



Maternal and Child Health Access

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**MATERIAL DISTRIBUTED
AT FEBRUARY 16
MEETING**

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PROGRAM - CORALYN
ANDRES TAYLOR, MPH,
RD, CHES**

**SPEAKER: MONICA
OCHOA ORAL HEALTH
UPDATES**

**SPEAKER: JILL ZAPPIA,
CEDAR SINAI MEDICAL
CENTERCOACH FOR KIDS
AND THEIR FAMILIES**

**SPEAKER: DONALD
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**BEDSHARING STUDY
GROUP BY LUZ CHACON**

**REDUCED FEE ID CARD -
SENATE BILL 1098**

**MARCH OF DIMES
COMMEMORATIVE COIN
ACTS (S.
1935/R.R.3187)**

**CUT CALWORKS? NO!!
CUT CALWORKS FEES
INSTEAD**

CA STATE LEGISLATION

CONTACT US

Save the Date

**Friday, March 30, 9 AM -
State of the Black Male,
"Putting the Father Back
in Family"** Due to
overwhelming response,
Great Beginnings is moving
its symposium to a larger
facility. Holman United
Methodist Church, L.L.
White Hall 3320 West
Adams Blvd., Los Angeles,
CA 90018. Call 310-677-
7995 to register/for
additional information

Next MCH Access Monthly Meeting:

This Thursday, March 15, 2012 10 AM - 12 noon

LOCATION:

MCH Access
Patricia Phillips Community Room
1111 W. 6th St., 3rd Floor
Los Angeles, CA 90017
(6th St., and Bixel St.)

SPEAKERS/TOPICS:

Poison Prevention Week!

Kristina M. Hamm, MPH, Health Education Program Coordinator
Poison Prevention and Safety through Social Media and Mobile
California Poison Control System - UCSF School of Pharmacy

New income levels/COLAs for health coverage programs
Program updates

PARKING:

Free at MCH Access; enter on 5th St. to 2-story parking (between Lucas and
Bixel) and walk across the alley to our building



Materials distributed at February 16 meeting (if still timely) call for copies

Oral Health Presentations: Chart of Medi-Cal Dental Benefits for Pregnant
Women and Others; dental providers, COACH for Kids and Their Families
Program brochure; *Sacramento Bee*, 2-12-12, "Model' dental program proves
painful for kids"; Heart Help presentation: Heart HELP Program from CHMC;
Olympic Food Guide; [MCHA's "Proposed State changes for the Access for
Infants and Mothers \(AIM\) Program and AIM-linked Infants, 2-13-12"](#);
Notice to CalWORKs and Food Stamp recipients about DMV Reduced Fee ID
cards; Breast cancer screening and cervical cancer prevention education program
- offering free breast and cervical cancer early detection and prevention
presentations in 10 languages; Bedsharing Study Group meeting summary from
11-29-11; Future HFP and Medi-Cal Enrollment Paths: County Welfare Offices
and the Single Point of Entry/Public Access.

Guest Speaker: Heart HELP Program - Coralyn Andres Taylor, MPH, RD, CHES

Since February is Heart Health Month, Ms. Andres-Taylor spoke about the very
successful Heart HELP program presented by California Hospital Medical
Center. It is a series of six workshops teaching about physical activity, good
nutrition, reading food labels, heart-healthy meals, understanding and managing
heart failure, managing stress and long term change. Ms. Andres-Taylor took

Sunday, April 1, 1:30 - 4 PM: Health Justice Action

Sponsored by the Physicians for a National Health Program

California: **Event**

Description: Zombies, vampires and other corporate health care monsters will "chase" ill patients from Blue Cross through the streets of downtown Los Angeles as the patients throw bags of money at them.

* **Attendees are encouraged to come dressed as a zombie, vampire, patient, or health care provider.** A press rally will follow. This event will be in both English and Spanish.

* **Date:** April Fools Day, Sunday, April 1st, 1:30pm - 4pm

* **March Assembly:** 1:30pm, Blue Cross, 801 S. Figueroa, Los Angeles, at the corner of 8th and S. Figueroa - Metro Stop: 7th St/Metro Center, Red/Purple Line. The march starts at 2pm.

* **Press Rally/Action:** 3:00pm, Pershing Square (near the fountain), 532 South Olive Street, Los Angeles - Metro Stop: Pershing Square, Red/Purple Line - Paid public parking available underneath Pershing Square.

October 1-2: Conference on Women's Health sponsored by the California Wellness Foundation on October 1-2, 2012 at the Renaissance Los Angeles Airport Hotel, Los Angeles, California.

RESOURCES

meeting participants through many of the steps conducted in the classes, with tips about building physical activity into daily life. Such activity can be broken down into 10 minutes, three times a day and still achieve health benefits. Eighty percent of all heart disease is PREVENTABLE and 50-60% of heart disease CAN be reversed! Ms. Andres-Taylor, a Registered Dietician, also helped attendees understand what's known as the "Olympic" food guide, for its gold, silver, bronze and brick (!) status foods. For many of us, it was the first time being introduced to this terminology, despite our years in the health care field. Ms. Andres-Taylor discussed the role of sodium extensively and other factors that affect your heart. She incorporated exercise into the presentation, modeling good teaching behaviors. MCHA has had great success with this program, with most (90% of the education class attendees) improving their sugar levels, cholesterol and/or weight.

Guest Speaker: Oral Health Updates - Monica Ochoa, Oral Health Advocacy Coordinator

Ms. Ochoa provided some brief updates about dental access issues for low-income pregnant women and children in Los Angeles County.

- First 5 LA has rolled out the first of its Oral Health and Nutrition grants that address the shortage of pediatric dentists in LA County that treat the 0-5 population. These 5 clinics are; AltaMed Health Services Corp, Northeast Valley Health Corp, St. Johns Well Child and Family Services, Clinica Romero, and Antelope Valley Community Clinic. Opening dates are not yet known. We will provide more information on our website as it becomes available.
- Denti-Cal released a [new bulletin](#) adding some key benefits (i.e. fluoride varnishes and sealants) for children under 21.
- Beginning April 2nd, Denti-Cal will switch to a new CDT version (6) and implement new procedure codes. As always this change should not affect beneficiaries, but we should be mindful that technical glitches and benefits not being covered could happen as a result of this transition. If you know of any clients who experience such problems please have them call MCHA at 213-749-4261.
- Denti-Cal now lists dentists by specialty. If you are helping a client find a pediatric dentist, go to the ["find a dentist" screen](#) on the Denti-Cal website, open the city name for which you are looking then scroll down to *Pedodontist* (close to the end of list).
- If you have clients who are experiencing problems such as: pregnant women being charged for a dental exam and cleanings; difficulty getting a managed care specialty referral; being switched from fee for service to a managed care plan or enrolled in dental managed care without permission, please let us know.
- Posters available - If your organization or community center would like a poster titled: *Get dental care during pregnancy... for you and your baby*, see our [website order form](#).

Guest Speaker: COACH for Kids and Their Families - Jill Zappia, Cedars Sinai Medical Center

Ms. Zappia spoke about the COACH for Kids and Their Families program. The COACH mobile vans are, simply put, clinics on wheels that go out to underserved areas and provide quality healthcare and social services for low-income children and their families throughout Los Angeles County. The two medical mobile units are staffed by health and social service professionals that visit schools, WIC sites, shelters, housing projects and churches. The mobile units have calendars that list when and where they will visit each site; the calendars are easily accessible via their website (see below).

Links for the new [American Academy of Pediatrics Statement Breastfeeding 2012](#) and the one for the [Hospital Breastfeeding Report](#)- thanks to all who sent them!

March of Dimes Community Award Grants: These are grants in the range of \$500 - \$3,000 to be distributed this calendar year. Interested folks can also access the documents and information by visiting www.marchofdimes.com/ca. Please help me distribute this funding opportunity to anyone you believe may have a project in mind that would benefit from this funding.

Justice for Young Families - California Latinas for Reproductive Justice (CLRJ) is excited to introduce its **Justice for Young Families Initiative (J4YF)**, which was developed to challenge the dominant frame towards Latina/o youth sexuality, account for the inequities experienced by Latina/o youth and address the root causes of early parenthood. As an introduction to J4YF, CLRJ presents its latest Issue Brief, **Supporting Latina/o Youth: Strengthening Latina/o Young Families and Communities**.

EMPLOYMENT

We have several job opportunities available: [Trainer, Health Programs & Benefits, Outreach Specialist](#), Welcome Baby Program, & [Registered Nurse](#), Welcome Baby Program.

Please [HERE](#) to view all opportunities, full descriptions, and the application process.

Each mobile unit provides medical care, case management, parenting education, mental health, dental screenings and nutrition education. Medical services include, physical examinations, immunizations, TB screenings, hearing, vision and dental screenings and referrals to Cedars-Sinai or community clinics for sub-specialty and follow-up care. All services are provided at no charge, and they do not bill Medi-Cal, Healthy Families or Healthy Kids for any services. Over 1,800 dental services were provided by the Healthy Smiles program last year. They included oral health education and screenings, fluoride varnish application, referrals to free and low cost dentists and intensive referral management and follow-up. Program challenges include limited referral resources, referral completion and limited funding. The main direct service is fluoride varnish. They also work to establish a dental home for each recipient, which is not meant to replace the medical home.

If you would like more information about the Cedars-Sinai COACH for kids and their families program and a monthly calendar of the mobile locations, please click [HERE](#).

Guest Speaker: Healthy Families to Medi-Cal: Donald Nollar, MCHA, Training Specialist/Food Stamp Coordinator

Donald Nollar gave a presentation on the State Department of Health Care Services proposal to transition the Healthy Families Program to Medi-Cal. If approved, the transition would begin in October of 2012 and be implemented in three phases. Phase One would be to transition Healthy Families members who are enrolled in a health plan that currently contracts with Medi-Cal. Phase Two would begin in January, 2012, and would transition Healthy Families members who are enrolled in a health plan that sub-contracts with a Medi-Cal health plan. Members who are enrolled in a Healthy Families plan that does not contract at all with Medi-Cal would be enrolled into a Medi-Cal contracted Health Plan. Phase Three would involve transitioning Healthy Families members who live in counties with no managed care plans into Fee for Service Medi-Cal.

Families with incomes below 150% FPL would have their cases managed by their local county social service office and will pay no premiums. Families with incomes between 150% FPL and 250% FPL would have their cases managed by MAXIMUS and will pay a monthly premium equivalent to the current Community Health Plan premium levels.

New applicants will be able to apply either through their local county social service office or through Single Point of Entry, although all eligibility determinations would be made at the county level. After eligibility is determined, cases for children with premiums would be sent up to MAXIMUS for premium management.

Timelines have been set, but they are fluid. Phase One would be "no earlier than" October, 2012, so could be later. Phases Two and Three include the same language, "no earlier than" 1-1- 2013, for both. Groups have begun to weigh in on the proposal in testimony before various state hearings and with legislators.

Bedsharing Study Group Luz Chacón, MCHA Welcome Baby Program Director

Ms. Chacón informed attendees of an ongoing work group, the Infant Safe Sleeping Task Force, of the Interagency Council on Child Abuse and Neglect of LA County, that has met for a couple years. MCHA started attending last summer, to understand the purpose of the Task Force.

After several meetings, it became clear that the dominant viewpoint among members was that infants should not ever sleep in an adult's bed. After discussions within this workgroup, a separate Bedsharing Study Group was

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convened to study the literature on bedsharing. Ms. Chacón was a part of the workgroup, reviewing over 20 scholarly articles under the leadership of Dr. Thomas Keens, a pediatric pulmonologist at Children's Hospital Los Angeles and a professor of pediatrics, physiology and biophysics at the Keck School of Medicine of the University of Southern California.

The group met and ultimately recommended several points to the larger Infant Safe Sleeping Task Force: that roomsharing, but not bedsharing, be recommended and that public education include information on how to avoid making bedsharing unsafe, among other points. It is not clear exactly what the larger group's process is, but it is clear that they are not accepting the Bedsharing Study group's full set of recommendations. Ms. Chacón distributed the Bedsharing recommendation summary. . The ICAN Infant Safe Sleeping Task Force has received a \$1.5 million grant from First 5 LA for safe sleeping activities, which also include the popular but somewhat dormant Back to Sleep recommendations. MCHA will continue to keep the monthly meeting group informed of any major developments.

Reduced Fee ID Card

Senate Bill 1098 requires \$6.00 reduced fee ID card to an applicant who has been identified by a governmental or non-profit agency as meeting the eligibility requirements for public assistance programs. This fee reduction applies to: CalWORKs, General Relief, CalFresh/Food Stamps, Cash Assistance Program for Immigrants (CAPI) and California Food Assistance Program (CFAP), but NOT the Medi-Cal program. Normally the DMV fees for an ID are \$21.00. An agency may fill out the form and the applicant take the form to the DMV, with an original signature from someone representing a governmental or non-profit agency. MCHA will check into why Medi-Cal does not qualify as signifying the same low-income requirements, for many of the Medi-Cal programs, as the other programs named.

March of Dimes Commemorative Coin Act (S. 1935/ H.R. 3187)

Introduced by Representatives Robert Dold (R-IL) and Nita Lowey (D-NY) and Senators Kay Hagan (D-NC) and Susan Collins (R-ME), the legislation authorizes the U.S. Mint to strike up to 500,000 \$1 silver commemorative coins. A surcharge of \$10 added to the coin's cost will go to the March of Dimes. If all the coins are sold, over \$5 million would be directed toward improving the health of women, infants, and children by preventing birth defects, premature birth, and infant mortality through scientific research, community service, and education. The March of Dimes will match these funds through private contributions, generating a total of \$10 million for this worthy cause. The commemorative coin will be issued in honor of March of Dimes' 75th Anniversary in 2014.

Write your Members of Congress

Simply click [HERE](#) and follow the steps to urge your Representative and Senators to cosponsor the March of Dimes Commemorative Coin Act of 2011 (S. 1935 / H.R. 3187).

Sample Email to Send to Friends/Networks

Take One Minute to Raise \$5 Million for March of Dimes! The March of Dimes will soon be celebrating its 75th anniversary. As a part of this historic event, efforts are under way in Congress to mint a commemorative coin to recognize the landmark accomplishments made by the March of Dimes in maternal and child health. If passed, sales of this coin would generate about \$5 million for March of Dimes programs. In order to qualify for a vote, the coin legislation must have 290 cosponsors in the House of Representative and 67 cosponsors in the U.S. Senate. We're making progress, but this is a steep hill to climb-help us to urge Members of Congress to cosponsor the March of Dimes Commemorative Coin Act of 2011 (S. 1935 / H.R. 3187) today!

To send your letters to Congress, click [HERE](#) and click on the Take Action button. Enter your name and address in the field at the bottom of the page and click Send Message. You're done - and you've made a real difference for the March of Dimes!

List of California Cosponsors

Rep. Brian Bilbray (CA-50) Rep. Mary Bono Mack (CA-45) Rep. Jeff Denham (CA-19) Rep. Anna Eshoo (CA-14) Rep. Duncan Hunter (CA-52) Rep. Barbara Lee (CA-9) Rep. Kevin McCarthy (CA-22) Rep. Gary Miller (CA-42) Rep. Laura Richardson (CA-37) Rep. Lucille Roybal-Allard (CA-34) Rep. Jackie Speier (CA-12) Rep. Mike Thompson (CA-1)

Cut CalWORKS? NO!!! Cut CalWORKS fees instead!

During 2011, CalWORKs recipients paid \$20 million to access their grants. Statewide, the average cost for families to access their account in banks is \$35/year. The highest county in the state is San Francisco, which averages \$82/year; Los Angeles is third, at \$45/year. CCWRO notes that counties have failed to take steps to insure that CalWORKs recipients know how they may use their Electronic Benefits Transfer card without paying fees. For example, US Bank and Citibank do not impose a surcharge, nor do WalMart and Walgreens. A family may not live near one of these options, as well. To see the full article and table of costs, see www.ccwro.org, Welfare News for March 12, 2012. Issue #2012-05.

See the excellent testimony on CalWORKS recipients by the Coalition of California Welfare Rights Organizations (CCWRO) provided to the Assembly Budget Subcommittee No. 1 on Health and Human Services Assembly Member Holly Mitchell, Chair on Thursday, November 3, 2011 [HERE](#).

Bills in the CA State Legislature (more at meeting):

[AB 1640](#) (Mitchell)

would change the state's CalWORKs statute to allow for pregnant women (with no other children in the household) to become eligible for CalWORKs basic needs grants and full-scope 1931(b) Medi-Cal Managed Care benefits upon verification of the pregnancy.

[AB 1731](#) (Block)

AB 1731 would require a simple test that can detect CCHD before a baby shows signs of the condition and allow for babies with CCHD to receive the proper treatment and care they need to prevent disability or death. Congenital heart disease is the leading cause of infant deaths from birth defects. CCHD accounts for approximately one quarter of all congenital heart disease, affecting 4,800 babies born in the United States each year.

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