



Maternal and Child Health Access

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BARBARA FACHER

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IRENE LIM

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MATERIALS FROM SEPTEMBER MEETING

CHANGES IN THE MEDICAL EXEMPTION REQUEST (MER)

FROM REPORTING ON HEALTH - THE ADVERSE CHILDHOOD EXPERIENCES STUDY

BREAST CANCER MONTH - OMB WATCH

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"WE'VE GOT YOU COVERED" 2-DAY CORE COMPREHENSIVE TRAINING

RESOURCES

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SAVE THE DATE

Sunday, Oct. 28: Third Annual Perinatal Mental Health Task Force, "Speak Up When You're Down" Gala
Taglyan Cultural Complex in Hollywood, CA: to honor local women who have

Next MCH Access Monthly Meeting:

Thursday, October 18, 2012 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.)

SPEAKERS/TOPICS:

Martha Dina Arguello, Executive Director, Physicians for Social Responsibility Los Angeles

Reproductive Health, the Environment and Cancer - "Think Before You Pink"

Astrid Campos, Organizer, California Partnership - State Propositions

Announcements and Updates on pregnancy issues

October is National Breast Cancer Awareness—Prevention Month

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

RSVP:

While this is not required, you can register [HERE](#) so we know you'll be attending

Please contact our office with any questions regarding this email or visit our website for further information about our organization.



Voter Registration

Take a moment to register or re-register to vote today online on the [state website](#). **If you have moved in the last year, or gotten married or divorced and changed your name, you may need to re-register to vote in the 2012 election.**

Progressive voter guides on the State Propositions: [The Women's](#)

survived postpartum depression and the friends, family and providers who have supported them. [Click here](#) for more information

Tues., Oct. 30 and Thurs., Nov. 1 - webinar by Breast Cancer Action, "It's an Epidemic, Stupid!"

This October, Breast Cancer Industry Month, join us for a free, thought-provoking and informative webinar about critical issues in breast cancer advocacy, focusing on our "It's an Epidemic, Stupid!" campaign. At Breast Cancer Action, we believe that the government has a unique and essential responsibility to address and end the breast cancer epidemic. It is time to demand that our elected officials take bold, meaningful action in finding the root causes of breast cancer, and for better breast cancer treatments through independent research and strong regulation. **Why is this issue important right now?** During this election year with healthcare a focus of national attention, it is a critical time to demand that our elected officials make women's health a priority.

[Register HERE for Tuesday, October 30th at 10am PDT/1pm EDT](#)

[Register HERE for Thursday, November 1st at 1pm PDT/4pm EDT](#)

October 21-27 is Lead Poisoning Prevention Week. [Click here](#) for flyers in English and Spanish with 10 tips on

[Foundation of California](#)

[Courage Campaign - a scorecard of other groups voter guides](#) (also available to text to phone)

[Bend the Arc: A Jewish Partnership for Justice](#)

[Liberty Hill links and discussion of community-made voter guides](#)

[LA Vote facts](#)

[Time off to vote](#)

Notes from September meeting

Guest Speaker: Barbara Facher, Alliance for Children's Rights
Services and initiatives for pregnant and parenting teens living in foster care

Barbara introduced the audience to some of the work of the Alliance for Children's Rights: They work with other organizations to train judges and attorneys on children's rights; They work on the extension of foster care this year from 18 to 21 if child desires to stay in foster care (AB 12). Passed in 2010 and 2011, (Beall; Stats. 2010, ch. 559), the California Fostering Connections to Success Act. This Act makes it possible to access federal funding for foster care services for dependents and wards beyond their 18th birthday, which will provide them with the time and support needed to gradually become fully independent adults. The guiding principle of this extension is to provide each eligible non-minor with the opportunity to make decisions regarding his or her housing, education, employment, and leisure activities, while ensuring the availability of ongoing support and assistance when difficulties are encountered. They work on establishing guardianship for relatives and friends caring for children. Throughout Los Angeles, more than 300,000 children live with a relative or friend because their parents are unable or unwilling to care for them. Without a legal relationship, caregivers who are willing to be there for these kids are limited in their ability to protect and provide for them. The Alliance helps caregivers become legal guardians of the children in their care so that they can take them to the doctor, enroll them in school and obtain financial assistance to better provide them a secure, stable life. Legal guardianship can only be established by a court, not by a notarized letter from a parent. The Alliance represents eligible caregivers seeking legal guardianship in the probate court. Barbara also covered services to pregnant and parenting teens in foster care - a pregnancy prevention/minor consent collaboration with the Department of Children and Family Services.

The main topics for the morning was creating a "whole family foster home" and holding voluntary "pregnant and parenting teen conferencing". The whole family foster home is created by the foster parent or relative caregiver undergoing a 16 hour training to help and monitor the teen. The home is "certified" as a whole family foster home and a shared responsibility plan is created between the teen and the foster parent. An additional \$200/month is provided in addition to the infant supplement. The voluntary pregnant and parenting teen conferencing involves whomever the teen wants to invite - teen dad, dad's parents,

keeping your family lead safe. During this week, the Poison Control texting service will text one message daily.

Free Deferred Action Clinic - The Clinic will offer:

- Information for Consideration to Deferred Action
- Assistance by qualified personal to complete applications
- Legal assistance by immigration lawyers
- Documentation screening by immigration lawyers
- All services will be free of cost

Time and Place:

Bateman Hall 11330 Bullis Road Lynwood, CA 90262 October 20, 11:00 a.m.-3:30 p.m.

For more information or to volunteer, contact: COFEM at (213) 417-8387 / www.cofem.org / creyes@cofem.org

Dec. 10, 2012: LIBERTY & JUSTICE FOR ALL: 2012 Statewide Immigrant Advocacy & Organizing Conference, San Francisco, CA.

Register Today
December 10, 2012
Time: 9:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. (registration at 8:15am) **Registration Fee: \$95** Conference Scholarships: Select scholarships will be provided depending on eligibility and available resources. Please see the registration page for the application & further details. **Deadline for Scholarship Applications: This Friday, October 19th**
Deadline to Register: November 19th

EMPLOYMENT

friends, case managers from programs. Alliance staff has played a role as "resource specialists" in these meetings. The conference is to ensure that the placement is stable, schooling is going well, health care covered, benefits received, family law is discussed, family planning may be covered, etc. There is a DCFS facilitator as well.

Clients seeking assistance should call the Alliance intake phone number: 213-368-6010. Agency staff who need advice may call Barbara at that same phone number.

Guest Speaker: Irene M. Lim, LCSW, Project NATEEN - Children's Hospital Los Angeles
"AIM 4 Teen Moms" The AIM for Teen Moms program (Adult Identity Mentoring)

The AIM for Teen Moms program (Adult Identity Mentoring) is a research project/program at Children's Hospital Division of Adolescent Medicine, in partnership with El Nido Family Centers, ETR Associates and Mathematica. Its purpose is to delay rapid repeat pregnancy for 24 months, increase birth control use and self-sufficiency among teen moms 15-19 years old. It is an individual and group intervention program.

Core elements are:

- 1) Thinking about the future
- 2) Present actions to achieve that future
- 3) Safeguard that future through family planning
- 4) Creating a Reproductive Life Plan
- 5) Motherhood as an Identity Strength

Eligible participants are randomized into intervention or controls continuing with services they otherwise receive. The project has six sites: three in South LA, two in the San Fernando Valley and one in LA Metro/Hollywood. Eligible teens have one child under seven months old, are English or Spanish speaking and lives in one of the eligible areas. For questions or to refer someone call Irene Lim, LCSW, 323-361-3111 or ilim@chla.usc.edu

Guest Speaker: Ben Hellerstein, Field Organizer, Pesticide Action Network, Proposition 37, the "Right to Know" Initiative

This ballot initiative would require processed food containing genetically engineered (GE) ingredients to be labeled. Up to 80% of the food on US supermarket shelves contains GE ingredients, but we don't know. More than 40 countries with over 40% of the world's population already label genetically engineered foods. Greater technology in the last 20 years has increased the amount of pesticides on and in our food. Genetically engineered crops require more pesticides and over half the corn and cotton grown in CA is genetically engineered. Six major corporations have repeatedly blocked this legislation: Monsanto, Bayer, Dow, DuPont, BASF and Syngenta. Ben referred to a study just released; click [HERE](#) to see

Materials from September meeting: (Call or e-mail if you want copies):

- "Select MCHA-Related Bills Signed, Vetoed and Waiting: MCHA 9-20-12"
- CHCF Center for Health Reporting, "Health care plan of the

Please click on job title to view full description and the application process. And provide a cover letter and resume with your application that specifically outlines your employment history experience and educational background for which you're applying.

- [Community Associate: Access to Quality Healthcare for Women and Children in Boyle Heights](#)
- [Health Programs and Benefits Trainer - Training and Education Department](#)
- [Perinatal Case Manager - Boyle Heights and East Los Angeles](#)
- [Welcome Baby - Parent Coach, Level II](#)

MCHA is an Equal Opportunity Employer; women and people of color are strongly encouraged to apply.

Join Our List

[Join Our Mailing List!](#)

future: State adopts 'essential benefits' Sept 4, 2012 (with list of the 10 mandated benefit areas)

- Booklet - Choices After 18: Learn About Extended Foster Care for Current or Former Foster/Probation Youth
- Pesticide Action Network: Get the Facts: Genetically Engineered Food in California (about Prop 37)

Changes in the Medical Exemption Request (MER) process for disabled pregnant and other disabled/seniors

As of early October, when a senior or person with a disability (SPD) applies for a MER, the state Department of Health Care Services will inform them in writing that they may remain in Fee for Service (FFS) Medi-Cal for six months. Pregnant disabled women can remain in FFS for six months, or the duration of the pregnancy plus 90 days post partum, whichever is longer. This amount of time is granted in order to decide whether or not to appeal the denial

Currently, this new MER process is ONLY for SPDs who file and are being denied MERs before going into the plan. It is not yet clear whether the new process will also apply to SPDs who did not file a MER and are already in the plan. MCHA is urging the state to make that clarification and also to include all pregnant women, not just disabled pregnant women.

The state will eventually tell all people who were denied a MER since last July 1 that they have the right to go back to fee for service for 90 days. The state has indicated there are very few disabled pregnant women who filed for a MER and that they will inform them all by phone (but they should also get a written notice!).

If this 90 days in FFS would help any senior or disabled person, including a pregnant woman, who has had to join a plan because their MER was denied since July 1, please contact the state right away (don't wait for the notice) via a new inbox: merhelp@dhcs.ca.gov. "The purpose of this inbox is to be a resource for stakeholders and advocates for assistance with the Medical Exemption Process. The inbox will be monitored by DHCS Employees". Or contact MCHA for assistance. We would particularly like to know your experience with e-mailing the state.

As we get more information about all of the above, we will continue to get out it out, so please watch your e-mail or contact MCHA.

From Reporting on Health - The California Endowment Health Journalism Fellowships:

The Adverse Childhood Experiences Study -- the largest public health study you never heard It's the most important public health study you've never heard of: Jane Stevens talks about how

[One misspoken word led to years of astounding research on the impact of childhood trauma.](#)

For Breast Cancer month, From OMB Watch: Chemical Industry Spending Millions to Hide Danger

of Cancer-Causing Products

Earlier this week, Nicholas D. Kristof published an article entitled "The Cancer Lobby" in The New York Times, in which he criticized the chemical industry for its intense lobbying efforts to prevent dangerous chemicals from being listed as known cancer-causing agents in the [Report on Carcinogens](#) (RoC).

The RoC is a biennial report prepared by the National Toxicology Program (NTP), part of the National Institutes of Health. The RoC lists chemicals that are either "known carcinogens" or are "reasonably anticipated to be carcinogens." Congress required publication of the RoC in the [Public Health Service Act of 1978](#) because of growing concerns among Americans about potential cancer-causing substances in their environment.

Although the chemical industry has protested the RoC process in the past, the most recent controversy surrounds two chemicals found in many household products: formaldehyde and styrene. Formaldehyde is used in plywood, carpeting, and insulation, and it's also found in many car parts. Styrene can be found in food containers, pipes, and carpet backing.

In 2011, NTP added formaldehyde to the list of known carcinogens; the chemical had been listed as "reasonably anticipated" to cause cancer since 1981. Also in 2011, NTP listed styrene as an anticipated carcinogen for the first time.

The RoC does not regulate any products or businesses. Nevertheless, the chemical industry fights cancer designations in the RoC because, as Kristof explains, "it fears 'public confusion.'" Translation: big chemical companies like Dow and DuPont and their trade association, the American Chemistry Council, fear that people will buy safer alternatives once they learn about the dangers of the chemicals found in everyday items.

Kristof points out that the chemical industry is using the same playbook that the tobacco industry and asbestos manufacturers used in the past. A group of 76 prominent scientists [wrote a letter](#) warning Congress that "[t]he American Chemistry Council is working to delay and ultimately destroy' the Report on Carcinogens." [The industry has spent millions of dollars](#) lobbying Congress to stop the RoC process, successfully enlisting Rep. Danny Rehberg (R-MT) to offer [an appropriations rider](#) that would delay the RoC for several years. Previous riders attempting to delay the RoC process have failed; however, similar riders are likely to appear in future legislation.

Kristof's article reveals how the chemical industry would leave workers and the public in the dark about the cancer threat posed by chemicals like formaldehyde and styrene to preserve its bottom line.

Mother-Friendly Childbirth Initiative Consortium of LA County Meeting Nov. 30

[The Association for Wholistic Maternal and Newborn Health](#) is hosting a quarterly forum for Los Angeles community-based organizations, hospitals and clinics who are ready and willing to

implement The Mother-Friendly Childbirth Initiative and to establish the Mother-Friendly Nurse Recognition Program at their institution. Based on the Mother-Friendly Childbirth Initiative (MFCI) developed by the Coalition for Improving Maternity Services (CIMS), a coalition of leading researchers, maternal-infant health experts, organizations and individuals concerned with the health and well being of mothers and infants, these 10 evidenced-based steps to Mother- and Baby-Friendly Care will be discussed and practical applications will be taught for the labor and delivery nurse. The basis for the MFCI was highlighted in peer-reviewed Journal of Perinatal Education. For more information on The Coalition for Improving Maternity Services (CIMS) and the Mother-Friendly Childbirth Initiative (MFCI), and to a download of the journal, go to <http://motherfriendly.org>

Audience

Clinic managers, hospital perinatal directors, community-based program managers, labor and delivery nurses, doulas, childbirth educators, perinatal health workers, perinatal home visitors and promotoras, perinatal case managers, social workers and family therapists, health educators, breastfeeding peer counselors, lactation educators and consultants, grantwriters, hospital community benefits managers, physicians, public health professionals, student nurses, student midwives, public health students, mothers and fathers

Friday, November 30, 2012

10:00 am to 12:30 pm

Maternal and Child Health Access

1111 W. 6th Street - 3rd Floor Conference Room

Los Angeles, CA 90017

Parking is \$5.00 and lot is behind the building, accessible from South Lucas or Bixel Week. Register [HERE](#) to attend.

"We've Got You Covered" 2-day Core Comprehensive Training

This two-day training is designed for individuals who want to provide full-service outreach, enrollment and retention services for clients. Programs for children and adults are covered. All free or low cost health programs provided in LA County are included: Medi-Cal, Healthy Families, Healthy Kids, Healthy Way LA, Kaiser Permanente Child Health Plan, California Kids, as well as County Resources, Managed Care, Immigrant Issues, and Advocacy Tips for accessing and successfully using these programs and resources.

WHEN:

Thursday, Dec. 13 & Friday, Dec. 14, 2012

(8:30AM - 4:30PM)

Limited Spaces Available

(Click [HERE](#) to RVSP)

LOCATION:

MCH Access

Patricia Phillips Community Room

1111 W. 6th St., 3rd Floor

Los Angeles, CA 90017

(6th St. and Bixel St.)

(213) 749-4261

Please contact Liz Ramirez lizr@mchaccess.org at Ext 317 with any questions regarding our specialized trainings.

RESOURCES

Coverage of Preventive Services for Adults in Medicaid

This brief highlights data from a survey of coverage of 42 recommended preventive services for adults in Medicaid fee-for-service programs as of October 2010. Medicaid programs must cover preventive services for children as part of the Early Periodic Screening, Diagnosis and Treatment (EPSDT) benefit, but generally are not required to cover such services for adults. The Affordable Care Act (ACA) provides states the opportunity to earn a one percentage point increase in their federal matching rate starting January 1, 2013 if they cover recommended immunizations and preventive services without charging beneficiaries cost-sharing for these services. [The survey](#), fielded by KCMU and Health Management Associates, found that preventive services were generally well-covered by state Medicaid programs in 2010. While there was some variation in which services were covered, each preventive service was covered by at least half if not two-thirds of states.

The Food Allergy and Anaphylaxis Network Alerts by e-mail

Do you or your child have a serious food allergy? Did you know there is an organization that will send you an e-mail alert about mislabeled or recalled food or pharmaceutical products and notifications of ingredient changes (from responsible food companies)?

The Food Allergy & Anaphylaxis Network (FAAN) allows both members and non-members the opportunity to receive these [Alert Notices by e-mail](#). There is no charge for this service

FAAN's Special Allergy Alerts include food recalls that involve only the FDA-defined top 8 food allergens (milk, egg, wheat, soy, fish, shellfish, peanuts, and tree nuts), as issued by the FDA, the USDA, or the manufacturer. In addition, the website provides an incredible array of education, research information, advocacy on national and state issues and more.

LA Health - September 2012, "Trends in Obesity: Adult Obesity Continues to Rise" see [HERE](#).

Contact us:

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