



Maternal and Child Health Access

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Next MCH Access Monthly Meeting:

This Thursday, May 19, 2011 10 AM - 12 noon

Location:

Note New Location this month: United American Indian Involvement, Inc. Community Center
1125 W. 6th St. Los Angeles, CA 90017
(in the building next to ours - 1st Floor)

Speakers

Focus on Moms! Data from the LA Mothers and Babies Survey - Margaret Shin Chao, Chief, Research, Evaluation and Planning, LAC Maternal, Child and Adolescent Health Dept.

May "Revise" information- Healthy Families proposed to be folded into Medi-Cal early next year - and legislative info from MCHA

Mothers and Babies - how are they doing in LA?
How will they fare with state and federal budget cuts?

May is Perinatal Depression Awareness Month, National Foster Care Month & National Physical Education Month!

Parking:

Free at MCH Access, enter on 5th St. to 2-story parking (between Lucas and Bixel) and walk across alley to 1125

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From March 17, 2011 meeting (no meeting in April)

Please call for copies, if necessary...

- MCHA hiring Case Manager for East Los Angeles - California's Children Suffer from Budget Cuts- www.governing.com/blogs/view/In-Budget-Crisis-Californias-Children-Suffer.html
- Fiver on text messaging service for tips, facts and news

HEALTH REPORT

CONTACT US

RESOURCES

The A Trusted Voice: Leveraging the Local Experience of Community Based Organizations in Implementing the Affordable Care Act [Click here](#) to read the full report and recommendations for utilizing the existing talent and networks throughout our state to enroll thousands Californians into health coverage now and beyond 2014. Click here

\$102 million in Community Transformation Grants (CTGs) from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) HHS today announced the availability of \$102 million for projects aimed at reducing chronic diseases like asthma and diabetes. Created as part of the Prevention Fund in the 2010 Affordable Care Act (ACA), the CTGs aim to reduce health disparities in areas that are disproportionately impacted by preventable health conditions. Up to 75 awardees will

about poison prevention - California's Poison Control System

- Poster of poisonous plants
- Powerpoint presentation on 1115 waiver and Medi-Cal for Seniors and People with Disabilities
- Packet of flyers and letters sent to Seniors and People with Disabilities

Guest Speaker: March 17: Barbara Siegel, "How You Can Help Seniors and People with Disabilities Ride the Wave"

Barbara Siegel, Neighborhood Legal Services
818-834-7572 or Katie Murphy, 818-492-5245 for assistance to agencies or to schedule this presentation.

Barbara Siegel spoke to us of the change in Medi-Cal for Seniors and People with Disabilities (SPD). This change was brought about by California's 1115 waiver. A waiver allows states to waive, or suspend, certain federal rules in order to try something new. California will use the waiver to:

- Expand county health coverage
- Fund public hospital infrastructure
- Cover uncompensated care costs in public hospitals
- Require most Seniors and People with Disabilities on Medi-Cal to join managed care plans

SPDs should receive in the mail:

- an information notice 90 days before their birthday month
- a telephone call from Health Care Options 60-90 days before their birthday month
- an enrollment packet 60 days before their birthday month
- a reminder call to return the enrollment packet

Enrollment will be over a 12 month period according to the beneficiary's birthday month, starting with MAY birthdays. Advocates and others participating in planning for the new requirement for SPD beneficiaries had understood that the change would start taking place in June. MCHA had a client who received a letter in March requiring a choice by May. Upon investigation, HCC learned that the state planned to require actual enrollment in managed care plans in June. These letters were sent starting in March. Not all beneficiaries even received their full 90 day notice. Advocates and others complained and we understand that new letters were issued.

Ms. Siegel discussed which groups MUST enroll, who is exempted from mandatory enrollment and how an individual can request an exemption, even if they are mandated to enroll. Continuity of Care is supposed to be maintained if someone's provider does not work with managed care plans. For this population, beneficiaries may join a plan and continue to see the non-plan provider for up to 12 months under certain circumstances. Mental health services will still be provider through the Local Mental Health Plan, LA County. Ms. Siegel also addressed the plan complaint process - grievance systems, Department of Managed Health Care, appeal and fair hearing rights

receive funds through the CTG initiative for projects focused on:

- 1) tobacco-free living
- 2) active living and healthy eating
- 3) increased use of high impact quality clinical preventive services
- 4) social and emotional wellness, such as mental health needs
- 5) healthy and safe physical environments

States, local governments, nonprofit organizations, territories, and Tribal and American Indian/Alaska Native Consortia are all eligible for the 5-year grants. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) will be hosting an informational call on May 25, 2011 from 10:00 to 11:00 am Pacific Time. The call can be accessed at 1-888-972-9343, with the passcode 8899773. For more information on the CTGs go to [click here](#): or via email at: ctg@cdc.gov

SAVE THE DATE

Sat., May 21: National Kids to Parks Day
As the weather warms up, there is no better way to fit in your physical

Please utilize HCC and MCHA if you have questions about the experience of any of your clients, family or friends in this transition.

Informational webinars on Medi-Cal changes for SPD

DHCS has worked with the California Health Care Foundation and the Center for Health Care Strategies to coordinate 90-minute informational webinars in May 2011 to provide information about the upcoming change to advocates and organizations that serve seniors and people with disabilities.

- May 19, 2011, 9:00 AM - 10:30 AM
- May 20, 2011, 11:00 AM - 12:30 PM
- May 23, 2011, 10:00 AM - 11:30 AM
- May 25, 2011, 10:00 AM - 11:30 AM
- May 25, 2011, 12:30 PM - 2:00 PM

Five sessions will be held to give a variety of options for participation. Please only sign up for one as space is limited: Starting June 2011, California's Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) is requiring MOST people with disabilities and seniors who have Medi-Cal only (not Medicare) to enroll in a Medi-Cal managed care plan. This webinar will provide information regarding the enrollment process and available health plan choices within each county. A major purpose of the webinar is to address technical questions from California stakeholders who will be assisting individuals with the health plan transitional process.

Ensuring that information is accessible to all participants is a priority. All calls will be hosted using the teleconferencing system Elluminate Live, designed to enable users with disabilities to fully participate.

A link to archived recordings of the webinars, including sign language interpretation and closed captioning, will be posted on DHCS' website following the webinar sessions.

How do I register? To register go to the following website Medi-Cal Informational Webinar <http://www.zoomerang.com/Survey/WEB22CA8FX5A7N/> . If you need assistance or have questions regarding the registration process please email Erica Smith, Online Communications Associate (CHCS) at esmith@chcs.org.

Governor's May Revise eliminates MRMIB and other Boards, moves children from Healthy Families into Medi-Cal

The ink is not yet dry on the documents, and the "Trailer Bill Language" giving details about the proposals are not yet out. Therefore, we will work to have additional details at Thursday's MCHA meeting. Remember that the Governor's May Revise is a revision of his own budget released in January, and takes into account additional revenue or debt from tax collections in April. It is only his proposal and must pass the legislature. Here is an excerpt:

activity than to get moving outside! Saturday, May 21st is the first annual National Kids to Parks Day. Hosted by the National Park Trust, the goal of this day is to encourage parents and caregivers to take children to a park or open space near them to get active, and have fun. This is also a great time to sign up for the Let's Move Outside! PALA program. More than 150 Let's Move!

Cities and Towns mayors have signed proclamations announcing Kids to Parks Day in their communities.

Sat. May 21, 10 AM - 3 PM- "Because I have a Voice" Why Your Voice Counts. Step by Step Advocacy to Make Your Voice Heard RSVP to Yamilet Guerra by May 16 818-267-2676
The Help Group
13130 Burbank Blvd.
Sherman Oaks, CA 91401
yguerra@thehelpgroup.org

Sunday, May 22, 10 AM-3 PM Speak Up When You're Down Family Day! Buffalo Fire Department 1261 Cabrillo Ave. Torrance, CA. 90501 Featuring Babies' Diaper Dash, Kids' Races, Live Music, Face Painting, Burgers, Fries and More!

All proceeds to benefit the [LA Perinatal Mental Health Taskforce](#)

EMPLOYMENT

MCH Access is hiring a Case Manager for our Perinatal

Cut state government. The revised budget eliminates 43 boards, commissions, task forces, offices and departments that represent an inefficient use of taxpayer dollars. As services are returned to the local level, the Departments of Mental Health and Alcohol and Drug Programs will be eliminated. The revised budget also proposes to merge the Healthy Families Program into the Medi-Cal program, reducing costs and creating a single health care program for low income families.

MRMIB responded with an Open Letter on its website: **An Open Letter regarding the 2011-12 May Revision Proposal regarding the Future of the Managed Risk Medical Insurance Board**

The May Revision can be found here: <http://www.ebudget.ca.gov/> It is presented in sections; the Health and Human Services summary is about 16 pages.

Healthy Kids Program Extended

First 5 LA has been grappling with how to address its losses in the current state budget - its budget will be slashed in half this July 1, 2011, pending several legal challenges to the state legislature's action. Nevertheless, the Commission, to its credit, voted last Thursday to maintain funding for the Healthy Kids program. In related news, see in the Resource section a new report on the value of trusted community-based organizations in the Affordable Care Act.

Below is the press release from First 5 LA, Thursday May 12, 2011:

First 5 LA Commission Extends Funding for Children's Health Insurance with up to \$9 Million

Los Angeles---The First 5 LA Commission, the largest local funder of children's health insurance in Los Angeles County, LOS ANGELES voted to continue its investment in the Healthy Kids Program up to \$9 million for one year. First5 LA funding will provide Los Angeles County's most vulnerable population, families with children 5 and under, with a comprehensive and affordable health coverage program.

In light of AB99, the budget bill that shifts half of reserve funds from each First 5 commission to the State, First 5 LA stands to lose \$424 million. This means new decisions for the Commission on which programs should be extended.

While the Healthy Kids Program was approved earlier as part of the First 5 Los Angeles Strategic Plan through 2015, the Commission's approval for continued funding was made after reexamination of the current budget restraints.

"The Commission's continued funding will ensure that children currently covered by the Healthy Kids insurance will maintain coverage," said First 5 LA Commissioner Jane Boeckmann, who introduced the motion. "At this critical transitional juncture when all First 5 LA-funded projects are under review and evaluation, we cannot send the message that dropping a health insurance program that has successfully filled the void for young children

Outreach in East Los Angeles. See all positions

[HERE](#).

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the most vulnerable, is acceptable."

By law, First 5 LA funds may only be used for children 5 years and under and to date 21,252 youngsters in that age group have been enrolled in Healthy Kids. The program covers children who are not otherwise eligible for state-sponsored insurance, such as Healthy Families and Medi-Cal.

In 2003, First 5 LA committed \$100 million over five years to establish the Healthy Kids Program in partnership with LA Care Health Plan and the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health. Since then, First 5 LA funding has continued annually. L.A. Care, the largest public health plan in the country serves more than 220,000 children ages 0 to 5, and recent studies by the Urban Institute and the Center for Community Health Studies show that such coverage and access to care has resulted in statistically significant drops in avoidable hospitalizations and school absences.

"In the wake of significant cuts in state-funded health care programs and the potential for even more reductions, First 5 LA Commissioners have deep concerns for the need to provide quality health care for the county's young children," said Evelyn V. Martinez, chief executive officer of First 5 LA. "The Healthy Kids Program brings important health benefits to children across the county. As a result, they are less likely to end up in the emergency room with untreated illness or health threats due to chronic conditions, such as asthma."

From Amnesty International:

Deadly Delivery: The Maternal Health Care Crisis in the USA - One Year Update, Spring, 2011

After the last year of work to move forward the recommendations made in Amnesty International's report, "Deadly Delivery: The Maternal Health Care Crisis in the USA", we are pleased to announce the release of a new one-year update report. As you know, it has been a banner year for work on maternal health, and our new update highlights important new studies and legislative developments. You can view the report at <http://www.amnestyusa.org/pdf/DeadlyDeliveryOneYear.pdf> We are releasing this report as one part of a broader push around Mother's Day -- we welcome you to learn more at <http://www.amnestyusa.org/mothersday>

Recent Cuts Have Contributed to a Decline in Children Insured by the Healthy Families Program

5-13-11 A new California Budget Project analysis shows that the cumulative impact of cuts made to the Healthy Families Program amounts to more than \$430 million between 2008-09 and 2011-12. The reduction to Healthy Families during this period has contributed to more than 50,000 children losing Healthy Families coverage.

In addition to cutting Healthy Families, the Legislature has

reversed longstanding policies, including those designed to protect children during a period when private coverage has declined. These reductions have left Healthy Families ill-equipped to cope with the ongoing impact of the Great Recession and the challenges of a growing population.

[To read more...](#)

From Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky's Weekly Web Flash - Mother's Day, 2011

It's not easy being Mom

Motherhood, L.A.-style, has its ups and downs. Public health officials surveyed thousands of new moms and got an earful: Depression, obesity, unplanned pregnancies-and oh, those aching teeth.

[Read more...](#)

From the California Health Care Foundation: Maternal Mortality Rates on the Rise in California, Report Finds

April 27, 2011 - State officials have released a report finding that pregnancy-related deaths in California increased significantly between 1999 and 2008, from eight deaths per 100,000 live births to 14 deaths per 100,000 live births. Los Angeles Times' "Booster Shots" et al.

[Read more...](#)

From UCLA - Health DATAbytes

Just how bad is the air in Los Angeles?

Porsche Johnson is the Community Relations Manager for the UCLA Center for Health Policy Research.

According to the new "State of the Air 2011" report by the American Lung Association, it's the worst in the nation. Although progress is being made, many areas of the county, especially disadvantaged neighborhoods (commonly situated along rail corridors and near freeways, factories and refineries) still have unacceptably high rates of asthma and other air pollution-related ailments. In Los Angeles alone, 165,892 children have asthma.

[Read the report...](#)

New Analysis: Women Stand to Gain Big Under Health Reform

Once it is fully implemented in 2014, the Affordable Care Act is expected to cover nearly all of the estimated 27 million working-age women who were uninsured for some time in 2010, a new [Commonwealth Fund analysis](#) finds. Women also stand to benefit from free coverage of preventive care services like mammograms

small business tax credits, new affordable coverage options and premium subsidies, and insurance market reforms, including a ban on charging women higher premiums.

The Fund analysis finds that women are in need of these reforms now more than ever. In 2010, nearly half of women ages 19 to 64 skipped needed care because of the cost, up from one-third in 2001. Meanwhile, health care costs are swallowing a greater share of women's incomes, with low- and moderate-income women most affected.

Read the [issue brief](#) to learn more about the health care struggles facing millions of U.S. women today and how the new law will bring relief.

Also see a related [blog post](#) and download the charts in [Chart Cart](#).

Contact us:

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