 Medi-Cal/Healthy Families joint application would be printed and ready for distribution in late June 2007. Recently, counties and advocates have brought to our attention several concerns regarding the revised MC 321. We are currently working with counties and advocates to address these concerns. Prior to the roll out of the application, we will plan to send another communication to stakeholders identifying the changes to the new revision that resulted from these discussions. At this point, we expect the revised MC 321 will be ready for distribution in September 2007. We would like to take the opportunity to thank you for your patience and assistance in finalizing the MC 321 joint application. “

For more information on the concerns expressed, please contact [lynnk@mchaccess.org](mailto:lynnk@mchaccess.org)

### **New resources:**

*Research to Policy and Practice Forum: Periodontal Health and Birth Outcomes. Summary of a Meeting of Maternal, Child and Oral Health Experts* Washington, D.C. Dec., 2006  
<http://www.mchoralhealth.org/pdfs/periodontalsummary.pdf>

Summer Parenting Classes, July 14 – August 25. Center for Nonviolent Education and Parenting Spanish and English classes [www.cnvep.org](http://www.cnvep.org)

New leg list! Updated MCHA-PAC/LAC list of MCH-related bills,  
<http://www.mchaccess.org/legislation.htm>