



Maternal and Child Health Access

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**MCH Access Monthly Meeting, Thursday, June 21, 2007 (third Thursday monthly)
10 AM – 12 noon AT MCH ACCESS !**

1111 W. 6th St. Fourth Floor, Los Angeles, corner of 6th and Bixel
Free parking entering in back on 5th St. to covered parking – please allow plenty of time to park

Guest Speaker: Barbara Siegel, Health Consumer Center
**“The Deficit Reduction Act (DRA)’s Medicaid Citizenship Documentation Rule – OR –
How to be a DRAGON Slayer!”**

Updates

In this mailing:

- Hepatitis B – all women should be screened!
- Benefits for Children in Dependency or Delinquency and Living w/Non-Parents
- Job Announcement – Policy position!

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

**Materials distributed, except dated flyers,
on 5-17-07 (call for copies)**

- Bus Riders Union flyer on the MTA Public Hearing; sample letter and fact sheet.
- Copy of Medi-Cal to Healthy Families Bridging Liaison List
- Assembly Committee on Health Informational Hearing on Hospital Services and Emergency Care: An Emerging Crisis
- “Look Good...Feel Better” American Cancer Society resource @ www.cancer.org
- Office of Women’s Health Website

Note: Materials expected for Women’s Health Month last month have now arrived and will be distributed at meeting. The 2007 Directory of Health Programs Serving Women and the excellent compendium of research, “California Women’s Health 2007” can be viewed at:
<http://www.dhs.ca.gov/director/owh>

**Guest Speaker: Elinam Dellor, Alliance
for Children’s Rights: Trouble-shooting
Medi-Cal problems with foster care youth**

Eli gave an excellent overview of various categories of out-of-home placement that children might be in, what some of the common problems are, how to resolve them and who can help.

Children who are with non-relatives, or in a group home or with an agency are all supposed to get Medi-Cal. Relative Caregivers are also eligible for payments, called “Yocum”. The review for this funding stream takes 3-8 months; the child gets Medi-Cal while the assessment is done. If the caregiver is denied the payment, they may instead apply for CalWORKS through which the child is enrolled in a Medi-Cal Managed Care Plan, unless the family has assistance to continue continuity of care with a Fee for Service provider. If the family does not want CalWorks, it is the job of the DCFS social worker to get the child into FFS Medi-Cal.

Undocumented children in foster care should get Fee for Service Medi-Cal. The worker should get the child a green card for “Special Immigrant Status” through which the child can get full-scope Medi-Cal. Reunification with a child’s birth family should not mean the DCFS case is closed – it should stay open for 6 months – 1 year to monitor the case and be sure the child receives a green card. Los Angeles County has a medical “HUBS” system – every child detained is supposed to receive an assessment at one of 5 hospitals within 72 hours.

The Alliance can help with needed treatments and services – for example, they have done lots of work with needed orthodontia. In 4 years of work, Eli has never had to go to hearing

For a list of phone numbers for people who can help with Technical Assistance with cases: (i.e. for minors in placement or reunified with parents, for emancipated youth or youth receiving Adoption Assistance Payments), call Angela at MCH Access.

Updates

DRA – Instructions to counties for implementing the Deficit Reduction Act (DRA) requirement for citizens applying for or redetermining Medi-Cal to provide proof of citizenship/birth and identity were released on June 5. LA County is actively planning, but nothing has changed yet and should not change for several months. All current beneficiaries may get a letter from the state around beginning of July – this may cause panic and concern. We will have flyers at our meeting and on list-serves.

Keep checking our website, the Health Consumer Center website, (healthconsumer.org) or LA Health Action (www.lahealthaction.org) **Be sure we have your e-mail address – sign up at our next meeting or send it to marting@mchaccess.org with the subject note, “for alerts”.**

Martin Luther King-Harbor Hospital: We are all shocked and saddened at recent events in the hospital. The LAC DHS was ordered to provide reports back with contingency plans in case of hospital closure for the 6/26 Board meeting. MCHA and the Coalition for Health and Justice question whether the answer is closure. The hospital continues to serve more than 3,500 emergency room patients each month and more than 16,000 since the implementation of the MetroCare plan in December 2006. This is an increase of 19% from the previous year, at a time when the remaining DHS facilities saw a decrease for the same period and the capacity of MLK to receive patients from the emergency room has been slashed!

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 - 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!

Medi-Cal Managed Care: Advocates are working on two issues in Medi-Cal Managed Care: changes to packets of information sent to Medi-Cal recipients who must enroll in managed care (mandatory enrollees) and a telephone reminder pilot project for Medi-Cal recipients who must make a managed care choice, but who are about to default (have their plan chosen for them by the state). Be aware that Maximus, the state's managed care enrollment contractor, may begin calling a small proportion of people who are about to default by the beginning of July. See our website, under “Policy and Advocacy: Medi-Cal Managed Care” or call Lynn for more information.

The California HealthCare Foundation (CHCF) provided the California Department of Health Services (CDHS), Medi-Cal Managed Care (MCMC) program with recommendations to improve health care delivery to people with disabilities and chronic conditions enrolled in Medi-Cal managed care plans. The report is titled "Recommendations for Performance Standards for Medi-Cal Managed Care Organizations Serving People with Disabilities and Chronic Conditions." The CDHS has placed its draft response on the MCMC Division's website. They invite your input and is providing a mechanism for public comment through the website until 7-31-07.

<http://www.dhs.ca.gov/mcs/mcmcd>.

Did you know? You do NOT need to provide employer name and number on a Healthy Families affidavit!

MCH Access and other advocates met with MRMIB last week on a variety of issues and the issue of required employer information on affidavits was clarified. Therefore, we are asking MRMIB to change the example on the Healthy Families website to show that no employer information is needed, and to clarify the information in an upcoming Healthy Families newsletter.

Please call or e-mail Celia if you have or have had problems with this issue: celiav@mchaccess.org