



Maternal and Child Health Access

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RESOURCES

The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) has published, "[Your Guide to Breastfeeding](#)" an easy-to-read publication in English, Spanish and Chinese designed to provide women the information and support they need to breastfeed successfully.

LA Prom Closet:

It's that time again - donate formal gowns so young women can attend their school proms:

Next MCH Access Monthly Meeting:

This Thursday, March 17, 2011 10 AM - 12 noon
(Happy St. Patrick's Day)

Location:

Back at: Moseley Salvatori Conference Center - Good Samaritan Hospital
637 S. Lucas Street Los Angeles, CA 90017
(between 6th and Wilshire Streets)

Speakers

Barbara Siegel, Neighborhood Legal Services,
"Mandatory Managed Care - Changes for Disabled and Seniors"

NOTE: Disabled children and adults on Medi-Cal only (and not Medicare) began to receive notices in March and will continue to receive notices preparing them for June (based on their birth date) mandatory enrollment into Medi-Cal Managed Care Plans.

See:

[Seniors and Persons With Disabilities Notification and Enrollment Information](#) watch for MCHA's additional informational blast; more info at meeting

Debra Winski, MCHA - Poison Control Week - Updates and Resources.

Parking:

Free at MCH Access. Enter on 5th St. to 2-story parking (between Lucas and Bixel) and walk across street or pay \$6 at Good Samaritan, entering on Lucas St. across from the conference center

PLEASE ALLOW TIME TO PARK AND WALK!

Become an MCHA Fan!

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February 24, 2011 Meeting Notes

Please call for copies, if necessary...

Oral Health resources:

- **Powerpoint presentation, Arlene Glube,** "The Challenge of Treating Pregnant Women".
- **Powerpoint presentation, Sean O'Brien,** Health Net's Adult Dental Benefit and outreach to children

Men's Health Resources: [Click here](#)

SAVE THE DATE

Friday, March 18, 10 AM - 7 PM:

Outreach and Enrollment for children's health programs
5801 S. San Pedro, LA
323-948-0444 ext. 146

Mar. 19 & April 2:

Free Tax Preparation: Register By Calling 323-980-1221. All Family Service are open to the public. Free tax preparation service is by appt only [click here](#)

Los Angeles

Sat. March 19, 2011

Los Angeles City College
855 North Vermont Ave
Los Angeles CA 90029
10:00 am - 3:00 pm

Compton

Sat. March 19, 2011

Greater Mt. Sinai Baptist Church
12329 S. Wilmington Ave.
Compton, CA 90222
9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m

Long Beach

Sat. April 2, 2011

Long Beach City College
4901 East Carson St
Long Beach CA 90808
10:00 am - 3:00 pm

Tues., March 22, 8 AM - 4 PM:

California Coalition for Reproductive Freedom: **Reproductive Freedom Day in Sacramento.** This is a fantastic opportunity to learn about current sexual and reproductive health and justice issues, meet other activists from around the state, and tell legislators why

- **Grantmakers in Health**, ["Making the Connection: Pregnancy and Oral Health"](#) Feb. 21, 2011
- **From MCHA: Healthy Families Dental Cap and Orthodontia Benefit** information - please let Monica, Donald or Lynn know if a client has had trouble accessing more than \$1500/year in dental care or trouble getting an orthodontia benefit.
- [MCHA's Medi-Cal Pregnancy-Related Dental Benefits Chart](#)
- **Denti-Cal Bulletin**, May 2010, Issue 26, Vol.11, "[Benefits for Pregnant and Postpartum Women - Replacement Bulletin](#)"
- **Health Net**, "Introducing Our New Adult Dental Benefit" - lists benefits, costs and providers for Health Net enrollees in the medical plan who get free and low cost dental services.
- **Children Now**, **Oral Health and Obesity Policy Brief - Childhood Obesity and Dental Disease Common Causes, Common Solutions**"
- **Modesto Bee**, Feb. 20, 2011, "[Modestan loses smile when Medi-Cal drops optional benefits](#)"
- "**Two Healthy Smiles**" - dental brochures in [English](#) and [Spanish](#), from National MCH Oral Health Resource Center

Other information:

- Copies of letters and materials sent out to seniors and people with disabilities about enrolling in Medi-Cal Managed Care (see above)
- **MCHA - The California Children's Services Program and Disability Aid Codes** - information on how the state will treat children in CCS who are in a disability aid code for Medi-Cal

Guest Speaker: Feb 24 : [Arlene Glube, Director, Southern California Operations, Center for Oral Health](#)

The Center for Oral Health used to be the Dental Health Foundation, but has changed names and expanded its mission. Ms. Glube spoke about the Early Entry to Care program funded by First5 San Bernardino; the importance of oral health during pregnancy and in early childhood; why dentists continue to be resistant to seeing pregnant women and referral suggestions - all in 45 minutes!

She covered dental myths of pregnancy "lose a tooth for each child" and the prevalence of oral health disease in pregnant women, varying depending on the study. Barriers to care include lack of insurance and the cost of care, lack of clear guidelines for treatment protocols (until recently) and lack of providers who will treat women, especially those with public insurance. Dentists often want a "medical clearance" from the woman's doctor - though not legally required, an example was provided in the packet distributed.

The First 5 San Bernardino funding provides preventive and education services at medical or WIC sites for pregnant women and children 0-5. Procedures reimbursable through Medi-Cal are billed.

reproductive rights are important to you, your family, and your community. Download the [RFD Agenda](#) [Click here](#) for more details, and to purchase your ticket!

Tues., March 29, 2011, 1:00pm - 2:00pm

People with disabilities and seniors who have Medi-Cal only (not Medicare) are encouraged to come to a free presentation to learn about Medi-Cal changes. Rancho Los Amigos National Rehabilitation Center 7601 E. Imperial Hwy - Downey **RSVP:** Call 1-800-946-4719 or email Medi-CalPresentations@berkeley.edu [click here](#) for more info

Weds. April 6, 8:30 - 12 Noon: Cumulative Environmental Impacts in Los Angeles: Public Health's Role in Emerging Policy

Solutions Japanese American Cultural and Community Center, 244 So. San Pedro St., RSVP to Cassie Gardener, cgardener@libertyhill.org or 310-453-3611 ex. 134

Tuesday, May 24: California Immigrant Policy Center Immigrant Day, Sacramento - See www.caimmigrant and click [here](#) to register today.

EMPLOYMENT

MCH Access continues to hire for Welcome Baby! positions - Registered

Ms. Glube covered the necessary community partnerships for such a venture and the set-up used in San Bernardino. The project provides oral assessment; risk assessment to determine the need for therapeutic intervention; education and anticipatory guidance; Brief Motivational Interviewing and Referral/Care Coordination. The project itself pays for much of the dental treatment found needed by the pregnant women. Fluoride varnish is used with pregnant women and in certain circumstances, may be billed to Medi-Cal. Ms. Glube noted that guidelines for health professionals exist in the 2009 guidelines entitled, "[Oral Health During Pregnancy and Early Childhood: Evidence-based Guidelines for Health Professionals](#)," from the California Dental Association Foundation, in collaboration with the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, District IX (ACOG District IX).

Ms. Glube also covered Early Childhood Caries and transmissibility issues between mothers and children. Guidelines for health care professionals to teach about ECC exist: don't put the baby to bed with a bottle, avoid saliva-sharing behaviors, visit a dentist or child health professional between ages 6 and 12 months, for example. WIC in 2007 found no difference between English-speaking and Spanish-speaking in the following: 78% of infants were found to drink beverages other than water and milk or formula and 95% of that was juice. She noted that breastfeeding is the "gold standard" and quoted *Pediatrics* journal finding that breastfeeding or the age of weaning have not been proven to increase the risk of early childhood caries. Fluoride varnish can prevent caries in primary and permanent teeth if applied every 6 months. It has been a Medi-Cal benefit since 2006. Ms. Glube provided multiple links to brochures to download.

Guest Speaker Feb. 24: [Sean O'Brien, Director, Dental Operations, Health Net](#)

Mr. O'Brien spoke to the meeting attendees about Health Net's dental coverage for the adults enrolled in its Medi-Cal Managed Care plan. This is offered in Los Angeles and Sacramento - the two counties where dental managed care is allowed. There is no cost to members for the plan, which covers preventive care for free and other procedures at low cost. The most expensive procedures are porcelain crowns for \$280 and partial dentures for \$425. Health Net knows that adults may enroll in their health plan just for access to dental, and that's fine. Health Net also would like to serve the whole family, and may get more child members in that way for a medical and dental "home". Mr. O'Brien also covered the improvement made in Healthy Families dental quality scores from 2008, when they were the newest plan in Healthy Families. All of the age brackets have improved in quality scores, according to state quality measures. Health Net is part of a MRMIB task force to improve oral health utilization, especially among younger children.

2011 - 2012 FEDERAL INCOME GUIDELINES

Effective April 1st 2011

The Federal Income Guidelines for counting income for your clients **will change on April 1st.**

Nurse and Outreach Specialist - See also a Perinatal Case Manager, East Los Angeles position with our Perinatal Outreach and Education, Best Babies Collaborative See all positions [HERE](#).

Join Our List

[Join Our Mailing List!](#)

[Click HERE](#) for updated Health Care Countable Income Comparison Chart. You MUST also update your Core Training binder fact sheets from the materials on our website, otherwise they will be inaccurate: [Click HERE](#) to access materials.

You may want to save a copy of the 2010 - 2011 guidelines to help with Medi-Cal applications for retroactive months before April 1, 2011.

March 23 - Anniversary of Passage of Affordable Care Act! Graduation Toolkit

On March 25, Young Invincibles is launching a nationwide "Getting Covered" campaign to make sure all students have the health care information they need to stay covered and healthy even after school. They are actively looking for other groups that might be interested in working closely with us on this.

When students graduate from high school or college, they often receive little to no information about how to find health insurance or medical care after school. There is a real need for education generally, as well as about the new health care law.

As you know, March 23 is the anniversary of the passage of the Affordable Care Act, and all that week will be events celebrating that historic reform. On Friday, March 25, the designated youth day, we will launch the campaign and the "Graduation Toolkit". It is a downloadable packet of information that has a variety of useful health care information geared to students- from how to get back on your parent's plan under the new health care law to how to find treatment for your chronic condition. It will be available on the [Young Invincibles](#) website around March 25:

If your group is interested in collaborating in some way, you will receive a designed student flyer, a poster, a link to download the toolkit, and a sample email to distribute to your networks.

jen.mishori@younginvincibles.org

New 2011 California HMO and Medical Group Quality Ratings - check them out

(Press release from the Office of Patient Advocate):

Sacramento, CA - (March 10, 2011) At a time of high health care costs, it is critical to examine what California consumers are getting from their health care dollars in terms of quality. According to the 2011 Health Care Quality Report Card released today by the California Office of the Patient Advocate, the quality findings indicate that:

- The overall clinical performance ratings of the state's largest Health Maintenance Organizations (HMOs) compare well to health plans nationwide, with all but one plan performing above the mid-point nationally.
- The member experience ratings for four HMOs declined, while the ratings of another two HMOs improved.
- A new member experience rating highlights that members are reporting increased confusion about the costs of their care and paying claims. One-third of members reported they were not able to get information from their HMO on

how much they would pay for a service or medication. The Report Card rates the state's nine largest HMOs, six largest Preferred Provider Organizations (PPOs) and more than 225 medical groups on meeting national standards of care and member experience ratings compared to plans nationally. "Not all health plans provide the same quality of care on different measures," said Office of the Patient Advocate Director Sandra Perez. "It's imperative that health care consumers know that quality matters and - as the Report Card clearly shows - quality varies."

The 2011 edition of the Report Card includes an important new performance measure that puts the spotlight on another area needing improvement - checking children and adults at risk for obesity and weight-related health problems. Among the findings, the Report Card data show that most children (62 percent) and almost half of adults (45 percent) have not had their body mass index (BMI) checked when visiting the doctor - a simple way to gauge if a person's weight may lead to serious health problems.

In addition to health plan findings, the Report Card provides performance ratings on the largest 225 medical groups in the state.

The full Report Card can be found on the OPA website [HERE](#).

Find the 2011 Report Card ratings for [HMOs, PPOs](#), and [medical groups](#).

View the full [news release](#) (PDF).

View the Report Card [highlights](#) (PDF)

For additional resources to help consumers get the most out of their health care, visit www.opa.ca.gov.

Remember the MCHA October Breast and Reproductive Cancers meeting? Your chance to ban BPA California and national bills now active.

(From the Breast Cancer Fund):

Imagine an infant whose primary food source is canned liquid infant formula. There's BPA in the lining of that can, and perhaps more BPA in the plastic baby bottle she's fed with. Her body is small and still developing-sensitive to the estrogenic activity of the BPA now in her blood. Does that mean she'll get breast cancer when she's all grown up? We can't say, but we do know that laboratory studies raise concerns that [BPA \(bisphenol A\) might cause breast cancer](#). Why risk her health when we can [take BPA out of her diet right now?](#)

As the evidence stacks up against BPA, **a record 23 states**, (INCLUDING CALIFORNIA) Washington, D.C. and both houses of Congress are pushing for limits on the chemical this year. Most of them are tackling BPA in children's food products, including bottles, sippy cups, formula cans and the lids of baby food jars. The momentum to restrict BPA is nothing short of incredible. BPA is also a concern for prostate cancer, obesity, early puberty, cardiac disease and lowered sperm counts, even at low levels. And while BPA is all around us in plastics, food cans, receipts, dental sealants and more its use in food products for babies may

be the most upsetting-and [actionable](#). If you live in one of the states that are still pushing active BPA-free kids legislation,[voice your support now!](#) If you don't live in one of those states (and even if you do), there's a U.S. Senate bill to ban BPA from children's feeding products that [needs your support](#).

[Status of Women in the U.S. U.S. Department of Energy - Office of Economic Impact and Diversity](#)

The White House released a new report March 1 on the status of women in America, focusing on the challenges of women and girls in the areas of demographics; families and income; education; employment; health; and crime and violence. [This is the first comprehensive Federal report on women since 1963.](#)

View the report, Women in America: Indicators of Social and Economic Well-Being, online [HERE](#).

The Office of Economic Impact and Diversity joins the Administration in celebrating Women's History Month throughout March. Today's Women-Owned Small Businesses have become the pacesetters in entrepreneurship, and the Department makes every effort to identify and advise women business owners of contracting opportunities and to encourage their participation in DOE procurements.

"This collection of data from across the Federal government offers the most comprehensive look at women in America since the 1960s," Acting Deputy Secretary of Commerce Rebecca Blank said. "With this report, the administration can more effectively manage programs that support women and girls and America's families, and foster the growth of the U.S. economy."

Women in America was created by the Office of Management and Budget and the Statistics Administration within the Department of Commerce, and by several Federal statistical agencies for the White House Council on Women and Girls. The information in this report will help the Council on Women and Girls' efforts for programs, policies, and projects on behalf of our Nation's women and girls.

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