



Maternal and Child Health Access

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Next MCH Access monthly meeting: Thurs., October 16, 2008, 10 AM – 12 noon
MCHA 1111 W. 6th St., Fourth Fl. Free parking in back, entering on Fifth St.

Get out the Vote for November 4th!

Guest Speakers: Prop. 4 Parental Notification/Teen Safety initiative

Get Out the Immigrant Vote

Discussion issues of involvement in elections –what are we allowed to do?

In this mailing

- Budget Update CA Partnership
- Tues. Oct. 21 – protest housing and homeless cuts!
- Alliance for Justice – Guidelines for 501(c)(3)s
- Weds., Nov. 5, 3-6 PM, Infant Mortality among African American Infants, at The Calif. Endowment
- Nov. 15 Home Walk – United Way
- *LA Times*, Oct. 8, “More seek county aid” – we’re enrolling more people ☺; but more are in need ☹
- Palm cards – get out the vote!

Distributed Sept. 18 (except events no longer timely) – call for copies

- Tues. Oct. 14, 6:30 – Poisoned Profits: The Toxic Assault on Our Children” All Saints Church, Pasadena see www.psrla.org
- Web page for MIHA, the Maternal Infant Health Assessment, California’s annual survey of women who recently gave birth to a live infant, and list of available data tables and statistics
- MIHA table of oral health and oral health care among women in MIHA, 2006
www.cdph.ca.gov/data/surveys MIHA is 3rd listed
- LAC DPH “Checklist for preventing office-related workplace injuries” January, 2008

Materials from Breast Cancer Action:

- What You Should Know About the Environment and Breast Cancer
- What to Do When someone You Know Has Been Diagnosed with Breast Cancer
- Breast Cancer Action newsletters in English and Spanish

Notes – Thursday, Sept. 18, 2008

Brenda Salgado, Breast Cancer Action

We were pleased to have Brenda Salgado speak to last month’s MCHA meeting on Women’s Health and the Politics of Breast Cancer. Breast Cancer Action (BCA) provides information, organizes people to do something besides worry and advocates for policy change. We like BCA because it looks at breast cancer as a public health issue needing prevention at the public health level.

Brenda discussed BCA’s Strategic Priorities:

- the Environment, to decrease involuntary exposures
- the FDA, to advocate for more effective and less toxic treatments
- Health inequities – political, economic and racial

Lifetime risk of breast cancer is now 1 in 8 from 1 in 20 in 1964 – can anyone argue the change is not environmental? Brenda noted that the US is highest among industrialized nations and discussed chemicals in our daily life. Heredity actually accounts for 10% of breast cancers, at most. Under the FDA initiative, BCA’s goals are to improve the FDA standards for approval of drugs to address overall survival, quality of life and the costs of drugs. The health inequities priority targets the unequal distribution of benefits and burdens – that women of color are more often likely to be diagnosed even younger and at an advanced stage with more aggressive disease, more likely to be uninsured and less likely to be offered treatments. African American women in particular receive less treatment than women as a whole.

She noted that activism WORKS – with the California Safe Cosmetic Act, Think Before You Pink (www.thinkbeforeyoupink.org) - companies note the amount of funding that is going toward breast cancer support, and gave 10 examples of actions we can do that matter. BCA suggests contacting the company if you see a questionable breast cancer promotion and give the money directly to the charity instead. Lastly, join Breast Cancer Action! www.bca.org

State Budget Update

See the brief update handout in this mailing. LA Health Action (www.lahealthaction.org) has a number of documents, MCHA will list some, and the California Budget Project (www.cbp.org) lists summaries as well. Watch for actions and meetings of the Stop the Cuts Coalition, now focused on longer-term strategies to improve the budget.

All County Welfare Director Letters (ACWDL) go paperless

The last All County Welfare Director Letter to arrive is #08-39, Sept. 9, 2008, which notes that these letters as well as the Medi-Cal Eligibility Division Information Letters (MEDIL) will no longer be sent in the mail. MCHA uses these policy letters extensively in our trainings and updates on Medi-Cal. We'll be checking the Medi-Cal Eligibility Division website regularly and will update issues of interest on our website and in our mailings. The eligibility website is: www.dhcs.ca.gov/services/medi-cal/eligibility/Pages/ACWDLbyyear.aspx

Last Day to Register to Vote – Oct. 20!
See www.lavote.net - LA Registrar-Recorder for polling places, information
Vote Early! Get your friends and relatives to vote – but note: early voters have been turned away for wearing buttons.

Please advise everyone you know that they absolutely can NOT go to the polls wearing any CANDIDATE shirts, pins, hats, etc. It is AGAINST THE LAW and will be grounds for the polling officials to turn you away. Wearing candidate buttons, shirts, etc. is considered campaigning and no one can campaign within a certain number of feet of the polls. This law may not have been enforced in the past, but it is possible

it will be more readily enforced this year. If you are turned away, you may not go home and change your clothes and return to the polls to vote.

SIDS Research Study

Kaiser Permanente Division of Research has found that infants who slept in a bedroom with a fan ventilating the air had a 72 percent lower risk of Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS) compared to infants who slept in a bedroom without a fan. For a summary of the study, links to the news release, a video interview with the study researcher Dr. De-Kun Li, Kaiser Permanente Division of Research, and a few articles written by various national publications, see:

<http://xnnet.kp.org/newscenter/stories/nat/2008-10-06.html>



Resources

- July, 2008 LA Health Trends, LA County Department of Public Health, “Childhood Obesity: Tipping the Balance Toward Healthy, Active Children” and “Mortality in LA County 2005: Leading Causes of Death and Premature Death” (published in July, 2008). Both available at: www.publichealth.lacounty.gov/dca/dcareportspubs.htm
- The David and Lucile Packard Foundation have launched www.kidsdata.org for information about kids in the San Francisco Bay area

Save the Date!



- Weds. Nov. 5, 8:30 – 11:30 AM “Children in Crisis: Why Long Beach Children Are Not Smiling” LB Children’s Oral Health Task Force. Visit www.longbeachsmiling.org
- Weds. Oct. 23 – Review and Update Training at MCHA Contact Angela (213) 749-4261 or angelao@mchaccess.org
- Tues., Dec. 16 – CAA Forum. See www.mchaccess.org. See www.champ-net.org to register.

Have you seen? These websites:

www.momsrising.org – Pushing issues of health care, fair pay, early learning, paid sick days, and flexible work in the electoral campaigns
www.everychildmatters.org – Has a report, “Why Every Child Matters in the 2008 Presidential Campaign”.