



Maternal and Child Health Access

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MAY 17, 2010 MEETING NOTES

THREE ACTIONS FOR THE ACCESS FOR INFANTS & MOTHERS PROGRAM

HEALTHY KIDS PROGRAM - LETTERS SENT OUT

FIGHT FOR A FAMILY RECOVERY BUDGET!

CA RANKS 48TH FOR KIDS DENTAL HEALTH

"MOMENTUM" ON TACKLING MATERNAL DEATHS

Contact MCHA

Save the Dates!

Friday, July 9, 7:30 - 5 PM - the Southern California Patient and Family Centered Care Conference
Long Beach Memorial Miller Children's Hospital Long Beach \$40-60, CEUs available (562) 933-0100 or see MCHA calendar to download conference information.

Weds., July 14, 8:30 - 4:30
Advocating for Change - designed to improve the effectiveness of health-related nonprofit organizations.
Call Sunaina Sondhi, Events Coordinator, at (213) 928-8606 / ssondhi@calendow.org.

Tues., July 16, 9 AM - 4 PM - "Baby Led Latching: Thinking Outside the Box: Changing Paradigms, New Approaches and Creative Solutions" Long Beach Memorial Medical Center, Long Beach, CA.
Newborn and infant competence, the role of the primitive reflexes, the neurobehavioral basis for the maternal infant relationship and a bit about the biochemical basis for behavior and attachment.
Implications for how we as professionals can better communicate with mothers.
For registration information, see the Breastfeeding Task Force website or call 213.596.5776

July 28&29 - March of Dimes prenatal curriculum, "Becoming a Mom/Comenzando bien" training. Held at the California Endowment in

MCH Access monthly meeting

We are in the process of expanding and will be moving around our meetings - check each month

Thursday, July 15, 2010 10 AM - 12 noon

The California Endowment
(Yosemite-B Conference Room)
1000 N. Alameda Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Parking:

Parking is free - simply let the security guard know you're there for MCH Access monthly meeting

Speakers:

Olivia Celis, LCSW, MPA, Deputy Director Child, Youth and Family Program Administration - Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health

A representative from the Western Center on Law and Poverty about Mental Health services for children

Topic:

EPSDT and Prop 63 funding stream changes in child mental health in Los Angeles and the possible impact on services provided

Find us on Facebook 

Meeting Notes - May 17, 2010

Still-current materials from May meeting (call or email for copies: info@mchaccess.org)

- Brochure, "Speak Up when you're down" new perinatal depression brochure and poster - download from [LA County Perinatal Mental Health Taskforce](#)
 - Links to LA County Office of Women's Health presentations, "Making the Data Come Alive" and monograph, "Health Indicators for Women in LA County - Highlighting Disparities by ethnicity and Poverty Level" February 2010
 - Dental Benefits for Pregnant and Postpartum Women - Recent State Bulletin
 - California demonstrates that sound policy is crucial in reducing teen pregnancy
- From our guest speaker:
- MCHA Budget Brief: "[Governor's May Revise: A Windfall for Large Corporations, A Tsunami for Families](#)"
 - Families USA Fact Sheet, "[What will the new health reform law do in the first year?](#)"

Lucy Quacinella, JD and Donald Nollar noted several activities and

Los Angeles. The two-day training will accommodate the needs of new Becoming a Mom/Comenzando bien® facilitators and introduce the new additions to the curriculum and the new session on Postpartum care. Registration soon. Fernanda Crivici, MPH, (213) 637-5030 marchofdimes.com/ca

Advocacy Tip!

Aging out of Medi-Cal at 21

When a young adult turns 21 they "age out" of their parents' Medi-Cal case. Under SB87 guidelines the county cannot simply terminate the young adult's Medi-Cal. First, they must review all available files and records to see if the beneficiary might have another link to Medi-Cal, for example, they may be pregnant or disabled. If a link is found the county should not make the young adult beneficiary reapply, they should open another case with the existing information and only ask the beneficiary to come in if additional information is needed that isn't already in the case record. There should be no break in aid. If there is nothing in the case record that indicates another possible link, the county must contact the client by phone and by letter to request any information that could indicate a link. Only then, if the beneficiary fails to reply and another link cannot be established, should they terminate Medi-Cal benefits.

Calif. Welfare and Inst. Code SS 14005.37 [Click Here](#)

LADPSS Medi-Cal Update 07-05 [Click Here](#)

RESOURCES

MCHA Brochure on Presumptive Eligibility for pregnant women now in Spanish! [Click Here](#)

EMPLOYMENT

MCH Access is hiring a **Human Resources/Finance Assistant** as well as positions for Welcome, Baby! - nurses and other home visitors - posted at [HERE](#).

Join Our List

[Join Our Mailing List!](#)

ways to plug in to activities. Hunger Action Day June 2, addresses and sample letters, and informational meetings with legislators.

Three actions for the Access for Infants and Mothers Program

See our [AIM Action Alert](#) on our website to read how to oppose the Governor's plan to increase AIM costs to women, how to submit comments on a possible AIM wait list (!) and how to oppose retroactive disenrollment from AIM plans!

Healthy Kids Program - Letters sent out

Please note that two mailings are being distributed to Healthy Kids (HK) members to arrive by July 1.

- 1). All HK members' ages 0-18 will receive a document entitled "Healthy Kids Program Member Handbook/Evidence of Coverage," (aka Healthy Kids "Errata") showing changes effective July 1, 2010. (See [English](#) and [Spanish](#)) This is a 2-page document describing the HK program changes referenced in the Healthy Kids Q&A (See "Premiums & Copayments"). An estimated 17,700 Healthy Kids households will receive this mailing.
- 2). HK 6-18 members who have not submitted a "Healthy Kids Premium Increase Response Form" will receive a certified mailing-about 4,500 households. This mailing includes a cover letter (See in [English](#) and [Spanish](#)) as well as the original May 21st member notice that included the response form and CAA listing (available [HERE](#)). The letter provides an extension to submit the response form by July 16. If the response form is not received by this date, these HK 6-18 members will be disenrolled effective August 1.

By July 10:

All Healthy Kids 6-18 members will receive an invoice for the \$15 monthly premium for July. The full family premium should be paid by July 20. If the full premium is not paid, the Healthy Kids 6-18 member(s) will be disenrolled after 60 days.

**Fight for a Family Recovery Budget!
Call the Budget Conference Committee Members Today!**

- Invest and Protect the Health and Human Services Vital to California's economy and families
- Champion alternatives to dismantling our health care and human services, including targeted state revenues and general recovery funds
- Reform and re-invent our broken state budget process

Conference Committee Members - 916 area code:

Sen. Denise Ducheny (D-San Diego) Chair	651-4040
Asm. Bob Blumenfield (D-Van Nuys) VChair	319-2040
Sen. Bob Dutton (R-Inland Empire)	651-4031
Sen. Bob Huff (R-Diamond Bar)	651-4029
Sen. Mark Leno (D-San Francisco)	651-4003
Sen. Alan Lowenthal (D-Long Beach)	651-4027

Asm. Connie Conway (R-Visalia)	319-2034
Asm. Felipe Fuentes (D-Los Angeles)	319-2039
Asm. Jim Nielsen (R-Redding)	319-2002
Asm. Nancy Skinner (D-Berkeley)	319-2014

Sample Scripts

For Republican Members

"We are calling to urge you to support the CalWORKs and child care programs that the Governor has proposed to eliminate. Families in your district really count on CalWORKs and child care to help them during these difficult economic times. Cutting these programs has a bigger impact in your district than it does in urban areas where there are more jobs. We can't afford to leave billions back in Washington when our families need it. If CalWORKs and child care are eliminated it will not only hurt the local economy and throw even more people out of work like child care providers."

For Democratic Members

"We are calling to urge you to tell the Governor "No" to eliminating CalWORKs, child care or making any more cuts to the program. The current grant level is exactly the same as it was 20 years ago and with people relying on CalWORKs more, this is no time to reduce the grants. Cutting grants also means we lose \$400 million in federal funds that could be going to our economy. Eliminating CalWORKs and child care will increase unemployment and homelessness. We need you to fight to make sure that doesn't happen. Please oppose any cuts to CalWORKs or child care."

Thanks to the [Health and Human Services Network of California!](#)

[CA Ranks 48th for Kids' Dental Health: An 'Epidemic of Dental Disease' \(From the Oral Health Access blog\)](#)

A recent article in the New York Times reveals the current state of [California's children and their dental health](#). The numbers are alarming - in 2007, nearly [20 percent of California children](#) ages 2-17 were without dental insurance, compared to 6% of kids statewide who lacked health insurance. In the same year, more than a half-million California children ages 5-17 missed at least one day of school in a year due to dental problems. The state's subsidized dental programs for low-income families are at risk of budget cuts, combined with the small percentage of dentists who are willing to participate in these programs, it's clear to see why dental disease is considered an epidemic.

['Momentum' on tackling maternal deaths](#)

By Jane Dreaper, Health correspondent, BBC News, at the Women Deliver conference in Washington DC
Campaigners have pledged to keep up pressure on finance ministers to fund efforts to stop women dying in pregnancy and childbirth. Women Deliver president, Jill Sheffield, told meeting delegates that the economic arguments were "dramatic". It comes after the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation announced a boost in funds for women and child health. World leaders agreed 10 years ago that maternal deaths should be reduced by 75% by 2015.

Progress on this - the fifth Millennium Development Goal (MDG) - has until recently been slow - but activists say there is now a sense of

momentum. Around 350,000 women around the world die each year from preventable problems such as infections or blood clots. Often, they have not had access to basic care during or after their pregnancy.

Conference pledge

More than 3,000 people from 146 countries attended the Women Deliver meeting. Closing the conference, the president, Jill Sheffield, said: "Finance ministers are on our list - and they're not going to stay safe. "They don't always see this as a critical issue. Our economic arguments for investing in women's health are pretty dramatic."

Announcements are expected on new funding for global health efforts when G8 nations meet in Canada this month. On Monday, Melinda Gates announced at the conference that the foundation set up by her and her computer tycoon husband Bill Gates would be devoting \$1.5bn (or more than £1bn) to boosting women and children's health over the next five years. This has been interpreted as a change in direction from funding specific vaccines and the fight against particular diseases. Some campaigners have called for a new global fund for maternal and child health.

There is already a Global Fund to fight AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria, which channels billions of pounds of taxpayers' money given by governments, including the UK. Its head, Dr Michel Kazatchkine, insisted his organisation was best placed to continue tackling the problems which led to mothers dying.

He said: "It's very clear from recent analysis that the slow progress on MDG5 has been because of AIDS. And at least one in five deaths at the time of childbirth is directly linked to HIV.

"So when countries come to us requesting money, we want to see plans which take an integrated approach to these problems. And we want to see a strong emphasis on maternal and child health.

"But we're ready to do more. If additional resources were to come - for example, from pledges at the G8 - we'd be available to host that funding, because we've proved ourselves to be a strong mechanism."

Significant event

The editor of the Lancet medical journal, Dr Richard Horton, claimed the Women Deliver meeting had been "the most significant event for the future of women and children in 20 years".

He said: "That might sound like a ridiculously overblown claim. But this year is the moment when the world will decide where to spend tens of billions of pounds over the next five years in the push towards the MDGs. "We've heard here how countries such as China and Egypt have made extraordinary progress in bringing down deaths. They can offer various solutions for the countries that are doing badly in sub-Saharan Africa." But Dr Horton said it was "outrageous" that the latest investment announced by the Gates Foundation would not fund abortion services. He added: "Unsafe abortion contributes to one in seven maternal deaths across the world. These women are already stigmatized, and they shouldn't be ignored."

The Gates Foundation says it supports family planning, but it does not fund abortion or take a position on the issue.

Contact us

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