



Maternal and Child Health Access

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**Maternal and Child Health Access
Monthly Meeting
Thursday, March 15, 2007 10 AM – 12 Noon**

**Guest Speakers: Frank Tamborello, Hunger Action LA
Invited Guest Speaker – Conlan settlement
(new way to be repaid for bills Medi-Cal should cover)**

Updates

In this mailing:

- MCHA has jobs! Check our website www.mchaccess.org
- 3/29 Children's Health Initiative Meeting
- CHI Update – no changes at this time in health program proposals nor citizenship documentation requirements
- 2007 Breastfeeding Resource Directory!
- April 23-29 TV Turnoff Week - Plan now!
- April 17 - Hunger and poverty training
- April 18 – Food for Thought Summit
- King/Drew Open for Business – copy and use

Distributed at meeting (call for copies):

- Effect of Tying Eligibility for Health Insurance Subsidies to the Federal Poverty Level – Kaiser Family Foundation 2/07
- Statewide Poll Results Find California Voters Want to Ensure all Children Have Health Insurance 2-5-07
- *LA Times* 2-1-07, “Child Soccer Injuries Decrease” 2-12-07, “The next step in fetal diagnosis”
- A Mother's Ten Steps to Successful Breastfeeding – handout English-Spanish see www.breastfeedla.org
- MCH Access Training Cale• Denti-Cal Bulletin Vol. 22, #34 on EPSDT – Denti-Cal covers all services children need – describes how to bill
- MCHA's November '06 dental alert –
- King/Drew Open for Business

- 1-2-3 First Smiles – oral health training participant packet of handouts (see speaker)

Guest Speaker: Dr. Maritza Cabezas, DDS, “Children's Dental Health Issues”

Please note: the handout packet included a January, 2002 Denti-Cal Bulletin that has been replaced by a December, 2005 bulletin. The 2002 version talks about preventive dental care for pregnant women on any one of four “restricted” or “emergency” aid codes. The expansion in Dec. 2005 was to ALL pregnant women on any one of 19 aid codes. For a copy of the newer bulletin, see <http://www.mchaccess.org/legislation.htm> at the bottom of the page, or the state website: http://www.dental.ca.gov/provsrvcs/bulletins/Volume_21_Number_41.pdf

Dr. Cabezas is one of very few public health dentists in the U.S. Her presentation on children's dental health and transmissibility of dental bacteria is not to be missed! The messages are to eliminate practices that pass saliva from parent (usually mother) to child – pre-tasting or even chewing food, for example, to help parents to realize the importance of primary or “baby” teeth, and to be sure parents' teeth are well taken care of for their own health and as a transmitter of bacteria to their children. Saliva is a very important medium, making morning brushing, prior to eating, very important, as

well as the effect of brushing or fluoride pills at night – to maintain the fluoride in the saliva. Dr. Cabezas warned against too early use of fluoride and really watching use of toothpaste – using “pea size” toothpaste until age 6. Children should see a dentist by age one, as recommended by the American Academy of Pediatrics and its Pediatric Dentistry committee. She also talked about fluoride polish vs. sealants for teeth, both Medi-Cal benefits.

Meeting attendees asked questions and raised issues, such as the inability quite often to even find a dentist who will see a young child (0-3 seems to be problematic). For a copy of the packet distributed, please call Jenny at (213) 749-4261.

Bridging - Medi-Cal to Healthy Families

Children on Medi-Cal who receive a Share of Cost at annual redetermination should be AUTOMATICALLY transferred to Healthy Families on the basis of their passive consent on the annual redetermination form (unless, of course, they have said “no” to sharing information with Healthy Families). Thereafter, Healthy Families should contact the family within their extended month of Medi-Cal to transition the family to Healthy Families. For problems on the Medi-Cal side, contact the worker, or Deputy Director of the Medi-Cal office for your client’s case, or ultimately, the Medi-Cal Program Analyst Sandra Gibbs at (562) 908-3566. On the Healthy Families side, you can attempt to track the case by having the family call 1-800-880-5305 or call the CAA line at 800-279-5012 or using e-mail ee-caaliation@maximus.com

Please let us know if you have had problems with this process or have had success seeing it take place without intervention or e-mail us at info@mchaccess.org. Thank you!

MCHA Access shared their helpful state analyst for Presumptive Eligibility, Cynthia Cannon, at (916) 552-9499. We heard at the meeting that ultrasounds and lab biopsies are problematic. For whatever problems you are having with PE, please let us know or e-mail us at info@mchaccess.org. Thank you!

Deficit Reduction Act (DRA)

Citizenship/Identity documentation –

The State Department of Health Services held a stakeholder meeting Feb. 22 for comments on a draft set of DRA implementation instructions to counties. See <http://www.dhs.ca.gov/mcs/dra/default.htm> to review the DRAFT document and enclosures. MCHA submitted comments along with a number of other advocates. The issue is closer now than it has been in some time, but is still not being implemented. The Children’s Health Initiative Program Integration Subcommittee and the Department of Public Health staff have drafted a great “How to Get Your Birth Certificate” hand out which we will distribute when DRA gets closer.

TV Turn Off – Screen Time Awareness

April 23-29, 2007

Please see their website at www.tv-turnoff.org. There are posters, fact sheets (average time per day that TV is on 7 hrs, 40 minutes!) ideas for activities, t-shirts (some only \$5!) essay contests, materials in Spanish, etc. MCH Access has celebrated TV turn off annually to help raise awareness about family time, violence on TV and in computer games, and to help provide creative alternatives to TV. At our agency, we provide books to all families and a celebration for whomever makes it through one week without TV and designed our own T-shirts in the past.

Paid Family Leave

Only 1 out of 4 people in California know about Paid Family Leave, the numbers are lower among young and Latino workers - yet 13 million Californians are eligible for Paid Family Leave benefits to bond with a new child or to care for a seriously ill family member!

California Paid Family Leave website
<<http://ent.groundspring.org/EmailNow/pub.php?module=URLTracker&cmd=track&j=126012342&u=1213471>>

