



Maternal and Child Health Access

In this mailing:

[Denti-Cal Cuts](#)

[Dental Operations, Health Net Health Plan](#)

[Healthy Families Open Enrollment date change](#)

[Breaking News from the UCLA Center for Health Policy Research](#)

[Minority, Low-Income Women in L.A. County Face Care Gaps](#)

[Federal Health Reform Update](#)

[State Budget Update: 2010-11](#)

[Advocacy Tip!...Federal Poverty Level](#)

[Contact MCHA](#)

Save the Dates!

April 26-27, 2010

California Partnership's Sacramento April Action Days
* Early Registration by March 29, 2010

- \$35 per person

* Late Registration by April 5, 2010

- \$45 per person

- Non Member Price -- \$50 per person: Please contact Astrid Campos
acampos@communitychange.org

March 24, 6-8 PM

MLK Medical Center Community Meeting

Ted Watkins Memorial Park Gymnasium 1335 E. 103rd St. Los Angeles, CA. 90002

Comments provided during the January 7th Community Planning [workshop are available here](#)

Please contact Karla Diaz at kdiaz@bos.lacounty.gov or 213 974-2222 with questions

Resources!

MCH Access monthly meeting:

We are in the process of expanding and will be moving around our meetings - check each month

Thursday, March 18, 10 AM - 12 noon

Moseley Salvatori Conference Center

Good Samaritan Hospital

637 S. Lucas Street

Los Angeles, CA 90017

(between 6th and Wilshire Streets)

Parking:

Free at MCH Access, enter on 5th St. to 2-story parking 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!

Topic:

Highlighting National Nutrition Month - focus on nutrition issues

federally and in California

Sheila Dina, RD, CLE, PHFE WIC

Donald Nollar, MCH Access

Updates and roundtable on issues in Medi-Cal for pregnant women - what are your top issues?

[We're on Facebook - become a fan!](#)

February's meeting - Denti-Cal Cuts

Toni Vargas, Staff Attorney, Neighborhood Legal Services

Ms. Vargas informed us that most routine dental care was cut for adults 21 years and older on Medi-Cal as of July 1, 2009. This includes services such as crowns, fillings, deep cleanings, fixed or temporary dentures. However, there are exceptions in populations who may get some or all services (nursing home residents, pregnant women) and exceptions in services that have not been cut for ANY adults: 152 "Federally Required Adult Dental Services" or FRADS. Examples are impacted tooth extractions, oral biopsies, drainage for an abscessed tooth, services to address malignancies. These 152 benefits are listed in Table 1 of the May [2009 Denti-Cal Provider Bulletin](#).

Other populations include children who are under 21 years of age and whose course of treatment is scheduled to continue after he/she turns 21 years of age, except for orthodontia which must end before the 21st birthday. All beneficiaries may receive "Dental Service Precedent to a Covered Medical Service" - Beneficiaries may receive dental services

Hesperian Foundation has a new version of "Where There Is No Doctor" in English and Spanish. To purchase the new 2010 edition of *Donde no hay doctor*, visit www.hesperian.org, or phone the book orders department toll free: 888/729-1796. Order five or more copies of any Hesperian book and receive a 20% discount

Pain and Suffering Shouldn't Be an Option: School-Based and School-Linked Oral Health Services for Children and Adolescents (fact sheet) provides information about the importance of good oral health during childhood and adolescence. Topics discussed include school readiness, disparities, oral trauma, nutrition, dental sealants, fluoride varnish, and school-based and school-linked services. The fact sheet is available [HERE](#). Single or multiple print copies of the fact sheet are also available at no charge from OHRC and can be ordered at [HERE](#).

Resource Highlights: Focus on School-Based and School-Linked Services provides a short list of high-quality journal articles, materials, and Web sites on this topic. Topics of other Resource Highlights include early childhood caries, fluoridated community water, Head Start, health literacy, and pregnancy and periodontal health. All Resource Highlights are available at [HERE](#).

[The Impact of Improved Air Quality on Hospital Spending.](#)

In an important follow up to recent research from California State University, Fullerton, the RAND Corporation released a new report that identifies how much the health care industry spends treating air pollution-related ER visits and

that are necessary (precedent) in order to undergo a covered medical service. The majority of these dental services are covered under the FRADS listed in Table 1. There is disagreement about whether this means precedent to receiving one of the 152 covered dental services or any medical service, such as a heart operation. Ms. Vargas discussed Treatment Authorization Requests, or TARs. Dentists are not aware of the existing covered benefits and try to charge patients. Always ask them to submit a TAR. If it is denied, it may be for procedural reasons - can't read X ray, full information not sent - rather than the need to deny the service itself. The #1 reason for TAR denials is incomplete or unreadable X rays.

In addition to the 152 services, pregnant women get another 10-13 preventive benefits during pregnancy and the postpartum period: exam, cleaning/deep cleaning, gum treatment/planning and occlusal adjustment. There is some confusion over other routine dental care for pregnant women - crowns, fillings, etc. The bulletin says covered services include "...services for the treatment of other conditions that might complicate the pregnancy" but some interpret that as the 152 services plus preventive services, since the language goes on to say that the procedure must be listed under Table 1 and Table 2.

Ms. Vargas ended by cautioning against use of dental credit cards, especially, "Care Credit" which can charge up to 30% interest. Dentists may put services on the credit cards instead of requesting treatment authorizations.

Sean O'Brien, Dental Operations, Health Net Health Plan

Mr. O'Brien spoke about Health Net's provision to Health Net Medi-Cal Managed Care Medi-Cal enrollees in Los Angeles, effective January 1, 2010. About 1/4 of Health Net's members are in Molina Medical; these new benefits are not included in Molina, only in Health Net.

Benefits include free exams, cleanings and X-rays twice yearly and low-cost fillings, crowns and root canals. The program is called HN21, or Health Net 21 and can be viewed [HERE](#). About 474 Primary Care Dentists are participating in the program. No assignment to a dentist is needed, however, for these dental services. Keep in mind this new program is for additional benefits not now provided in Denti-Cal. Medi-Cal beneficiaries still get Denti-Cal for the emergency and other services, which may or may not be with Health Net - a Medi-Cal recipient's dental benefits in LA are most likely Fee for Service, but may also be with one of 5 dental plans. About 70,000 people are with Health Net's dental plan.

Don Rhodes from First 5LA spoke of the need to fund oral health through fluoridation. First 5 has funding for fluoridation infrastructure to eligible water agencies that elect to bring their water to optimal levels of fluoride for increased dental health. However, not many are applying. Residents need to contact their various city councils in municipalities other than LA City and express their support for addressing optimal fluoridation. [CLICK HERE](#) to see site or contact Don Rhodes at drhodes@first4la.org

Upcoming changes in Healthy Kids

Healthy Kids, health coverage for children ineligible for Healthy Families or Medi-Cal, is considering the need to charge premiums of \$10-15 a month on the lowest income enrollees who have not paid anything in the past and increase premiums currently paid by higher income enrollees. The decision to impose premiums will be made soon, in the next month or so. [Healthy Kids is funded through June 30 and decision will be made soon about facing the need to end the program entirely for 16-18 year olds after that. If this happens, families will need to notified with a](#)

hospitalizations. RAND breaks the numbers down by payer, including private health insurers, Medi-Cal and Medicare. For example, RAND's report identifies how much Kaiser, Blue Cross, Medi-Cal, etc. spend treating air pollution-related ER visits and hospitalizations.

Positions!

MCH Access is hiring an Executive/Finance Assistant as well as positions for our Welcome, Baby! program-nurses and other home visitors [CLICK HERE](#) to see all! and the application process

Join Our List

[Join Our Mailing List!](#)

90-day notice, meaning letters would have to go out in April. MCH Access will let you know with a blast notice if either the premiums or end or program for 6-18 year olds takes place. We should have more information Thursday at our meeting.

Healthy Families Open Enrollment date change

Make sure your Healthy Families address is correct!

The Healthy Families Program allows families to change their health, dental, and vision plans each year. This is called "Open Enrollment" and is usually April 15th to May 31st of each year, with new plan transfer start dates of July 1st.

This year, the 2010 Open Enrollment period will **start July 15th and end August 31st** with new plan transfer start dates of October 1st. Before Open Enrollment begins, Healthy Families will send families Open Enrollment information in the mail. It is very important for families to contact Healthy Families if they have a change of address so that they receive their Open Enrollment information in the mail. In case of a move, families must give HFP their new address by calling 1-888-439-4741, even if Open Enrollment has not yet started.

Breaking News from the UCLA Center for Health Policy Research:

Nearly 2 Million Californians Lost Health Insurance During Recession

Researchers found that the number of uninsured likely increased among all age groups, even among children, despite their access to public health insurance safety-net programs.

The hardest hit, however, were California's working adults. From 2007 to 2009, the proportion of unemployed in California's workforce jumped from 5.4 percent to 12.3 percent. That increase contributed to the rapid rise in the number of uninsured adults, from 5.3 million to an estimated 6.8 million between 2007 and 2009 - a jump of nearly 6 percentage points.

The harsh economic conditions of 2008 and 2009 reduced the rate of job-based coverage to less than 50 percent for all non-elderly (under 65) Californians, according to adjusted estimates. [CLICK HERE](#) to see the news release and links to the report.

Minority, Low-Income Women in L.A. County Face Care Gaps

Low-income and minority women in Los Angeles County are significantly more likely to have chronic conditions and limited access to health care, according to a new report by the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health, [Health Indicators for Women in Los Angeles County](#). Researchers examined the percentage of women who had received mammograms during the previous two years and found that

- * 54% of uninsured women had received the screening;
- * 68% of women enrolled in Medi-Cal, California's Medicaid program, had received the test; and
- * 79% of women with private insurance had received a mammogram.

Researchers also found that Asian women were the least likely to receive mammograms, Pap tests and other types of preventive care.

The report noted that Hispanics had the lowest health status of women in all ethnic groups, with high obesity rates and high rates of death from

diabetes. Researchers found that more than one-third of Hispanic women lacked health insurance and 41% reported problems in accessing care. In addition, the report found that African-American women had the greatest health disparities and mortality rates compared with other ethnic groups. The report notes that African-American women are:

- * More likely to die from chronic diseases;
- * More likely to have sexually transmitted infections, including HIV/AIDS;
- * More than twice as likely to be obese as white women; and
- * Twice as likely to smoke as other women in the county.

The report also has a special one-page report on women with disabilities. Remember that Sen. Jenny Oropeza (D-Long Beach) has introduced legislation (SB 836) that would restore breast and cervical cancer screening that has been cut (Every Woman Counts program). It is set for a hearing in Senate Health on March 24 - get your letters in to her and the Senate Health Committee Chair Sen. Elaine Alquist.

Federal Health Reform Update

Thanks to the California Family Health Council for this breaking news! See their priorities list [HERE](#)

House leaders are predicting a vote on health care reform legislation by the end of the week, and they say that they expect by then to have the 216 votes to win the vote. (For vote count projections, check out the whip count being kept by The Hill.) If they're going to be able to hold to that, between now and then we'll see several steps forward:

- The Congressional Budget Office will release an estimate on how much it will cost to enact the Senate bill with the changes that the House and Senate agree to put in a reconciliation bill.
- The Congressional Budget Office will release an estimate on how much it will cost to enact the Senate bill with the changes that the House and Senate agree to put in a reconciliation bill, and the House Budget Committee will vote to clear the way for the House to act on a reconciliation bill.
- The House Rules Committee will post the changes included in the reconciliation bill on its website.
- The House Rules Committee will set the terms for how the House will vote on the reconciliation bill and the Senate bill. There isn't yet a decision about how to handle the votes - the question is whether the House will vote on the Senate bill separately from its vote on the reconciliation bill that modifies it.
- The full House will vote on both measures.

After that, the House will have done its job and the remaining steps will be for the Senate to pass the reconciliation bill and the President to sign both bills into law.

News reports for the last few days make it clear that the House leadership has committed itself to this attempt. The end to this battle to make affordable and reliable health care available to more people in the United States may be in sight.

So what can you do? Keep working! Keep raising your voice for health care that meets our needs! This might be your last chance to call your Representatives and tell them that women want health care reform that meets our needs, and we want it NOW! Please call your representative between 12-1p.m. tomorrow. You can find your Congressperson's contact information [HERE](#) and our Senators' contact information [HERE](#).

Also see Families USA's tool to help you make the case for health reform in CA. Please [CLICK HERE](#) to view, "Health Coverage in CA: How Will Health Reform Help?":

State Budget Update: 2010-11

Since the governor and legislature are at a "mini budget impasse", according to Senate Pro Tem Darryl Steinberg in the [Ventura County News](#), there is time to get our messages out opposing cuts to health and human services:

What to do?

- NOTE YOUR STORIES of people already hurt by cuts in place (optional benefits cuts, reductions in services, loss of Every Woman Counts coverage, overcrowding at DPSS, etc) for groups using stories (ask us if you're not aware), or for your own letters and visits.

- Join visits to your legislators - it doesn't take that long! see California Partnership/**Stop** the Cuts April 7, 3-5 PM CHIRLA Conference Room, 2533 W. 3rd St., Los Angeles, CA 90057 Contact Astrid Campos acampos@communitychange.org

Join Community Health Councils' visits and actions Contact: Shelia H. Claverie 323.295.9372 ext. 231 sheliac@chc-inc.org

- WRITE and CALL Governor and your lawmakers see www.legislature.ca.gov or Governor: www.gov.ca.gov
Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger
State Capitol Building
Sacramento, CA 95814
Phone: 916-445-2841
Fax: 916-558-3160 (new number) or

Los Angeles Office
300 South Spring Street
Suite 16701
Los Angeles, CA 90013
Phone: 213-897-0322
Fax: 213-897-0319

Advocacy Tip!

Federal Poverty Level No New Federal Poverty Guidelines...
Yet... Extension of the 2009 Poverty Guidelines

Congress usually releases new Federal Poverty Guidelines in January to go into effect on April 1st. This year Congress has not yet released new Guidelines and has taken action to keep the 2009 poverty guidelines in effect until at least March 31, 2010, and perhaps beyond. Congressional actions on this matter have been in response to a decrease in the annual average Consumer Price Index (CPI-U) for 2009. In the absence of legislative change, this decrease-the first since the poverty guidelines began to be issued in 1965-would have required HHS to issue 2010 poverty guidelines that were lower than the 2009 poverty guidelines; that would have led to the "reduction in eligibility" for many means tested programs. Congress took several actions on this matter:

1. On December 19, 2009, Congress enacted and the President signed the Department of Defense Appropriations Act, 2010 (Pub. L. 111-118), which stated that the Secretary of Health and Human Services shall not publish updated poverty guidelines for 2010 before March 1, 2010, and the poverty guidelines published under such section on January 23, 2009, shall remain in effect until updated poverty

guidelines are published.

2. On March 2, 2010, Congress enacted and the President signed the Temporary Extension Act of 2010 (Pub. L. 111-144), which extends the 2009 poverty guidelines until at least March 31, 2010.

We will provide updated information about the post-March-31 period when it becomes available.

For the complete text on the Department of Health and Human Services web site please [CLICK HERE](#).

For a chart of the 2009 federal poverty level amounts for various health programs please [CLICK HERE](#).

Contact us

Maternal and Child Health Access

1111 W. 6th St., Fourth Floor

Los Angeles, CA 90017

213 749 4261 phone

213 745 1040 fax

info@mchaccess.org email

[Forward email](#)

SafeUnsubscribe®

This email was sent to marting@mchaccess.org by info@mchaccess.org.
[Update Profile/Email Address](#) | Instant removal with [SafeUnsubscribe™](#) | [Privacy Policy](#).

Email Marketing by



Maternal and Child Health Access | 1111 W. 6th St., Fourth Floor | Los Angeles | CA | 90017