



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](mailto:info@mchaccess.org)

**MCH Access May meeting: Thursday, June 15, 2006 10 AM – 12 Noon**  
**Guest speaker: Doreena Wong, National Health Law Program**  
**The Federal Deficit Reduction Act - New Citizenship Rule for Medi-Cal**  
**Update on children's health measures**  
**1111 W. 6<sup>th</sup> St., Fourth Fl. - Free parking in back, entering 2-story lot on 5<sup>th</sup> St.**

**We sincerely apologize for the lack of parking at our last meeting and have corrected the problem for this meeting. You MAY be asked to leave your keys after parking OR park in another entrance, but there WILL be parking - thank you for your patience!**

**In this mailing:**

- Q & A: The DRA's Medicaid Citizenship Documentation Requirements
- Note:** for meeting 6/15, we will have client materials on the Citizenship Requirement
- DPSS Screening form for Medi-Cal applicants (help weed out duplicate applications by asking these questions)
- Fluoride Varnish is a New Medi-Cal Benefit!
- "A Healthy Outlook for Children's Medical Care" *Los Angeles Times*, June 9, 2006

**Distributed at May meeting; call for copies 213.749.4261:**

- "Does Particulate Air Pollution Contribute to Infant Death? A Systematic Review" *Environmental Health Persp.* Vol. 112, #14, Oct. 2004
- Q and A: The DRA's Medicaid Citizenship Documentation Requirements. (enclosed)
- CIWC Budget Update
- Commonwealth Fund: Maternal Depressive Symptoms at 2 to 4 Months Post Partum and Early Parenting Practices
- CDC Publishes Preconception Care Recommendations
- "LA Care Funding Guarantees Health Coverage for Kids Through March 2007" meaning the program will not end for those children currently enrolled.
- Community Worker job announcement

- Fluoride Varnish is a New Medi-Cal Benefit
- From guest speaker:
  - Chemical Policy Reform information
  - "Women's Health and Chemicals: Breast Cancer, Politics and the Environment" Power Point Presentation
  - MCH Alert 5-12-06, "Article Looks at Relationship Between Periodontal Disease in Pregnancy and Delivery of Small-for-Gestational Age Infants"

**Guest Speaker: Brenda Salgado, Breast Cancer Action, "Breast Cancer Politics and the Environment"**

Brenda came all the way from the Bay Area to tell about Breast Cancer Action and their work on the Safe Cosmetics Act and chemical policy in general. Breast Cancer Action (BCA) is a wonderful organization that emphasizes determining the causes of breast cancer in our environment. The lifetime risk of breast cancer has grown from 1 in 20 in 1964 to 1 in 7.5 in 2006, an alarming statistic. In fact, "known" risk factors account for only 30% of all cases (family history, early menstruation/late menopause, first child late or no children, hormone replacement therapy). Heridity is 10% at best. Therefore, we don't know in the majority of cases why a woman got breast cancer. Environmental evidence exists against "endocrine disruptors"

that disrupt our hormonal systems. These chemicals are in pesticides and herbicides, polyvinyl chloride and other plastic compounds and in cosmetics. Brenda discussed the irony of companies that use harmful chemicals in their products yet raise funds for breast cancer. Many of the chemicals mimic estrogen and are absorbed through the skin. The Food and Drug Administration does not regulate cosmetics. In contrast, the European Union is requiring removal of certain chemicals that are cancer causing, mutating or reproductive toxins. In October of 2005, SB 484 (Migden) was signed into law, the California Safe Cosmetics Act. It requires labeling disclosure of carcinogens and reproductive toxins on personal care products. The Act was supported by a diverse coalition of workers involved (such as nail salon workers), environmental and women's groups. The next step is implementation, to begin Jan. of 2007. Brenda also discussed Chemical Policy Reform – the idea of creating policies in the state about how we treat and are exposed to chemicals affecting our health and the health of the environment. In June, State Senator Joe Simitian will convene a hearing to start discussion about chemical policy reform. See the April alert at

[www.bcation.org/Pages/GetInformed/EmailAlerts/Apri2006Ealert.html](http://www.bcation.org/Pages/GetInformed/EmailAlerts/Apri2006Ealert.html) for more info.

**Brenda suggested several websites:**

[www.thinkbeforeyoupink.org](http://www.thinkbeforeyoupink.org) a project of Breast Cancer Action: [www.bcaction.org](http://www.bcaction.org)  
For safe cosmetics: [www.safecosmetics.org](http://www.safecosmetics.org)  
Good info on perc and dry cleaning:  
<http://www.coalitionforleanair.org/news-fact-sheets-Hung-Out-to-Dry-Cleaning-Up-Dry-Cleaning.html>

At the end of this web page are downloadable fact sheets, in English and Spanish  
Page 17 of this report has list of some “wet” dry cleaners in Southern CA

<http://www.coalitionforleanair.org/pdf/report/scca-reports-hung-out-to-dry.pdf> Also, this report says to air out clothes 4 to 5 DAYS, much longer than we stated at the meeting.

**From the Green Guide, info below:  
Plastics to Avoid**

1. Steer Clear of PVC vinyl (#3), whose manufacture and incineration releases carcinogenic dioxins into the environment and

food chain. PVC often contains lead, and toxic plasticizers such as phthalates that can migrate into food, water, air and our mouths.

2. Avoid plastics that leach chemicals suspected of disrupting hormone functions: #3 (PVC), #6 (PS), #7 (“Other,” often polycarbonate). **Safer, Sounder Plastics:**

1. When choosing plastic containers, even those you'll use over and over again, choose those that are accepted for recycling in your area. The most commonly recycled plastics are #1 (PETE) or #2 (HDPE).

2. Choose non-PVC cling wrap (such as Glad and HandiWrap).

**LA Care Votes to support Healthy Kids Enrollees ‘til March, 2007!**

The LA Care Board of Directors voted \$10.5 million dollars to continue coverage to 35,000 children 6-18 in Healthy Kids. Newborn to 5 year olds are covered under funding from First Five LA. Without this funding, it might have been necessary to send letters to families that their coverage would be ending in October. A great deal is happening with child health proposals in the state budget, from the Governor and Assembly and with the ballot initiative in November – see article enclosed.

**New since last meeting:**

**Schools failing to meet Phys Ed Standards Report by Ctr for Public Health Advocacy!**  
[http://www.publichealthadvocacy.org/policy\\_briefs/index.html](http://www.publichealthadvocacy.org/policy_briefs/index.html)

**Artists!** Request to participate in a web-based survey: We urge you to spend twenty minutes responding to a survey about how you develop your artistic work across commercial, non-profit and community sectors. The study, commissioned by the James Irvine and Hewlett Foundations, is endorsed by the Los Angeles Arts Commission, the City of Los Angeles Department of Cultural Affairs, the Alliance for California Traditional Arts, the Durfee, Flintridge, Haas, and San Francisco Foundations and many artists' and community organizations. It should take twenty minutes and you may win one of ten \$100 prizes. You are guaranteed complete confidentiality for your identity and answers. To take the survey, go to <http://www.zoomerang.com/survey.zgi?p=WEB2259FHEVHMQ>.

For Spanish language version:

<http://www.zoomerang.com/survey.zgi?p=WEB225DMLNFDQJ>

For more information: Ann Markusen 612.625.8092 or [markusen@umn.edu](mailto:markusen@umn.edu) or Katherine Murphy 612.626.1074 [k-murp@umn.edu](mailto:k-murp@umn.edu)