



Maternal and Child Health Access

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MCH Access Monthly Meeting: Thursday, November 18 (Third Thus. monthly)

10 AM – 12 Noon

1111 W. 6th St., Fourth Floor - Free parking in back, entering 2-story lot on 5th St.

**Presentation on issues at King-Drew Medical Center post Beilenson hearing:
Sylvia Drew Ivie, The Steering Committee on the Future of King-Drew Medical Center**

Other speakers to be confirmed

Update on MCH-related legislation passed alone or in budget this year.

In this mailing:

• **BEILENSEN HEARING 3 PM MONDAY NOVEMBER 15:** A Beilenson Hearing must be held whenever there is a closure or reduction in services. The one on Monday is limited by the County to King-Drew's trauma center and does not address other de facto and planned reductions and closures.

• Los Angeles Times, 10-27-04, "Survey Finds Gains, Losses in Child Welfare" Report from the Children's Planning Council. Download or order from www.childrensplanningcouncil.org

• Nov. 30, Children's Health Initiative Community Forum: learn the latest about the Healthy Kids program and statewide efforts

• Dec. 3, "Making Breastfeeding Work: Why, Who and How" Sponsor - Breastfeeding Task Force of Greater Los Angeles

Dec. 5, 12-15: Support handcrafted items made by women from MCHA at Self-Help Graphics!

• Kaiser Family Foundation: Women's Health Insurance Coverage Fact Sheet

• 10-18-04, *Wall St. Jrl*, "Prenatal Care is Latest State Cut in Services for Illegal Immigrants"

• 10-18-04, *Los Angeles Times*, "Lung damage from dirty air starts early"

• Jan 19-21, Fifth Annual March of Dimes Professional Conference: Preventing Birth Defects and Infant Mortality - Prematurity: Minimizing Risk and Maximizing Outcome

Materials from 10-21-04 (call for copies):

• Premium payment information from MRMIB

• Fight the Flu: Handwashing Lesson plans for various grade levels, coloring book pages

• Publication announcement from Institute for the Study of Homelessness and Poverty, "Just the Facts: Homelessness in Los Angeles"

• **Events:**

• Oct. 26, Event: "Funding California's Trauma Care: Findings from the Follow Up Report to the Legislature"

Oct. 26, Event: "International Caravan for Justice in Juarez and Chihuahua".

Oct. 26, Event: "Policy Wrongs and Immigrant Rights" at CARECEN

• Oct. 26, Event: "Domestic Violence Through the Lifespan" CA Hospital Medical Center

• Oct. 27: Parent Workshop on infants and toddlers featuring Dr. Harvey Karp

• Oct. 29: "Second Annual Health Worker Conference"

• Nov. 1-4, Fundraiser for Young and Healthy, Pasadena, at Green Street Cafe

Nov. 12, Conference Flyer, "Understanding, Deepening and Practicing the Philosophy of Non-Violent Parenting"

• Nov. 13, Conference Flyer, "The Obesity Epidemic: Practical Approaches to Prevention and Management" Hilton Universal City

Jan. 27: Save the Date: Statewide Early Intervention Mental Health Services Conference. LA Child Guidance Clinic.

• Non-partisan "Get Out the Vote" materials from LA Coalition to End Hunger and Homelessness

- Non-partisan, “Who Cares about Voting” Ballot summary from Liberty Hill Foundation
- Oct. 18, *The Nation* Magazine, “LA’s Liberty Vote”
- Voter education materials from speakers on Propositions 63, 67, 71, 72 and Measure O.

Update on ballot initiatives:

Proposition 72, the Health Care Coverage Requirements Referendum was presented by Idabelle Fosse of Health Access. She presented that Prop. 72 would cover 1.3 million uninsured by requiring their employers (large companies in 2006 and medium-sized in 2007) to either buy health insurance or pay into a fund to provide such insurance. Employers would have to pay 80% of the cost. 72 is supported by California Medical Association and American Association of Retired Persons, and many unions. Opposition includes Target, WalMart, Macy’s and MacDonalds. Lynn pointed out that the 1.3 uninsured counted also included those on or eligible for Medi-Cal and Healthy Families, and that some of MCHA’s concerns were with how and whether those low-income workers paid into insurance and what they received for their money.

At the time of the meeting, Prop. 72 was ahead but with 29% of the voters undecided.

Proposition 67, the Emergency Care Initiative, was presented by Debra Ward of the Community Clinic Association of Los Angeles. It would increase telephone taxes to pay for services at clinics and hospitals. It is supported by medical, firefighters and emergency physicians associations, among others, and opposed by phone companies and the California Chamber of Commerce.

Proposition 63, the Mental Health Initiative, was presented by Dena Bloomgarden of Mental Health Advocacy Association of Los Angeles. Prop 63 would tax Californians making over \$1 million annual income to fund mental health programs, such as the community-based programs funded by AB 2034 in the past and the recently de-funded, “Children’s System of Care”. Over \$1 billion would be raised. Anti-tax organizations are opposed.

Proposition 71, the California Stem Cell Research and Cures Initiative, was represented by a video presentation from Yes on 71 and

materials from the Pro-Choice Alliance Against Prop 71. The latter group is in support of stem cell research and embryonic stem cell research, but opposes the cost to taxpayers, the interested parties who will gain financially and the limitations on the kind and sites for research that will be funded.

Prop. 71 was ahead in the polls at the time.

Nancy Berlin, of the LA Coalition to End Hunger and Homelessness, discussed ways to assist clients and low-income people to vote. Absentee ballots could still be requested at this time. Early voting is also taking place at various places around Los Angeles, non precinct-specific.

Premium Amount to MRMIB: Donald Nollar spoke to an issue that has come up, confusion about the amount of premium to send in the Healthy Families application. In a May, 2004 CAA newsletter article, on MRMIB website, entitled, “Unsure of premium amount? Send \$9 to be safe.” it was suggested, but not required that families send in \$9. This had been interpreted and even enforced erroneously as a requirement. A family they never has to send more money than required.

New since meeting: A merger of Anthem and WellPoint Health Networks has been approved by California Insurance Commissioner John Garmendi. Anthem has agreed to commit \$265 million toward various California health projects. \$30 million will be divided among nursing training programs and initiatives to recruit low-income residents for Healthy Families. MCH Access would like to hear from groups interested in trying to be sure that available funding, welcome as it is, primarily uses grant funding as opposed to per-head funding. Please contact Lynn or Celia.

Save the Date!



Weds, Nov. 17, 9:30 – 11 AM: California’s Political Landscape 2005: Assemblywoman Judy Chu invited. LA Coalition to End Hunger and Homelessness (213) 439-1070.

Friday, Nov. 19, 9 AM – 12 Noon, “Next Ten: Budget Visioning for the Next Ten Years” sponsored by a host of organizations at the Davidson Center at USC. Free but registration required: (415) 445-8975.