



Maternal and Child Health Access

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**Next MCH Access monthly meeting:
Thurs., June 18, 2009, 10 AM – 12 noon
MCHA 1111 W. 6th St., Fourth Fl.**

Free parking in back, entering on Fifth St. – please allow time to park

**Clarissa Woo, Policy Manager, ACLU
State Budget Update – What’s going on? What can you do?
Program updates**

We have gone green! Feedback welcomed!

In this mailing:

- Meeting notes on Trafficking presentation from May 21, 2009
- Updates and information on state budget cuts
- Advocacy Tip!
- Save the Date
- Resources
- Positions at MCH Access

Meeting Notes: May 21, 2009

Materials from meeting (call or email for copies:
info@mchaccess.org)

- *LA Times* May 21, 2009 “Schwarzenegger missed his golden opportunity to give Californians the truth” (re: budget) and 5-17-09, “Childbirth- Can the US Improve?” 5-20-09, “Women’s clinics see rise in calls and visits”
- Joint Statement on budget - Assembly Speaker Karen Bass, Budget Pro Tem Darryl Steinberg
- California Progress Report, 5-19-09, “Equity in Health Care” re: AB 119 and SB 54
- Information on Stop the Cuts! Coalition meetings

May Meeting: The Psychological Issues and Treatment for Victims of Human Trafficking
Guest speakers: Emmanuel Martinez – Coalition to Abolish Slavery and Trafficking (CAST)

Dr. Ana Nogales and Yolanda Hernandez – Casa de la Familia:

Emmanuel Martinez spoke first and began with an

eloquent statement about the resiliency of the trafficking clients with whom CAST has worked. Human trafficking is a modern day form of slavery where victims are exploited for labor and/or commercial sex. Traffickers use force, fraud or coercion to exploit victims. The purpose of the presentation was to alert CAAs and health workers to the fact that individuals, especially women, you may see or their family members may be victims or trafficking. It has happened at MCHA. An estimated 15-18,000 women and children and thousands of men are trafficked annually in the US. Mr. Martinez reviewed the Victims of Trafficking and Violence Protection Act, a federal law passed in 2000 which provides prevention, prosecution and protection. He covered the comparison of trafficking to smuggling, which is usually voluntary and gave many case examples. Migrants are vulnerable to human traffickers due to immigration laws and policies, discrimination, dependence on third parties for information about migration, and poverty. CAST provides legal and social services and human rights advocacy for trafficked and enslaved persons, and utilizes collaborative approaches with government agencies to respond to cases of trafficking.

Due to the sensitivity and dangerous nature of trafficking cases, ALWAYS call CAST if you are unsure about someone you believe may be a victim of trafficking. DO NOT CALL THE POLICE first because they aren't always trained in trafficking work and may make a move that could endanger the

victims. The national hotline number that exists goes to LAPD's homicide division and one should have permission from the client before calling there.

Contact: (213) 365-1906 ext.106

Yolanda Hernandez and Dr. Ana Nogales spoke briefly from Casa de la Familia, which offers individual and family psychotherapy, crisis intervention, psychological testing and evaluations to victims of crime in Orange and Los Angeles Counties. **Contact:** (213) 384-7848 or 384-8494.

- From our guest speakers:
 - Human Trafficking
 - Common Myths and Misconceptions about Human Trafficking in the U.S.
 - Human Trafficking Statistics
 - Human Trafficking Cheat Sheet
 - Overview of Human Trafficking and CAST Services
 - "Are you a victim of crime? Brochures for Casa de la Familia
 - From Slavery to Freedom – CAST program event

State budget cuts – info and events

Monday is the day the state budget conference committee were to vote on many of the proposed cuts that were left "open" from prior meetings, such as:

Eliminating the Healthy Families program
Eliminating Medi-Cal to legal immigrants
Eliminating general fund support to community clinics

Severely slashing or eliminating the Black Infant Health, Adolescent Family Life, Birth Defects Monitoring and county Maternal, Child and Adolescent Health.

On Monday, the conference committee voted:

- Healthy Families Program - REJECTED Governor's proposal to eliminate this program; REJECTED the Governor's proposal to reduce eligibility to 200% of the Federal Poverty Level but unanimously APPROVED budget conference committee compromise to reduce program spending by \$70 million in state general fund spending. This includes infants and toddlers enrolled into HF from the Access for Infants and Mothers program (AIM). The effect will be to establish a waiting list for the program unless funds are made available.
- Medi-Cal Service Restriction for "Newly Qualified Legal Immigrants" (less than 5 years and "PRUCOL individuals) - REJECTED the Governor's proposal by vote of 6 to 4.

- State Parks: The state parks system includes around 279 state beaches, campsites, hiking and biking trails where families can rest and relax. The Budget Conference Committee voted to (1) eliminate the General Fund support for the state park system, and (2) enact the State Park Access Pass at \$15. Because the vote did not gain Republican support, its fate as part of the final budget package is far from certain. See [Cal Parks](#) for more information.

- The Budget Conference Committee has not acted on items related to SSI, CalWORKs and IHSS and will meet TODAY for (probably) its final meeting. **IT'S NOT TOO LATE TO CALL!**

Assemblymember Noreen Evans, Chair
Assembly Budget Committee (and Budget Conference Committee)
Phone: 916-319-2099

Senator Denise Ducheny, Chair
Senate Budget and Fiscal Review Committee
Phone: 916-651-4103

The committee already voted to:

- Cut domestic violence shelter funding 20%
- Reduce funding for the state Asthma program.
- Eliminate support for the immunization assistance program, for \$18 million in savings, since economic stimulus funds going to the same purpose.
- Suspend the children's dental disease prevention program serving 300,000 children, for a savings of \$2.9 million.
- Eliminate payment for Certified Application Assistants that help low-income families apply, stay enrolled, and use Medi-Cal and Healthy Families coverage, for a savings of \$2.7 million, with the probability of reduced enrollment.
- Reduce the Major Risk Medical Insurance Program (MRMIP) by \$6.6 million. It provides some coverage for uninsurable patients denied for pre-existing conditions. It already has a waiting list.
- Reduce Access for Infants and Mothers (AIM), which provides health care to over 13,000 pregnant women, by \$4.9 million. This cut in part reflects new monthly contracting with providers vs. paying for pregnancy coverage for a full term if a woman drops out of the program.
- Reduce funding for the state asthma program

Thanks to [Health Access](#): see their fact sheets on Governor's Budget Proposal, blogging and twittering from the hearings themselves.

See Community Health Council's website for "[Seven things California can do to protect the health of children and families](#)" along with fact sheets and numbers to call for the state budget conference committee – www.chc-inc.org.

See the arguments made in the *LA Times* – [why can't we have an oil severance tax like all other states?](#) Even Alaska, with an anti-tax governor, has such a tax:

See the California Budget Project for spot-on analysis of how the cuts would disproportionately affect children and youth: www.cbp.org

See the [California Progressive Report](#) for a great round-up of editorials and articles on the budget from California's newspapers and for the text of a letter signed by over 60 organizations demanding the repeal of \$2.5 billion in tax breaks given in the last two budget deals:

[Funeral Procession/Vigil for California's Safety Net Programs](#)

Monday, June 22nd, 5 pm gather

Rally and Press Event 6PM Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration 500 W. Temple Street, Funeral March to Governor's LA Office 300 Spring Street

Meeting – Weds. June 17, 2009 at 10 AM.

preparation for march

Weds. June 17th at 3 PM - Poster prop making meeting/party

Contact: Karla Navarrete 213.385.8010 or knavarrete@communitychange.org

Notices to beneficiaries – sent out beginning Friday, June 12

The State Department of Health Care Services is sending [notices](#) in 13 threshold languages to ALL Medi-Cal beneficiaries 21 and older about reductions in Medi-Cal benefits for adults, slated for July 1. The notices are going out NOW. Non-English speaking beneficiaries will receive the notice in the language they have on record at DPSS (if it's a threshold language) and in English

A "beneficiary call center" is now operational. The telephone number for the beneficiary call center is **1-888-284-0623**. Callers with beneficiary-related questions on the optional benefit changes can be directed to this number effective immediately. The call center will be operational for the next 90 days (through the beginning of September 2009).

Provider-related calls can be directed to **1-800-541-5555**.

• Positions!

MCH Access is still hiring for Welcome, Baby! positions – posted at our [website](#)


Resources

First Five LA – Ready. Set. Grow! Family Guides and posters. See [Ready Go LA](#) or contact Jennifer Hopson at (310) 656 1001 or jhopson@hersheycause.com

State Waiver Documents

California will seek to renew its Medicaid waiver this fall – see [documents](#) from a briefing held June 11 that include an overview of waiver mechanics, what other states have done, some baseline program data provided by the Department of Health Care Services, and options for California.

Save the Dates!

Stop the Cuts!  See above in State Budget

June 22, 2009, 9-4 PM – "[Promoting Breastfeeding in the Early Postpartum: Research, Theory and Practice](#)"

Providence Saint Joseph Medical Ctr, Burbank
Gain knowledge about the impact of common labor, delivery and hospital routines on breastfeeding outcomes.

July 17, 2009, 9-4 PM – "Hot Topics in Breastfeeding"

Long Beach Memorial Medical Center
[Upcoming Seminars on BTFGLA website.](#)

August 4-7, 2009, "Community Partnerships in Addressing Perinatal Mood Disorders: Clinical and Integrative Perspectives" at the California Endowment, Los Angeles www.postpartum.net for info and registration

Advocacy Tip! Work Permit Holders and County Services

Immigration status is not an issue for eligibility for LA County Health Services, except that one is a resident of Los Angeles County (lives here and intends to stay here). In the course of proving this residency, however, many immigrants may reveal, and proudly, that they have a work permit, or may list their work permit Social Security Number. Los Angeles County considers this documentation as proof that the resident is here temporarily, and denies eligibility for the Ability to Pay Plan (ATP) and Outpatient Reduced-Cost Simplified Application (ORSA) payment programs. We recently assisted a man in cancer treatment who had been receiving county services for ten years. However, somehow it was established that he had (and had had for ten years) a work permit. This man is not here temporarily. He has a business; his children are in school here and he owns his home. However, he felt he had to choose not to renew his work permit so that he could continue to receive care.

LA County considers these clients non-residents. However, the County has a program for these clients called the Out-of-County Discount Payment Plan (OOC/DPP) described on the [How To Get No-Cost or Low-Cost Medical Care At County Hospitals Flyer](#). Our understanding is that charges under this program are the same as what Medi-Cal would pay to the County, but we have no list of charges. This program is only for hospital care.

Note that the federal poverty level amounts described in the text for 2008 are out of date, and note the increased levels for prepayment of county health services, including the \$2000 child delivery plan, in place since January of this year. Information on prenatal care payments is in the box on ATP - now \$60 for the first seven visits and free thereafter.

For questions or if you have cases of work permit denials and would like to help work on addressing this issue, contact Donald or Celia at MCH Access, (213) 749-4261.