



Maternal and Child Health Access

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MCH Access Monthly Meeting

Thurs., March 16, 2006 10 AM – 12 Noon (Third Thursday monthly)
1111 W. 6th St., Fourth Floor. Free parking in back –enter 2-story parking on 5th St.

Guest Speakers and Topics:

Lisa Milton, Executive Director, Community Voice, PICO on the Children's Health Initiative (Ballot measure for November election)

Barbara Fascher and Ellie Dellor, the Alliance for Children's Rights
How you can work with health care coverage issues for children in foster care and guardianship situations, and policy and legislation affecting children in placements

In this mailing:

- Newborn Referral Forms – Fax # has changed!
- Weds., Mar. 15 Legislative Training – Nancy Amidei. She's great!
- Tues. Mar. 21 – Immigrant Legislative Briefing
- Tues. April 4 – Forum on adolescent obesity
- Weds. April 5 – PAC LAC Advocacy forum on human milk and tissue banking exemption law
- Fri. April 28 – Transitioning Youth with Special Health Care Needs
- Program Asst. Needed – MCHA. Help us find a good candidate!
- Maternal and Child Health Access/Health Consumer Center Training Calendar

Distributed February 16 (call for copies):

- Maternal and Child Health Access Testimony to the Senate Select Committee on Children, Youth and Families, Feb. 2
- Center on Budget and Policy Priorities Fact Sheet, "New Survey Finds 3 to 5 Million US Citizens' Medicaid Coverage Jeopardized by Budget Reconciliation Bill" Jan 26, 2006.
- Facts About the Tobacco Tax of 2006 – 12-13-06
- Save the Date March 26 – Benefit Dinner for Center for Nonviolent Education and Parenting – CNVEP – Taix restaurant call (213) 484-6676 or www.cnvep.org

- April 29, 1-4 Festival of Childhood/de la Ninez – Edendale Street 1 blk N. of Sunset/Alvarado.
- *LA Times*, 2-15-06, "Poster mom for child safety"
- SafetyBeltSafe, USA membership and other info
- 2/28 CAA Forum and Advocacy Training
- **Related to dental managed care guests:**
- *Baby's First Teeth - Jrl Amer Dntl Assoc, Vol., 133 Feb., 2002 p. 255*

Meeting Notes Feb. 16:

Expansion of Dental Managed Care in LA

About 195,000 beneficiaries out of an eligible 1.2 million members are enrolled in dental managed care in Los Angeles, a very small number. However, the state has expressed their preference for dental managed care by contracting with several new plans in Los Angeles. Because most of us are not familiar with these new plans, representatives from 6 of the 8 dental managed care plans in Los Angeles attended our February meeting to help us get acquainted with their services and for a discussion on dental managed care.

Healthy Families plans:

Access Dental – 888-849-8440

www.accessdental.com

SafeGuard Dental – 800-880-3080

www.safeguard.net

Universal Care – 800-635-6668

www.universalcare.com

Western Dental – 800-805-8000

www.westerndental.com

Medi-Cal Plans:

Access Dental – 888-414-4110

Community Dental Services – (800) 764-5393

www.smilecare.com

Liberty Dental – 888-703-6999 English,
888-871-0396 Spanish

www.libertydental.com

Safeguard Dental – 800-880-3080

UHP Dental – (800) 544-0088

www.uhphealthcare.com/dental

Universal Care – 800-635-6668

Western Dental – (800) 992-3366

American Healthguard and Universal Care did not attend. Note that Universal Care will transition its Medi-Cal patients to Health Net as of April 1 and its Healthy Families patients to Health Net as of July 1.

Please note that dental plan flyers were provided along with Safeguard's very thorough, 5-page set of answers to our questions. Please call for copies. MCH Access had sent a list of questions to the dental plans, not all of which we were able to address during the meeting. Of most interest, since dental managed care is voluntary, is, "Why would someone choose dental managed care over a fee-for-service provider?" Answers included: the ability to find a dentist because lists are provided by plans, transportation provided, and the fact there is no Treatment Authorization Request process within managed care. However, there are other ways to control utilization. Plans also indicated they thought quality was better in dental plans because they are monitored more closely by the state and individual dentists and practices are monitored by the dental plans. We also explored whether the groups hired marketers or how exactly they marketed their plans. Most do not hire marketers and work through community contacts and opportunities. Access Dental uses hired CAAs. MCHA expressed our concern about marketing and the clients we see who are told they must sign forms or they/their children will lose their Denti-Cal. We also expressed concern about the mixture of mandatory managed care enrollment forms in packets mailed to families with voluntary dental managed care forms. Some clients sign the forms unknowingly and then have no idea how they were enrolled. After a year of promising to separate the

forms, the State Department of Health Services has said they will not do so because of the emphasis on managed care and outreach for managed care in the Governor's 2006-7 budget and that removing the dental form from the managed care packet would send the wrong message.

Some of the information we covered:

Family members may select different dentists. Many of the programs offer free transportation – we did not get details – and many have Member Services lines in multiple languages and say they can provide services to members from dentists who speak many languages. All plans indicate they have specialists and believe they have enough pediatric dentists, although one plan, for example, had 32. Maternal and Child Health Access appreciates the participation of the plans and will continue to bring us together or try and otherwise provide opportunities for comment and input on dental managed care and other dental issues.

New Joint Mail-In application on the horizon. **Celia Valdez, Director, Outreach and Education** will report on the meeting to be held Wednesday, March 15 in Sacramento to provide feedback to a new MC 321. A readability consultant was hired to improve the application and make the reading level between 6th and 7th grade. Questions have been changed, there may be an option to enroll early in health plans for Medi-Cal members and there is a whole new section on pregnancy. Focus groups will take place to evaluate the effectiveness of the revised application.

Listen UP! Health Care Disparities in Los Angeles: All week long, KPCC 89.3 FM has held discussions, forums and interviews with medical experts and patients about health care issues in LA. Listen on the website: www.kpcc.org, Special News Programs and Events: *The Health Gap*.

Hold the Date:

Tues. May 16 – California Hunger Action Coalition's Hunger Action Day in Sacramento—information on registration, transportation, and scholarships: www.hungeraction.net

Weds. May 22 – Immigrant Day in Sacramento. Endorsements, information and registration through CHIRLA (213) 353-1789 or APALC (213) 241-0215 in Los Angeles.