



## Maternal and Child Health Access

### Three holiday shopping opportunities:

1) MCHA Colectiva sales - Aprons, aromatic pillows, Children's books - this is the last meeting before the holidays! Support our Mujeres en Movimiento Women's Collective!

2) Sun. Nov. 20 thru Sun. Dec. 4 ONLY - Shop at [Ten Thousand Villages in Pasadena](#), a Fair Trade store at 567 S. Lake Ave., near California Blvd. You must shop IN PERSON (not on line) and when checking out, give our name (MCH Access or Maternal and Child Health Access) OR this [FLYER](#) - we will have them at the meeting, and MCHA will receive 15% of sales! It's a great store!

3) [Shop the Anti-Mall](#) Sunday, Dec. 11, 11 AM-5 PM at the Downtown Labor Center, 675 Park View St. LA 90057 (Across from Lafayette Park). MCHA has applied to sell there - whether or not we do, it's a fantastic handmade shopping experience!

#### In this mailing:

[MATERIALS DISTRIBUTED AT OCTOBER MEETING](#)

[BREAST CANCER & THE ENVIRONMENT](#)

[KAISER PERMANENTE CHILD HEALTH PLAN \(KPCHP\)](#)

[MCH & HUNGER-RELATED LEGISLATION](#)

## Next MCH Access Monthly Meeting:

**This Thursday, November 17, 2011 10 AM - 12 noon**

#### LOCATION:

MCH Access  
Patricia Phillips Community Room  
1111 W. 6th St., 3rd Floor  
Los Angeles, CA 90017  
(6th St., and Bixel St.)

#### PARKING:

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

#### TOPIC:

MOD "30 week" toolkit addressing elective C-sections, and Prematurity Prevention month

#### SPEAKER:

Vicki Lombardo, MSN, RN  
Associate State Director of Program Services  
March of Dimes

Updates on state MCH and health issues

[Find us on Facebook](#)

## Materials distributed at October meeting, if still timely:

- Prescription for Action - PSR-LA Sept. 2011 Physicians for Social Responsibility, Los Angeles Newsletter
- MCHA Advocate Update -Kaiser Child Health Plan - News and How to Use
- We've Got You Covered - 2 day Core Training Nov. 18th and 21st.
- [The Great Shake Out](#) - Be Earthquake Prepared (Drill held at 10:20 AM statewide - we went under tables)
- [Maternal and Child Health-Related Final Legislation 2011 Session](#)
- Copy of message to be incorporated in Notices of Action to women who change Medi-Cal aid codes in third trimester and receive packets for enrolling in Medi-Cal Managed Care

Breast Cancer and the Environment-Ana Mascarenas, Policy and Communications Coordinator, [Physicians](#)

[CCS PILOT IN LOS ANGELES](#)

[MAINTAINING CONTINUITY OF CARE FOR PREGNANT WOMEN ON MEDI-CAL](#)

[GRANTS AVAILABLE FOR RESIDENTS TO IMPROVE SOUTH L.A.](#)

[PROVIDER RATE REDUCTIONS FOR MEDI-CAL](#)

[GRADUATED DRIVERS LICENSING PROGRAM REDUCE FATAL TEEN CRASHES](#)

[CONTACT US](#)

### Save the Date

**Mon., Nov. 28 or Fri., Dec. 2  
1-4 PM** Mercado La Paloma,  
3655 S. Grand Av.

The Healthy School Food Coalition (HSFC) is offering a **School Food Policy & Organizing Training** to learn and support school food nutrition for students of the Los Angeles Unified School District. Lunch will be served. Please RSVP by November 21st with the following information: Name, Organization, and which date to RSVP to Richard Reyes, Outreach Facilitator  
[rreyes@oxy.edu](mailto:rreyes@oxy.edu)

**Weds. Dec. 7, 12-1**

**Webinar: The Autism Coverage Act: What Does it Mean for Families?**

Sponsored by Family Voices. Kristin Jacobson is the founder of Autism Deserves Equal Coverage and was the principal advocate involved with the drafting and passage of SB 946, representing the Alliance of California Autism Organizations. This webinar will cover the vision behind the Act, how it came to be and the changes that we can expect in California.

RSVP [HERE](#)

### RESOURCES

Help for California's

## [for Social Responsibility](#)

Ms. Mascareñas spoke on Reproductive Toxins, especially those linked to breast cancer, and the recent BPA victory in the state legislature. Today a woman's lifetime risk of breast cancer is one in eight, so we are very breast cancer "aware". The issues Ms. Mascareñas addressed are sobering and important to hear in order to take action: the incidence of breast cancer is higher in women of color, they seem to suffer from more aggressive tumors and their access to treatment is less. For Latinas, breast cancer is the leading cause of cancer death. At the same time, use of and exposure to chemicals is on the rise in the U.S. Toxic chemical regulation laws were passed in 1976, but since then, more than 85,000 different chemicals have come into play and the EPA has required testing on just over 200 of the 62,000 chemicals existing and brought in under this law. Only FIVE chemicals have been restricted of the 200 tested! The evidence is strong, however, that environmental toxins DO have an effect. Among the reports cited are last year's Breast Cancer Fund, [State of the Evidence 2010-The connection between breast cancer and the environment](#) and other reports available on PSR's website.

Ms. Mascareñas discussed specific chemicals and where they are found in our everyday products. But she cautioned against a "shop our way out of the problem" approach, and moved on to discuss important legislation and other advocacy efforts conducted by PSR and its partners. Specifically, prohibiting BPA in baby bottles and sippy cups was signed this year by Governor Brown, a long-fought and huge victory. Other bills, to ban flame retardant chemicals (SB 147) and polystyrene foam containers (SB 568) did not fare as well, but will be back. PSR also hosts the "Toxies" - annually giving "awards" in a mock Academy Award staging to the worst environmental offenders - proving PSR also has a sense of humor! Just days later, MCHA learned that one of the examples used in PSR's slide show, formaldehyde in baby shampoo, will change! Johnson and Johnson decided to take the formaldehyde-releasing preservative out of its baby shampoo! See report [HERE](#) and [No More Toxic Tubs, Campaign for Safe Cosmetics](#)

## Kaiser Permanente Child Health Plan (KPCHP) Liz Ramirez, Director of Training

Liz noted the temporary opening of Kaiser Permanente Child Health Plan in Los Angeles, Orange and San Diego counties. Since KPCHP covers uninsured children not eligible for Medi-Cal and Healthy Families, from birth to 18, it's a GREAT opportunity to get children in who are uninsured from 6-18. Healthy Kids insures the same population, but only enrolls up to age 5 ½. Family income must be at or below 300% of poverty and monthly costs are either \$8 or \$15 depending on income. A family will pay for a maximum of three children. Unfortunately, there is only one application process, which is online through the use of One-e-App and a limited number of outreach and enrollment agencies are able to assist families. The family can access the application through the public access in [ENGLISH](#) or [SPANISH](#). For more information, see our [MCHA Advocate Update 10-11](#).

Pregnant and Parenting Youth - New Guide, Website and Trainings available: The National Partnership for Women & Families, National Health Law Program (NHeLP) and Planned Parenthood of Pasadena and San Gabriel Valley, Inc. are releasing a free, comprehensive guide and companion [website](#) written and designed expressly to inform pregnant and parenting youth in California of their legal rights. See [LINK](#)  
Outreach Facilitator  
[rreyes@oxy.edu](mailto:rreyes@oxy.edu)

### **EMPLOYMENT**

MCHA is hiring a nurse for our Welcome Baby program, a perinatal case manager for our Best Babies Collaborative in Boyle Heights and a part time CalFresh enroller/advocate! See all position and descriptions [HERE](#)

### **Join Our List**

[Join Our Mailing List!](#)

## **MCH and hunger-related legislation - Lynn Kersey and Donald Nollar**

Lynn focused on five maternity and child health-related bills, several of which have been passed by the legislature for many years and finally signed under Governor Brown:

SB 222 and AB 210 will guarantee maternity coverage in health policies.

SB 299 continues health coverage while a worker is out on maternity leave.

AB 499 for Medi-Cal to cover prevention of sexually transmitted infections for minors.

AB 1319 bans Bisphenol A (BPA) in sippy cups and baby bottles as of July 1, 2013.

AB 395 adds Severe Combined Immunodeficiency to the list of diseases for which babies are screened at birth. SB 502 addresses infant feeding policies in hospitals.

Donald Nollar spoke to AB 6, the bill that both repeals fingerprinting for CalFresh and Cal WORKs benefits and will also change quarterly reporting to semi-annual for CalFresh (food stamps). Under AB 152, agriculture donated to food banks earns a tax credit for the donor, and emergency food purchased may only be purchased locally. AB 581 creates a fund to expanding access to healthy foods in underserved communities and to leverage additional funding. The sugar-sweetened beverage tax bill died, as did the bill to set standards for children's meals that are accompanied by toys and incentive items.

## **CCS pilot in Los Angeles County - Celia Valdez, Outreach Director, MCHA**

Los Angeles County is one of five chosen as pilot counties for California Children's Services Demonstration Projects, the others being Alameda County, San Diego, Orange and San Mateo. In LA County, LA Care will work with Children's Hospital Los Angeles, Miller Children's Hospital in Long Beach, and UCLA Medical Center to incorporate CCS into a managed care system for children as part of a Specialty Health Care Plan. We look forward to getting more details and having a speaker at one of our meetings; it's difficult to get any level of detail at this point about timeline and implementation. Click [HERE](#) for more information on the RFP process.

## **Maintaining continuity of care for pregnant women on Medi-Cal**

The state Medi-Cal Managed Care Division (MCCD) developed a new set of guidelines for the Seniors and People with Disabilities (SPD) enrolling into managed care but seeking to stay with a specific fee-for-service Medi-Cal provider. For the SPD population, a "continuity of care" process was created, in which a provider who doesn't normally accept managed care may be paid by a managed care plan for an individual patient's care, for up to a year, while the provider negotiates a contract with the plan. An exemption from managed care enrollment may also be sought if

the provider won't seek to contract with the plan. Exemptions have always been for a period of up to a year before they must be renewed. Many in this population are having difficulty - providers don't know of the process or can't or won't make it work with the plans. Moreover, the MCCD has made it very difficult to get an exemption from

enrollment: the new rule is if one can be "safely transitioned" to a new provider, one must. In order to establish this "safe transition", MCCD or Health Care Options is asking for medical records, proof of visits with a specific provider and other paperwork. Now it seems the MCCD has started applying this level of scrutiny to pregnant women seeking continuity of care with a provider as well. MCHA is interested in your situation and what impact the process has had on the women you see. On a brighter note, the MCCD had finalized a process whereby women caught in the issue of third trimester enrollment into a plan could call and seek disenrollment over the phone if they qualified (mainly because their provider does not accept Medi-Cal Managed Care). We expect state instructions on this policy to be released to counties soon. Please contact Lynn Kersey ([lynnk@mchaccess.org](mailto:lynnk@mchaccess.org)) to work on this issue.

### **New since last meeting:**

#### **Grants Available for Residents to Improve South LA**

Funding is now available to youth and residents of the Figueroa Corridor who want to conduct a neighborhood project that contributes to building a healthier South Los Angeles. The Building Healthy Communities South Los Angeles Small Grants Program provides up to \$2,500 for projects that aim to make South LA a better place to live.

Some examples of possible projects are community gardens, neighborhood block parties or healthy cooking classes. Although money cannot be used for salaries, it can be used for items like stipends, transportation, supplies, and refreshments. Those who apply must be at least 14 years old, live within the BHC SLA boundaries and be connected to a school, church or similar organization, also within the boundaries. For more information, click [HERE](#) for more details and the application process in English. The Spanish version is [HERE](#).

#### **What Does a Healthy South LA Look Like to You?**

Building Healthy Communities South Los Angeles (BHC SLA) is looking for a logo that is original and captures our spirit: to build a healthier South LA. The winner will receive \$250. To enter, you must be between the ages of 14 and 24 and a resident of South Los Angeles - preferences will be given to those who live in the South Figueroa Corridor. Click [HERE](#) for more information about the submission process. Please spread the word to South LA youth about this exciting opportunity.

### **Provider Rate Reductions for Medi-Cal**

On Thursday, October 27, 2011, California received approval from the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) to implement some, but not all, of its requested 10% Medi-Cal provider rate reductions. Rate reductions were approved for most adult services, but

rates for some critically important pediatric services were protected from the reductions. It is important to note that some services used by children are subject to the requested rate cuts. Children's groups have recently written a letter to the state with concerns about pediatric dental rate cuts. Note that these rate reductions are retroactive to last June.

Below is the summary of pediatric services and the decision on the requested rate reduction:

Physicians serving children (including CCS)	No rate reduction
Clinics serving children (including CCS)	No rate reduction
Home health services	No rate reduction
Pediatric sub-acute facilities	No rate reduction
Dental services	10% rate reduction as of 6/1/11
Durable Medical Equipment (DME)	10% rate reduction as of 6/1/11
Clinical lab services	10% rate reduction as of 6/1/11
Pharmacy services	10% rate reduction as of 6/1/11

The DHCS announcement, the federal approval letters, and other information (including the access analyses for affected services) can be found on the [DHCS](#) website at - Scroll down to "Hot Topics and Latest News".

### Letter from Dr. Jonathan Fielding - complete this survey TODAY!

Dear Colleague:

On behalf of the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health (DPH), I invite you to share your ideas as we start work on our department's strategic plan for 2012-2017. DPH's strategic plan sets the overall direction and priorities for our department. Your ideas about what is most important for us to accomplish over the next five years will help us to develop the best possible plan. DPH is reaching out to key opinion leaders and public health leaders who are committed to transforming the public health system in Los Angeles County to meet 21st century challenges. We would appreciate your input about strategic priorities for DPH and the factors influencing the public health system in Los Angeles County. Please complete our survey [HERE](#) survey and share your ideas with us by Tuesday, November 15, 2011: The survey will take approximately ten minutes to complete. I encourage you to forward the survey to others in your networks who might be interested in participating.

If you have any questions or would like additional information, please contact Wendy Schiffer, MSPH, Director, Planning and Evaluation at [wschiffer@ph.lacounty.gov](mailto:wschiffer@ph.lacounty.gov). Thank you for your participation and for your commitment to improving the health and well-being of all Los Angeles County residents.

Sincerely,

.Jonathan F. Fielding, M.D., M.P.H.

Director and Health Officer

**GRADUATED DRIVERS LICENSING PROGRAMS REDUCE FATAL TEEN CRASHES** NIH-funded studies show limits on night driving, teen passengers, further reduces deaths

Programs that grant privileges to new drivers in phases -- known as graduated licensing programs -- dramatically reduce the rate of teen driver fatal crashes, according to three studies funded by the National Institutes of Health. Such graduated licensing laws were adopted by all 50 states and the District of Columbia between 1996 and 2011. The NIH-supported research effort shows that such programs reduced the rate of fatal crashes among 16- 17-year-olds by 8 to 14 %. Reductions in fatal crashes were greatest in states that had enacted other restrictions on young drivers. The greatest reductions in young driver crashes were seen in states that had adopted graduated driver licensing laws in combination with mandatory seat belt laws or laws requiring a loss of the driver's license as a penalty for possession or use of alcohol by youth aged 20 or younger. In addition, limiting driving at night or with teenaged passengers, in combination with graduated licensing laws, had greater reductions in overall crash rates involving teen drivers than graduated licensing laws alone.

Graduated licensing programs generally require new drivers to complete three phases before they receive their license. [Read more...](#)

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