



Maternal and Child Health Access

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Next MCH Access Meeting: Thursday, Nov. 17, 2005, 10–12 noon
(Third Thursday Monthly)
1111 W. 6th St., Fourth Fl. Parking in back, enter 2-story parking on 5th St.

Data Update:

Guest Speakers: Margaret Chao, LAC/DHS MCAH -
“Los Angeles Mommies and Babies Project (LAMB)”

Speaker from Public Health Foundation Enterprises, Inc., WIC - “WIC Data Mining Project”
Updates: Dental Care for pregnant women, Gateways, health programs and services

November is Prematurity Awareness Month: Go to www.marchofdimes.com and for awareness bracelets: www.wristbands4awareness.com/marchofdimes

In this mailing:

- **WIC data mining website – postcard**
- **LAMB survey info – the Public’s Health 4/05**
- **Jan 18-20: March of Dimes Annual Conf.**
- **Healthy Kids - room in some geographic areas**
- **Healthy Kids – how to help kids on wait list**
- **DPSS phone hours end! Attend your local DPSS district meeting and find out more.**
- **MCH Access training calendar**

Materials: October meeting (call for copies):

- **Prop. 73 Ballot Measure Summary**
- **Campaign for Teen Safety – flyer**
- **Young Women of Color and Prop. 73**
- **Prop. 79 Ballot Measure Summary**
- **Press Release re: Prop. 79**
- **WCLP and NHeLP materials on Prop. 79**
- **Brochure, “Fit for Business” Women’s Sports Foundation and Advanta: www.advanta.com/fit**
- **Denti-Cal Bulletin: \$1800 limit per calendar year for adults (some exclusions) begins 2006**
- **211 Information Line**
- **National Call-In Days flyer**
- **MCH Access Training Calendar**
- **“Out of Balance” publication by California Pan-Ethnic Health Network on junk food marketing www.cpehn.org**
- **Healthy Kids – Enrollment Changes**

Speaker: Bethany Leal, California Women’s Law Center - Proposition 73

Proposition 73 would amend the California Constitution to require that a physician notify, with certain exceptions, a parent or legal guardian of a pregnant minor at least 48 hours before performing an abortion. According to various studies, the majority of young women do notify their parents. There are two types of young women who may be reluctant to tell parents – not just those who have been told or know their parents “would kill them”. Another group is those who are held in high esteem by their parents and feel it would “kill” them – the girls don’t want to be failures. Focus groups held about the issue of confidentiality and telling parents reveal that 47% of teens would not seek any services at all and only 1% would stop having sex. What the initiative would cause is a delay in the ability to get an abortion – making an abortion less safe. The initiative also adds the definition of a fetus as a child to the state constitution, which would have an impact on the ability of all women, not just teens, to get an abortion. Some 25 states have notification laws. In 1997 the California Supreme Court recognized the potential health hazards of parental notification laws, that “minors are often unwilling to inform their parents of medical conditions due to their sexual conduct. Whether due to fear or embarrassment, this leads minors to avoid treatment if they are forced to notify their parents.” In addition, new federal laws have made it a crime to take a minor across a border to another state for the purpose of seeking an

abortion, making it difficult to assist young women to obtain services in another state without such restrictions, such as Nevada. At the time of the meeting, the initiative was tied in the polls. Initiatives usually don't pass without at least 60% approval this close to the election. However, the "Campaign for Teen Safety (NO on 73) is not taking anything for granted and is phone banking nightly in various places.
NOTE: Proposition 73 failed to pass.

Proposition 79 – Lynn explained that speakers were invited but no one was available from the initiative supporters to speak. Prop. 79 would provide drug discounts to Californians with qualifying incomes. It would be funded by state-negotiated drug manufacturer rebates. It prohibits Medi-Cal contracts with manufacturers who don't provide the Medicaid best price to the state. Lynn explained that many good consumer organizations support this initiative, however, MCHA's concerns are shared by the Western Center on Law and Poverty and the National Health Law Program, two of the biggest and most well-respected consumer and legal organizations working with low-income people: the elimination of drugs from the Medi-Cal formulary (list of approved drugs) if the manufacturers do not give the state discounts. Medically fragile, low-income families, children and pregnant women could be denied access to prescribed medications and/or would be forced to overcome additional obstacles to receive prescribed medicines. Health Access, the sponsor of the initiative, used this approach in legislation that was defeated this year. While the goal of discounting prescription drugs is laudable, this is not the way to achieve it.

NOTE: Proposition 79 failed to pass, as did Proposition 78, a prescription drug initiative supported by pharmaceutical companies.

Healthy Kids – Liz Ramirez: The wait list for children age 6 and over is over 4,000. Liz walked us through the alternatives for children who are waiting to get into Healthy Kids (see enclosed) and discussed new funding for a subset of the wait list in the "Centinela Valley" catchment area.

Dental Update: Lynn Kersey addressed two dental issues:

1) As part of the state budget bill, dental care for adults will be limited to a total of \$1,800 per

beneficiary for each calendar year. Several exceptions are notable: pregnant women, dentures, emergency dental care, dental implants, services for those in long term care and services for those in dental plans. For those who might fall under the monetary cap, it is important to get dental work done before the end of this year.
2) Ten dental care prevention services and treatments enacted in 2002 for four non-full scope pregnancy aid codes will be expanded to additional aid codes for pregnant women. This will be effective as of the release of a Dental Provider Bulletin, hopefully this month, and services can be billed retroactively to Oct. 7, 2005 when the bill, SB 377 (Ortiz), was signed. Please call Lynn, Liz, Celia or Donald for information if you have specific questions and we will get the information out as soon as we get it. Dental care for pregnant women is important in the prevention of premature birth. It is fitting that this expansion be made known during Prematurity Prevention month!

School Board Vote: Nov. 22

The Healthy School Food Coalition of the Center for Food and Justice is working on a new campaign to pass the Cafeteria Reform Motion. It was introduced to the LAUSD Board by President Marlene Cantor a few weeks ago and will be voted on November 22nd. The motion calls for increased participation in school meal programs by ensuring that students have sufficient time to eat, increasing nutritional standards of the food served, offering healthier options and viewable nutritional information in order to facilitate students' ability to make healthy choices.

If you would like more information or your organization would be willing to sign a letter of support, please contact Catherine Packer or Francesca de la Rosa at 323 341 5097.

You can also attend the School Board Vote on the motion on November 22 at 5pm at the LAUSD Board of Education 333 South Beaudry Avenue, 10th Floor, Los Angeles.

Information and copies of the motion at the MCHA meeting.

Save the Date:

Tues. Jan. 24, 2-3:30: Children's Health Initiative Community Forum, LA Care (watch for flyer)