



Maternal and Child Health Access

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MCH Access Monthly Meeting

Thurs., March 17, 10 AM – 12 Noon (Third Thursday monthly)

1111 W. 6th St., Fourth Floor. Free parking in back –enter 2-story parking on 5th St.

The Racial Justice Collaborative and Its Work

Hemi Kim, Asian Pacific American Legal Center

Earned Income Tax Credit - Who is eligible? How can you make EITC a part of your screening processes? Who else can help?

Marco Martinez, EITC Coordinator, LA County Children's Planning Council

Updates – Budget, Health Care Programs

In this mailing:

- **Outreach Worker Position at MCHA:**
for unique project at the Mexican Consulate
- **AB 624 (Montanez):** One-step CHDP Gateway Process – Please send support letter
- **Expanded Newborn Screening Program** - background and current information
- **Thurs., Mar 24: Common Breastfeeding Complications** - Term and Near-Term Infant
- **Sat. April 16 – Two events:**
 - Festival of Childhood – Center for Non-Violent Education and Parenting
 - Safety Seat Checkup- SafetyBeltSafe
- **Tues., April 19** - Say “Yes” to Children – March & Rally!
- List of agencies serving clients speaking Asian-Pacific Islander languages
- *LA Times*, 3-11-05, “Court Eases Asylum Rule for Genital Mutilation” – you may have clients who could be helped!

Materials - Feb. 17 (call for copies):

- **Low-cost automobile insurance info**
- *LA Times*, 2-7-05, “Vigilance with vaccines”
- **Re: Newborn Screening:**
March of Dimes color flyer, “A simple test could save your baby’s life” English and Spanish

State Newborn Screening Test Booklet, June 2004 (English and Spanish)

List of Disorders Detectable by Current and Expanded NBS

- **Children’s Health Initiative Newsletter**, Winter 2005 (re: Healthy Kids program)
- **Children’s Bureau info** - At-A-Glance
- **Healthy African-American Families conference**, “Building Bridges to Optimal Health” March 3-4
- **LA County MCH 2000 Fact Sheet** - LA’s Best Babies Collaborative (LABBC)
- **Fact Sheet** – LABBC
- **Policy Brief** – LABBC – Employer Recommendations
- **Immigrant Day in Sacramento** - May 23rd, Endorsement and Participation Form
- **Trainings on Health Programs** – MCH Access and Health Consumer Center

Meeting Notes Feb. 17, 2005:

Expanded Newborn Screening Program
Guest Speaker: Vicki Lombardo, March of Dimes Director of Program Services
Ms. Lombardo gave us background information about expanded newborn screening and her agency’s involvement and advocacy efforts. The March of Dimes is working with the Genetic Disease Branch to

gear up for the expansion from the current 4 to more than 30 disorders this summer. MOD will come out with state report cards on expanded newborn screening. Nationally, MOD has changed its newborn screening recommendations from nine to more than 30 treatable disorders.

Guest Speakers: Barbara Foley Ferreira, Project Director, and Brenda Ramirez, Community Liaison, of the Harbor-UCLA Newborn Screening Area Service Center (NBS-ASC), and Kathy Jew, Project Director of the UCLA NBS-ASC, explained the role of the Area Service Centers (ASCs). One-third of the state's newborn population is in their two ASCs alone! They discussed the four disorders that are currently part of the NBS program, stressing the need for early detection and treatment. With 1 in 14 African Americans carriers for Sickle Cell disease, it is very important that pregnant women be screened. Discussion also took place about newborn health care and ensuring that providers ask to see newborn screening results, which is "standard of care" and about how kids on CCS, which covers most if not all of what kids need, grow into adults who also need care. After age 21, it MAY be possible to get services and special foods covered for certain metabolic disorders under the Genetically Handicapped Persons Program (GHPP).

Ms. Lombardo discussed insurance coverage for other special formulas besides the formula for newborns with PKU, which wasn't included in the language of the expanded NBS bill. MOD is talking to insurance groups to achieve access to other special formulas and wants to do so this year, without legislation. If that doesn't work, then they will introduce legislation to mandate coverage. Lynn noted that a federal bill mandates declaring the major food allergens, including milk, which will help those on special diets avoid these foods.

Expansion of California Newborn Hearing Screening Program:

Currently only California Children's Services (CCS)-approved hospitals are mandated to screen newborns for hearing. **The March of Dimes Walk America:** Saturday, April 30, 2005, in Griffith Park, will be March of

Dimes biggest fundraiser of the year. (See flyer sent in February mailing.)

Thanks to Agnes de la Vega, Vivian Weinstein and Keck Policy Fellow at MCH Access, for these notes and the policy brief on Newborn Screening (enclosed)!

Trainings available: MCH Access offers health coverage program trainings: Core Comprehensive and half-day Review and Update trainings. In April, we will be offering an additional set of trainings: Keeping and Using Benefits (Utilization and Retention) and a Troubleshooting Follow-Up to our Core Comprehensive Training. An announcement will be distributed. Call Liz for more information: (213) 749-4261.

Healthy Kids Asian and Pacific Islander (API) Outreach: Enrollment in health programs is low in many API communities. LA Health Action and the Asian-American Legal Center have a list of groups assisting Asian language-speaking clients (enclosed).

Census Tract Book: Kathleen Smith, LAC/DHS Public Health Nursing, asked if anyone would like the Census Tract Book used by Public Health Nurses to be able to look up someone's address and figure out what public health center they need to go to for TB tests, STD treatment, immunizations. The book will also help with community work related to that geographic area. The book is 500-plus pages. People would need to print their own for their organization. Please contact Martin at MCH Access to have the PDF file sent to you.

A new **Healthy Families Newsletter** (February, 2005) is available online from healthyfamilies.ca.gov and discusses upcoming payments for enrollments, CAA training and July increase in HF payments for those over 200% of the federal poverty level.



Save the Date

Weds., April 13 or Sat., April 16: First Five LA Kit Training Conference. 818-989-9136

Weds., April 27: Y.O.U.T.H. HIV Prevention Conference (323) 660-2450 x 2390