Maternal and Child Health Access

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MCH Access monthly meeting

Thursday, October 21, 2010 10 AM - 12 noon
Good Samaritan Hospital
(Moseley Salvatori Conference Center)
637 S. Lucas Street
Los Angeles, CA 90017
(between 6th and Wilshire Streets)

Speakers:

Martha Dina Arguello, Physicians for Social Responsibility

Topic:

Breast Cancer, Reproductive Health and the Environment. See www.psr-la.org for PSR's great speaker training, "Telling the story of toxics and health", a women's health conference and more!

Proposition materials and review at meeting

Parking:

Free at MCH Access. Enter on 5th St. to 2-story parking (between Lucas and Bixel) and walk across street or pay $6 at Good Samaritan, entering on Lucas St. across from the conference center

PLEASE ALLOW TIME TO PARK AND WALK!

become an MCHA fan! Find us on Facebook

October is Breast Cancer "Awareness" Month

See Breast Cancer Action: www.bcaction.org for their "Think Before You Pink" campaign - which calls for more transparency and accountability by companies which take part in breast cancer

expectancy for women and top 10 causes of death and premature death

Let's Move! Are you aware of First Lady Michelle Obama's "Let's Move" campaign? The campaign has a great informational list-serve at **click here** - see the website & subscribe!
Recent blogs featured Nature Champions Reach out to America's Children about the idea of educating pediatric health care providers to prescribe outdoor activities to children and families.

2011 Women's Health Calendar: The National Women's Health Information Center, Office on Women's Health, offers a free women's health calendar in English or Spanish (bulk orders available at 800-994-9662) that offers information about common health concerns for women, risk factors for disease, and ways to take charge of your health. This year, they've added reminder stickers to help you stay organized click here

Presentations from the October 5th Community Dialogues on Women and Healthy Aging and Women and Health Care Reform and the luncheon presentation on Reducing Health Disparities and Increasing Culturally

fundraising, and encourages us to ask critical questions about pink ribbon promotions. Check out the "What the Cluck?" about Kentucky Fried Chicken's pink buckets. BCA stopped Yoplait's use of the hormone rBGH in their pink-lidded yogurt, which raises money for breast cancer.

September Meeting Notes - call/email for copies

- LAC/DHS county criteria for identity documents prior to surgery
- MCH-related legislation on governor's dek (see our website this week for updated bill that wer signed or vetoed)
- Chart from PICO National Network - "What does healthcare reform mean for you and your family?"
- Action Alert - AB1825 Maternity Care Services

Guest Speaker: Nancy M. Gomez Southern California Regional Organizer, Health Access - Health Reform at six months of age! What new benefits will go into place this month for insured/those seeking health insurance?

Nancy presented an impassioned and fact-filled power point presentation explaining and simplifying "what's going on" with federal health care reform and what pieces will be implemented by when. The slide show presentation, "The Federal Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act: What Does It Mean for You, Your Family and California?" may be obtaine at us at info@mchaccess.org
Health Access, a statewide organization, serves as the statewide coordinator for Health Care for America NOW and advocates for quality, affordable health care for all Californians. Health care reform was signed into law on March 23, 2010 and is now the law of the land. Nancy's slides covered:

- Why California NEEDS the provisions in health reform,
- What consumer protections exist in the new health law,
- What changes will take place for Californians WITH health insurance who either: buy it themselves through "individual insurance", get it through employers or get it through Medicare
- What changes will take place for Californians WITHOUT health insurance
- How Medi-Cal will be expanded and improved

And timelines for all above.

Individuals up to 133% of poverty ($14,400 currently) will be able to get Medi-Cal; above that, they will be able to buy subsidized health coverage if their income is up to 400% of the poverty level. Only after that is the subsidy removed.

Competent Care. See website **HERE** or **HERE**

In addition, you will find links to all of the collaborating organizations involved for both Healthy Aging and Health Care Reform. We encourage you to contact them via their websites and collaborate where you can.

"Fly, Fly Butterfly" "Vuela, Vuela Mariposa"
Bilingual children's book benefits MCH Access

Get a jump on holiday gifts! Sales from this beautiful bilingual children's book will benefit MCH Access! Written by the brother of our case manager Sara Montes, the book describes his daughter's experiences with monarch butterflies at a butterfly sanctuary in Goleta, California. Through the book the reader learns about the life of the monarch butterflies, enjoys beautiful paintings and photographs and much more. The book is exquisitely illustrated by Colombian artists **click here**.

On the purchase page, pull down on the "Donar a/donate to:" to indicate Maternal and Child Health Access. You may pay by credit card (Pay Pal) or check.

MCH Access will feature these books and our women's collective designs (aprons, hats, scarves and more!) at our November meeting.

Information about 11 pending bills to implement health care reform in California was covered (see list of bills passed at Health Access or MCHA's website).

Most compelling for naysayers and for the upcoming elections may be the provisions that have ALREADY been put into place. These are important to cite for those who would repeal the Patient Protection Act, or who think it is somehow a negative for a politician to have voted for it:

- No Discrimination Against Children with Existing Illnesses: insurers must cover any child with a preexisting illness such as asthma or diabetes (but, see how many insurers dropped child-only plans in response, and how California's passage of AB 2244 (Feuer) would inflict heavy penalties if insurance companies do this.)
- Young adults Covered Until Age 26: Young adults can stay on their parents' plan (if parents' plan covers kids) until they turn 26.
- Insurance Companies Prohibited from Dropping Coverage Because of Illness: Insurance companies may no longer place a lifetime limit on coverage and can't stop paying for your care if you develop a costly condition such as cancer.
- Eliminates Lifetime Limits on Insurance Coverage: Insurance companies will not be able to place dollar limits on essential benefits such as hospital stays.
- Preventive Care: Insurance will cover preventive services such as annual check-ups, mammograms, immunizations for kids, or cancer screenings.
- Prescription Drug Relief for Seniors: $250 rebate checks are being sent to seniors when they hit the Medicare Part D preseciption coverage "donut hole"
- Funding Prevention: a new $15 fund will invest in preventive measures to keep Californian's Healthy, such as programs to prevent obesity.
- Primary Care Workforce Training: provides scholarships and tax incentives for becoming a doctor, nurse or other health care provider

For a copy of the powerpoint, see the Health Access website or contact MCHA at info@mchaccess.org

New CCS Process; Healthy Kids

These two topics written up on our September, 2010 e-mailing (clck here) were covered by Celia Valdez and Liz Ramirez.

Los Angeles County Identity Documentation for Surgical Procedures

MCHA has had 1-2 clients who've had difficulty with scheduling surgery due to identification requirements that differ from those set up for clinic visits; i.e. the same documents not sufficing.

EMPLOYMENT

MCH Access is still hiring for Welcome Baby! positions - nurse Bachelor-level home visitor - see positions **HERE**.

Join Our List

Join Our Mailing List!

The County has a 2003 protocol that appears to set this in place; but the document also says that "Patients unable to provide identity verification will not be deferred"... A very high level of advocacy seems to be necessary for this. Please contact Celia Valdez at extension 316 if your client(s) have run into problems with ID documents for surgery.

Medi-Cal Hospital-Grade Breast Pumps

In the past, a woman has had to demonstrate that she is unable to use a manual pump before Medi-Cal will approve a hospital-grade electric pump. Thanks to great advocacy a new provider bulletin has been issued that establishes that a hospital-grade pump may be issued in other circumstances, after a Treatment Authorization Request is obtained; the last reason being the most likely. See #9 in the October Medi-Cal Provider Bulletin **HERE**

- The mother has a medical condition that requires treatment of her breast milk before infant feeding; or
- The mother is receiving chemotherapy or other therapy with pharmaceutical agents that render her breast milk unsuitable for infant feeding; or
- The infant developed a medical condition or requires hospitalization that precludes direct nursing at the breast on a regular basis.

November 2010 Election resources are ready from Mobilize the Immigrant Vote!

AVAILABLE NOW FOR DOWNLOAD IN SIX LANGUAGES! MCHA will make them available in English-Spanish at our meeting.

MIV Slate cards with voting recommendations available for download in 5 bilingual versions:

Spanish/English
Chinese/English
Tagalog/English
Vietnamese/English
Korean/English

For detailed information on the propositions, please also download proposition one-pagers.

PROPOSITION ANALYSIS

MIV has developed proposition one-pagers for each of the 9 initiatives on the November 2nd ballot. One-pagers include MIV's recommended position, summary of the changes proposed by the initiative, MIV analysis of impact on low-income immigrant and communities of color, and key supporters/opponents. One-pagers are also available for

download in English, Spanish, Chinese, Tagalog, Korean, and Vietnamese. Each pdf contains one-pagers for all 9 propositions.

VOTERS' RIGHTS PALM CARDS

MIV palm cards include the California Voter Bill of Rights and how to register/vote. Available for download in 5 bilingual versions: English, Spanish, Chinese, Tagalog, Korean, and Vietnamese.The MIV Full Collaborative looks forward to seeing you at the polls and continuing to build the power and voice of our communities together!*For more information about MIV, please visit our website at www.mivcalifornia.org or write to us at info@mivcalifornia.org*

ACTION ALERT
Emergency Food and Shelter Program
These are funds MCHA and others use to temporarily house pregnant women and families!

In the midst of the prolonged economic downturn, funding for the Emergency Food and Shelter Program (EFSP) is at risk of being cut by as much as $100 million (50%). Please contact your Senators and Representatives to educate them on the needs in your community, and the gaps in resources and services. Strongly urge them to contact the Homeland Security Appropriations Subcommittees to convey strong opposition to any funding cuts to the EFSP program in FY 2011.
Members of Congress are home in their states and districts until mid-November. For operator assistance call: 202-224-3121 or 202-225-3121. For web-based directory assistance go to: Thomas.loc.gov.
For more information regarding Emergency Food and Shelter Program advocacy, please contact Robert Goldberg, JFNA, Senior Director of Legislative Affairs, at Rob.Goldberg@jewishfederations.org.

Background

The Emergency Food and Shelter Program (EFSP) program provides supplemental support to more than 12,000 nonprofit and public food banks, shelters, feeding programs, and homelessness prevention organizations in nearly 2,500 counties and cities in America. The support is distributed locally and is apportioned by the National Board based on a formula that takes into account the unemployment and poverty rates of a community.
EFSP was established within the emergency jobs appropriations bill of 1983 (P.L. 98-8). The legislation was based, in significant part, on Congress' findings that the then economic recession resulted in nearly 14 million unemployed persons, including those no longer searching for work, and that it is "very strongly" in the national interest for the federal government to provide for neglected needs of the nation including humanitarian assistance to the indigent and homeless. By comparison, the

unemployment picture is far worse today and the needs of struggling Americans more pressing then in 1983. As of August 2010, the Department of Labor reported that there were 17.3 million persons unemployed, including those who have given up searching for work, and an additional 8.9 million part-time workers, who want, but cannot find, full-time gainful employment.

Despite the prolonged economic downturn, the Administration has sought a $100 million (50%) cut in the program's next allocation (FY2011). Currently, the House draft of the Homeland Security Appropriations bill for FY2011 contains level funding of $200 million, the amount we are seeking. However, the Senate's draft bill, as approved by the full Appropriations Committee, allocates only $150 million, the equivalent of a 25% cut. In real terms, a 25% cut would lead to a combined loss of approximately 22.6 million meals served; 1.5 million nights of lodging provided; 38 thousand rent/mortgage bills paid; and 82 thousand utility payments made.

EFSP continues to be an efficient and effective component of the federal government's response to homelessness and food insecurity.

MCHA's Oral Health Advocacy for Pregnant Women and Children Project

Are you confused about just what dental care is available for pregnant women or have issues or concerns about dental care accessibility and quality for kids in various coverage programs or available to uninsured kids? MCHA and the Community Clinic Association of LA County have launched the Oral Health Advocacy for Pregnant Women and Children Project, funded by First5 LA's Community Opportunities Fund, and for pregnant women by a community needs grant from California Hospital Medical Center. Our long-term outcome is that families'access to appropriate OHC resources and utilization of preventive and therapeutic dental health services is increased. Working toward that involves improving awareness and use of dental benefits for pregnant women that still exist, despite cuts in oral health care for most adults.

MCHA is sending a mailing this month to every Denti-Cal provider in the county about dental benefits for pregnant women under Denti-Cal. The mailing consists of a survey, helpful chart about benefits, poster order form CLICK HERE and state bulletins. We are also looking at organizational protocols for dental care, conducting educational presentations and meetings and assisting individual pregnant women to find oral health care. For more information, contact the Project Coordinator Monica Ochoa at (213) 749-4261 ext. 360 or monicao@mchaccess.org

Governor signs budget 100 days late

The Governor used line-item veto authority to eliminate $1.3 billion in spending included in the 2010-11 budget agreement passed by the Legislature. Among the most egregious cuts are $256 million in Stage 3 child care funds, eliminating child care for about 55,000 children whose families have successfully transitioned off CalWORKS. This cut will take place Nov. 1. He eliminated all funding for the Community-Based Services Program (CBSP), which generally serves low-income seniors; cut funding for community clinics by $10.0 million; reduced funding that counties use to determine individuals' eligibility for Medi-Cal by $22.0 million; cut $5 million from the Maternal, Child, and Adolescent Health Program;
eliminated all state funding - $18.0 million - for drug treatment for nonviolent, low-level drug offenders provided through the Offender Treatment Program and cut $52.1 million from the Office of AIDS for local assistance programs. For more budget information, see:
- Searching for Balance: An Analysis of Key Provisions of the 2010-11 Budget Agreement at California Budget Project
- California Healthline:

Contact us

Maternal and Child Health Access

1111 W. 6th St., Fourth Floor

Los Angeles, CA 90017

213 749 4261 phone

213 745 1040 fax

info@mchaccess.org email