



Maternal and Child Health Access

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**MCH Access Monthly Meeting, Thursday, May 17, 2007 10 AM – 12 noon
NEW LOCATION for MAY! Come and celebrate Women's Health Month!**

The California Endowment
1000 North Alameda Street – just North of Cesar Chavez Ave.
Los Angeles, CA 90012 - Tel: (800) 449-4149

FREE PARKING !

**Guest Speaker: Barbara Facher and Eli Dellor, The Alliance for Children's Rights
"Medi-Cal for children leaving or entering the foster care system – You CAN help"
Updates**

Women's Health Issues and Resources: Honoring Dr. Helen Rodriguez-Trias

Note: the monthly mailing is available on line, to better access long hyperlinks, at <http://www.mchaccess.org/meetings.htm>

In this mailing:

- The Deficit Reduction Act (requiring citizens to prove citizenship for Medi-Cal). A window of opportunity exists to fight this issue at the federal level – use it!
- New income charts as of 4-1-07
- Weds. May 23 – Getting Emergency Contraception in LA – Town Hall Meeting
- Fri, May 25 – “The Natural Laws of Breastfeeding: New Paradigms and Teaching Tools” Northridge Hosp. Med. Center
- Weds May 30, 9-11 AM – Welfare Reform Network discusses Governor's budget and effects on CalWORKs and other programs
- Tues. May 22: Vaccines, Viruses & Cancer

Materials distributed, except dated flyers, on 3-15-07 (call for copies)

- Save the Date Thurs May 24 2007 Women's Health Policy Summit
From Guest Speaker Barbara Siegel:
- Presumptive Disability Impairment Categories
- Copies of slide show
- MCH-Related Proposed Legislation list (on PAC/LAC's and MCHA's websites)

- Children's Defense Fund - Healthy Child Campaign information (H.R. 1688)

Guest Speaker: Barbara Siegel, Health Consumer Center, Neighborhood Legal Services, "Medi-Cal Presumptive DISability"

Barbara gave an excellent presentation, with slides (available upon request – call Angela) about changes in Presumptive Disability – getting Presumptive Medi-Cal on the basis of disability. Disability for purposes of Medi-Cal means a person is unable to engage in Substantial Gainful Activity (except for clients who are blind), who has a “medically determinable” physical or mental impairment that is expected to last for continuous 12 months or result in death in 12 months.

Presumptive Disability (PD) Medi-Cal is extremely important because the route for Disability Medi-Cal takes so long (usually more than 3 months). Some people have a high likelihood of being found disabled and need a way to receive services before Medi-Cal is granted. The application is done at DPSS, with verification from a medical provider (signed and dated). DPSS must complete and submit a Disability and Adult Programs Division (DAPD) packet at the

same time. Medi-Cal can be granted immediately if proper verification of disability is provided and client is otherwise eligible (income) for Medi-Cal.

A little-known fact is that an “urgent” category exists – if the client is in dire need of an immediate disability decision because of a condition that will prevent work activity for 12 months, and the disability is NOT on the PD list, PD can be granted. **Please note** that Category 14 on the list distributed is wrong – there is no need for an individual to be receiving hospice services in order to get PD for a terminal illness. Terminal illness in itself is enough. The entire list of categories was sent in the April mailing or see <http://www.dhs.ca.gov/mcs/mcpd/meb/MediCalEligibilityProceduresManual/MEPMUpdates/Updates/Updateletters/301-325/c304.pdf>

For Technical Assistance with cases, call Michelle Lilienfeld (818)492-5246 or Barbara Siegel (818) 834-7572. Clients may call the Health Consumer Center (800) 896-3203.

Updates

The Deficit Reduction Act (DRA) requirement for citizens applying for or redetermining Medi-Cal to provide proof of citizenship/birth and identity is still not in effect in California but is looming closer. The state has said, “June” with no fixed date. Please note that many, many categories of applicants and those undergoing annual redetermination will NOT have to provide such proof. Because the rules are not yet final, we cannot list with certainty who is included in those categories.

Keep checking our website, the Health Consumer Center website, (healthconsumer.org) or LA Health Action (www.lahealthaction.org) MCHA and the HCC will send information to our list serves. **Be sure we have your e-mail address – sign up at our next meeting or send it to marting@mchaccess.org with the subject note, “for alerts”.**

We are requesting letters to our state senators Barbara Boxer and Dianne Feinstein, and Senator Max Baucus, with cc’s to our Sec. of HHS, Kim Belshe because an opportunity exists to impact federal legislation to give

states the option to impose citizenship documentation or not – California almost certainly would not. Those states that do implement could not impose rules more restrictive than those used by Social Security. See addresses on the flyer for our senators, and below for Max Baucus and Kim Belshe:

Sen. Max Baucus
511 Hart Senate Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

cc: Kim Belshe, Secretary
Health and Human Services
1600 Ninth St. R. 460
Sacramento, CA. 95814

Presumptive Eligibility issues for pregnant women have risen to the forefront for MCHA recently. We have distributed two state analysts names and numbers:

Please let us know 1) the problems your client(s) experience and 2) if you do not get assistance with these either of these two analysts Lynn or Debra (213) 749-4261 or (lynnk@mchaccess.org)

Current analyst: Cynthia Cannon (916) 552-9499. Prior analyst, as backup: Cindy Lawrence (916) 552-9489

First time (usually) pregnancies that change to 1931(b) at 6th months.

Another issue for us is the change that takes place when a woman who has pregnancy-related only Medi-Cal qualifies for full-scope Medi-Cal in her sixth month of pregnancy. Her pregnancy care can be interrupted by the mandatory managed care enrollment that takes place with full-scope Medi-Cal. Please let us know (lynnk@mchaccess.org)

The Women’s Policy Institute is accepting applications for its fifth class of fellows. The Institute seeks to increase the number of community-based women leaders in California actively involved in shaping and implementing policies that affect the health and well-being of women and girls. Deadline for applications is June 14, 2007.

http://www.womensfoundca.org/site/c.aqKGLROAIrH/b.982363/k.A67F/WPI_How_to_Apply.htm