



Maternal and Child Health Access

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**MCH Access Monthly Meeting: Thursday, October 21 (Third Thus. monthly)
10 AM – 12 Noon**

**1111 W. 6th St., Suite 400 - Free parking in back, entering 2-story lot on 5th St.
Guest panel on health-related initiatives: Prop. 63, 67, 71, 72
Brief updates: health programs, MCH-related laws passed/vetoed**

October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month: There are at nearly 5 million websites when you search “breast cancer”. One we like is: Breast Cancer Action: www.bcaction.org

In this mailing:

- GET OUT THE VOTE! Flyer to copy and share courtesy of Center for Community Change www.communitychange.org
You/your clients can still register on Mon. 10-18 with a mail-in registration DATED 10/18
- CA Budget Project Briefs: Prop 63, Prop 67
- Voter’s Guide info on Prop 71, Prop 72
- Governor’s Veto Message on SB 1555 (Speier) – requiring insurance companies to cover pregnancies. See other veto messages at: www.governor.ca.gov/state/govsite/gov_homepage.jsp and click “press releases”.
- MCH Access at Self-Help Graphics!
- 10-27-04: Baby Friendly Hospitals Forum
- Nov. 16-National Prematurity Awareness Day

Materials from 9-30-04 (call for copies):

- *NY Times* 9-23-04, “Womb as Photo Studio”
- *LA Times*, 9-29-04, “Bill to Limit Mercury in Shots OKd”
- Breastfeeding Advocacy Training for First Responders – sponsored by MCH Access
- Oct. 7 Tenet Hospital Sales Briefing
- New Resources:
 - Breese clinic at Queenscare
 - Attend car seat class at Breese 10/18
 - El Camino Counseling Services
- 2004 Edition, “We’ve Got You Covered” call 562-908-3574 to order.
- Information on Steering Committee on the Future of the King-Drew Medical Center

- MCH Access comments to state on California Performance Review
- Oct. 1 First Five Legislative Roundtable
- Flyer on LA Care’s “Healthy Rebate” program

Guest Speaker: Lucy Quacinella, “The California Performance Review”

Lucy joined us to provide insight about the CPR and its effects on health care. It came out of Governor Schwarzenegger’s campaign promise to “blow up boxes” in state government. Hundreds of recommendations on hundreds of areas of government have been made by the CPR commission. Hearings are being held around the state on the CPR’s recommendations; however, the hearing on health and social services did not allow much time for public input. The process will culminate in the Governor’s January budget recommendations: some of the recommendations will be taken up there or in legislative action in the senate or assembly. The lead issue for health care is the consolidation of enrollment functions at the state for four programs: Medi-Cal, Healthy Families, CalWORKs and Food Stamps, while privatizing and automating the application process. Florida and Texas have proposals pending for such work. Colorado has gone forward, despite objections from advocates, and 65,000 people were subsequently denied or cut off Medicaid.

One positive recommendation would be to allow self-verification of assets, even though MCHA would prefer to eliminate questions about them altogether. Another recommendation would reinstate the \$50/person application payment to CAAs. MCHA appreciates this recommendation to reinstate payments, but would prefer they be in the form of grants to community agencies, since the per-person payments went largely to insurance agents less likely to support, refer and follow up with clients in their application process. Another recommendation would create “smart cards” that require fingerprinting for Medi-Cal. For the full document see: www.cpr.gov and for other analyses, see the Western Center on Law and Poverty www.wclp.org or the California Budget Project at www.cbp.org.

Updates:

Liz Ramirez: Healthy Kids Annual Redetermination Form:

is being revised. Currently, a long form similar to the original application is sent, and does not mention the ability for families to self-verify. LA Care should be making calls to prevent drop out of the program. Let us know if problems.

Voluntary Medi-Cal Managed Care

Enrollment Packets: Went out to Aged, Blind and Disabled enrollees (who are voluntary for managed care) starting in July, to anyone in Medi-Cal since last August '03. No enrollment form was included - a very low percentage of people requested the form and a low percentage of those returned the form to enroll into managed care. Dental managed care packets have also been sent to ALL Medi-Cal enrollees in Los Angeles, but WITH an enrollment form, even though dental managed care is voluntary. A low percentage of that group has also opted to enroll. **Healthy Rebates** is a new program providing rebates to certain individuals under 200% of poverty who pay their own medical care. Contact LA Care for more information, after assuring that the person is not eligible for free or low-cost care. Almost NO children should be using this program, since health care programs exist for all children in Los Angeles up to 300% of poverty.

Single Point of Entry (SPE- MAXIMUS) issues: **Celia Valdez.** Celia reviewed the ongoing issues with Maximus and the SPE and

efforts among advocates to inform the MRMIB Board of ongoing problems. Many groups have raised their voices, the Local Health Plans made a presentation and we will continue to raise the ante until the problems are addressed. Be sure your clients appeal if a problem arises, they should ask for repayment of their own funds spent, and if you need help with an individual client, call us or the Health Consumer Center, 800-896-3203.

Hospital Emergency Room Regulations:

Lynn Kersey. As part of Medicare reform, hospitals that treat undocumented immigrants in their ERs would receive funding, but would be required to document by name those individuals treated. This is NOT yet in effect and may not come to pass, however, immigrant communities have been frightened by news reports on this.

Right to Breastfeed Issues: Luz Chacon.

After the media success of the MTA “Nurse-In”, MCH Access and the Breastfeeding Task Force of Greater Los Angeles have received calls from women who have been asked to stop breastfeeding in other places. We are considering strategies. The MTA has written us back answering our questions about initial and ongoing training procedures among its drivers, but are not willing to post public service announcements for the National Breastfeeding Campaign. Luz showed some of the posters that have been developed for the campaign - visit <http://www.4woman.gov/Breastfeeding>. Ask them for posters in Spanish and other non-English languages! Call Angela for a sheet of hand-out cards that state CA’s right to breastfeed law.

Resources:



San Francisco Chronicle’s Series on Infant Mortality: A revealing five-part series Sun 10-3 through Thurs., 10-7. The link below gets you into the fourth installment:

<http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?file=/c/a/2004/10/06/MNGI93T331.DTL&type=printable>



Save the Date!

Fri., Nov. 19 - Community Clinic Association of Los Angeles Health Care Symposium, “Innovations and Challenges in Serving the Uninsured” Radisson Wilshire Plaza Hotel. Early Bird Discounts End Oct. 19. Call (213) 201-6512.