



Maternal and Child Health Access

1111 W. Sixth Street, Suite 400  
Los Angeles, CA 90017-1800  
Tel 213.749.4261  
Fax 213.745.1040  
[www.mchaccess.org](http://www.mchaccess.org)

**MCH Access Monthly Meeting – Thurs., June 19, 2008 10 AM – 12 noon**  
**At The California Endowment - 1000 N. Alameda St., L.A. CA 90012**  
**Free parking, close to Union Station for public transport**  
**(800) 449-4149 if lost**

**Panel on Special Therapeutic Formula for infants – Who Should Provide and How?**  
**Representatives from local and state WIC agencies, LA Care and Health Net**

**AIM, PE and Budget updates**

**Important DRA Announcement:**  
**LA Department of Public Social Services**  
**plans to begin collecting documents for DRA**  
**from new Medi-Cal applicants starting**  
**Monday June 30. MCHA, the Health**  
**Consumer Center and DPSS will provide a**  
**special training**  
**Monday, June 16, 9-12**  
**at the California Endowment**  
**Call Angela to register:**  
**(213) 749-4261**

- Governor's May Revise – Health Care Cuts
- May, 2008 Medi-Cal Provider Bulletin – Obstetrics, showing new ultrasound codes for miscarriages.
- MCHA-PAC-LAC-legislation list
- Sample letter for MRMIB regulations establishing authority for wait list and disenrollment
- Western Center on Law and Poverty Budget analysis, "Governor Declares War on the Poor"
- *Sacramento Bee*, Weds., May 14, "Governor proposes deeper health and welfare cuts" and April 26, "Cutting adult dental care is shortsighted".
- Press release from Bay Area press conference on cutting adult dental care in budget
- The Public's Health, May, 2008, "Measuring BMI and Waist Circumference"
- SB 1633 (Kuehl) – dental credit cards and loans – Dental Consumer Protection Act - sample letter
- Preconception Care materials – guest speaker

**MCHA is still hiring! See last month's mailing or our website for jobs**

**In this mailing: (See mailing on our website to use hyperlinks):**

- **DRA** - Pregnant Citizens on Medi-Cal or Applying...
- **Medi-Cal Bulletin #407** PE coverage for ultrasounds
- **Medi-Cal Managed Care Policy Letter #07-016** Therapeutic Enteral Formulas for Medical Conditions in Infants and Children. Note: top says 5 pages; last page was signature, so pasted on to fourth page.
- **Sample letter to State DHCS** about Gateways stalled! Send if you can; call/e-mail for copy if easier.

**(Non-dated) Materials distributed at May meeting (call for copies):**

- DRA slide handouts
- Pregnant Citizens on Medi-Cal or Applying for Medi-Cal (see enclosed)

**Speaker: Donald Nollar, MCH Access DRA implementation update**

Given that LA County is to start requesting DRA documents soon from new applicants, Donald Nollar provided a short review and update of what will be required of new Medi-Cal applicants, of Medi-Cal beneficiaries who are renewing their Medi-Cal and where they and agencies can find assistance.

Most U.S. citizens and nationals who apply for or currently have Medi-Cal must show proof of their identity and citizenship status. The state began sending notice of the new rule around October 1,

2007, and is sending notices every three months to ¼ of the Medi-Cal recipients. This is confusing because LA was not yet collecting documents (other counties have started). Original documents are required, which means clients or their designate must come to a DPSS office. We do NOT recommend putting documents in the mail. Most children applying may meet their citizenship requirement through a birth record match that populates the MEDS computer. Los Angeles will begin collecting documents from applicants on June 30 and will start requesting the documents from existing beneficiaries in Sept; those redetermination letters go out this month as well. DPSS workers should ask pregnant women whether they are having trouble finding their documents but women may need help – this is where you come in! See “Pregnant Citizens on Medi-Cal...” flyer, enclosed. We are having the flyer translated and will post it on our website soon.

### **Presumptive Eligibility (PE) for Pregnant Women – Coverage Issues**

Changes are taking place in PE coverage! See May Medi-Cal Provider Medical Services (General or Obstetrics) Bulletin (cut and pasted, enclosed) for two updates:

1) PE coverage for ultrasounds for miscarriage.

[http://files.medi-cal.ca.gov/pubsdoco/all\\_bulletins.asp?Type=ob](http://files.medi-cal.ca.gov/pubsdoco/all_bulletins.asp?Type=ob)

Note that wording on front of bulletin refers to “abortion” but inside, p. 3-4, notes, “spontaneous” abortion – the technical terms for miscarriage.

Providers will know this, but it may be confusing for advocates.

2) Easier extension of PE if the woman’s Medi-Cal application remains pending (see above bulletin) We expect more additions to come in the July or August bulletins – stay tuned!

We continue to want your experiences with what is working, what is not with PE so that these issues may be raised along with our clients’ experiences. Contact Celia at (213) 749-4261 x 112 [celiav@mchaccess.org](mailto:celiav@mchaccess.org).

### **State Budget and Health Care**

The state Assembly and Senate Budget subcommittees on health and human services roundly rejected most of the governor’s proposals for Medi-Cal and income program reductions. Kudos to all of you who so visibly expressed what these cuts will mean – especially the rejection of eliminating adult dental and the 1931(b) rollback (to require sub-sub-poverty level eligibility). Several issues remain: imposition of Quarterly Status

Reports for Medi-Cal was changed to semi-annual, which is still a problem for the increased burden on children (adults, except pregnant women, already report semi-annually). The cap on dental services for Children in Healthy Families was raised to \$1500 from \$1000, which is an improvement, but we are concerned about children with extreme “baby bottle” or Early Childhood Caries tooth decay, as treatment costs can exceed \$1500. Premium increases for children in Healthy Families were lessened, but still remained. This is troubling. When premiums were raised just \$5 in Florida, the amount of time the even higher income families stayed in the program was reduced by 55 percent. Ten percent program cuts were retained in public health programs such as teen pregnancy programs, Black Infant Health and an entire program, the California Maternal Quality Care Collaborative, that reviews maternal mortality statewide, is slated for elimination. See our website for materials from groups that have compiled outcomes on cuts. We must keep the pressure on! Conference committee members are meeting as we write (6-12): John Laird (D), Mark Leno (D) and Roger Niello (R) in the Assembly and Denise Ducheny (D), Mike Machado (D) and Bob Dutton (R) in the Senate. None of the conference committee members are from Los Angeles.

Join the Stop the Cuts Alliance – contact Kaitlin Gravitt [[kgravitt@communitychange.org](mailto:kgravitt@communitychange.org)] to be on the e-mail list for meetings and actions.

Call in on Friday June 13 to your state legislator:

**Call-in Number: 888-268-4334**

### **Save the date!**

**Thursday, June 26, 8 AM – 5 PM:** Making a Difference in Infant Health – Saving Lives, Increasing Safety, Preventing Injury \$70. Held at The California Endowment <http://www.lapublichealth.org/mch/Updates/InfantHealthConference.htm> or call (213) 639-6457

**Friday June 20th, 2008 11am - 1pm**

California Foundation for Independent Living Centers, the IHSS Coalition and the Disability Health Coalition are holding a series of Community Forums on budget cuts and effect on health: In Los Angeles County, site is:

**Pitzer College**

**Broad Performance Space**

**1050 N. Mills Ave.**

**Claremont, CA 91711**