



Maternal and Child Health Access

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Next MCH Access monthly meeting:
Thurs., March 19, 2009, 10 AM – 12 noon (arrive early for parking!)
MCHA 1111 W. 6th St., Fourth Fl. Free parking in back, entering on Fifth St.
Women's History Month!


The National Children's Study – Health Growth and Environment
Who are they? What will the study be doing in Los Angeles?
Updates – state and local health issues



This IS your last mailing! We need your e-mail addresses! We are going green! We will begin e-mailing news and documents next month, except for our Mother's Day appeal. Contact info@mchaccess.org with your e-mail address! We don't want to lose you!

- Liberty Dental Pediatric Outreach Program
- SafeGuard dental care newsletter
- Metlife/SafeGuard bag of dental items
- HealthNet Postcard mock-up and outbound calls for children's dental outreach
- Care1st oral health brochure

In this mailing

- STOP the trigger cuts!  Call today!
- Support AB 98 prenatal care for women
- **New income levels for programs!** Our famous chart – keep it by your side...
- **The Los Angeles-Ventura Study Center** for National Children's Study
- **Positions!** Director, Clinical Director, nurses, Home visitors, secretary, data clerk - posted on our website – and we STILL need an East LA pregnancy case manager – can you help us?
- **Managed Care Directories** – have now changed!

Distributed Feb. 19 (except events no longer timely) – call for copies

- Census 2010 Jobs
- 2010 Census Frequently Asked questions
- Census Overview of Race and Hispanic Origin
- It's in Our Hands – what CBOs need to know about the census
- We've Got You Covered – MCHA Core Training March 26 and 27; April 23 and 24
- April 15 SPA 4 Teen Pregnancy Symposium
- Dental Provisions in federal CHIP bill

From dental plans:

State Budget news:

According to analysis by the Western Center on Law and Poverty, as well as that of the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities:
The Legislature and the Governor agreed to a sweeping 18 month budget “solution” in late February but it did not complete all the work on the budget. The agreement includes an additional \$985 million in program cuts along with a \$1.8 billion tax increase both set to take effect on July 1, 2009. But if the Department of Finance and the state Treasurer agree by April 1, 2009 that California will receive at least \$10 billion in federal stimulus funds by July, 2010 then the cuts and the tax increase will not go into effect. The Department of Finance has issued a preliminary analysis that shows the state coming up short but it may significantly underestimate what is available to the state. See the California Budget Project for additional information www.cbpp.org and the [Legislative Analyst's Office report on federal stimulus funds](#) (PDF - 828kb)

Concerned about the state budget? LA's Stop the Cuts! Coalition's platform includes progressive taxation, no cuts and working together for a fair budget. Stop the Cuts is planning a **Press**

Conference to Stop the Trigger Cuts

Wed., March 25th at 11 AM Location: most likely at City Hall Call (213) 385-8010.

General Meeting of Stop the Cuts!

To take advantage of the energy coming out of the budget teach-in from Friday, March 13:

Friday, April 3rd 1 -3 PM at UTLA, 3303 Wilshire Bl., free parking in lot behind bldg. (213) 385-8010 for more information.

CALL NOW – See flyer in this mailing

CDC Vaccine Mandate

Please sign the petition to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) asking it to reverse the newly imposed Human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccination mandate for immigrant women and girls. **To view and sign the petition, go to <http://www.petitiononline.com/napawf/petition.html>.**

For more information on the CDC mandate, see the National Asian Pacific American Women's Forum Blog: <http://napawf.org/blog/?p=46>

Notes – Thurs., Feb. 19, 2009 –

Denti-Cal plans and young children

MCH Access invited the eight Denti-Cal dental plans operating in Los Angeles County to our February meeting to address inclusion of very young children. Liberty Dental Plan, Care1st, HealthNet, and Safeguard/MetLife attended. February is Children's Dental Health Month and the American Academy of Pediatrics, the American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry and the American Dental Association now all agree that children should visit the dentist by age one. However, it is often difficult to find a dentist who will see children this young.

Dental health plan statistics reflect that although infants and young children are enrolled in dental managed care, the statistics for "ever having received a visit" that are available for 2006, for example, are very poor for young children.

The plans have begun more outreach to members and brought samples and statistics of their work. For example, HealthNet showed that over the period of time they've been tracking, they made over 27,000 calls resulting in an additional 2173 appointments made by phone. One sample from Liberty Dental showed that 31% of the families they successfully contacted resulted in "treatment success" (a visit). However, an extreme shortage of dentists and even more of a shortage of pedodontists (pediatric dentists) exists. In dental

managed care, families of children must request a referral to pediatric dentists, who are considered specialists. This is a huge barrier. The plans indicated that they provide special training for dentists to see children, but most of the audience seemed to indicate that it is really important to have a pediatric practice in order to see children. These may be policy and advocacy issues to be taken up with the state.

Note that at the meeting, we discussed that dental managed care for adults had not yet been cut in the budget. However, it WILL be cut as part of the budget agreement if the state does not receive \$10 billion in federal stimulus funds. There is disagreement about how the funds are counted and what the state is or is not taking up in the funds offered. All agreed, however, that cutting of adult dental services would be devastating for our adult clients AND their children. Many practices cannot sustain a pediatric-only practice.



Resources

A Question of Hope – Reducing Latina Teen Childbearing in California film available on DVD for viewing and downloading online at <http://bixbycenter.ucsf.edu/> See lower right hand corner publications box.

Save the Dates!



April 6 - White House regional forum on health reform in **Los Angeles**. Details on White House Health Reform Web site: <http://healthreform.gov/>

Advocacy Tip!

Medi-Cal Mid-year Status Reports

The Medi-Cal Mid-year Status Reports (MSRs) implemented in Los Angeles in January have been put on hold pending changes by the State Legislature, a condition of receiving higher federal matching funds for Medi-Cal as part of the stimulus package. Nevertheless, at least through this month, families with children will get the MSR forms to return to DPSS. If there is an adult on Medi-Cal, the families would have to return the form anyway. If only a child or children are on the Medi-Cal case, the county will not take action to close the case if the form is not returned. By April, the forms may cease to include children, but that is not yet clear.

If you have a client whose child was cut off of Medi-Cal due to action on the MSR, please call MCHA at (213) 749-4261.