



Maternal and Child Health Access

1111 W. Sixth Street, Suite 400
Los Angeles, CA 90017-1800
Tel 213.749.4261
Fax 213.745.1040
www.mchaccess.org

Next MCH Access monthly meeting: Thursday, Sept 18, 2008, 10 AM – 12 noon
MCH Access 1111 W. 6th St., Fourth Floor- free parking in back, entering on Fifth

**Guest Speaker: Brenda Salgado – Breast Cancer Action (in anticipation of
October Breast Cancer Awareness Month)
Breast and Cervical Cancer and DRA**

Brenda Salgado is the Program Manager at Breast Cancer Action, and oversees BCA's programmatic work-from representing BCA on environmental and women's health coalitions to managing some of BCA's ongoing campaigns. She will talk about the environment and our health, inequities in breast cancer, and why you should think twice before you shop pink this October!

In this mailing

- AB 1962 on Governor's Desk – call/write NOW!
- AIM Early End of Pregnancy Form

Distributed July 19 (except events no longer timely) – call for copies

- 2008 Breastfeeding Resource Directory from the Breastfeeding Task Force of Greater Los Angeles www.breastfeedla.org for a copy.
- Spanish and English versions, "Pregnant Citizens on Medi-Cal or Applying for Medi-Cal" or see http://www.mchaccess.org/deficit_reduction_act.htm mid-page for both English and Spanish
- Form to early end of pregnancy during first trimester - see enclosed and explanation below
- Budget update handout

Notes – Thursday, July 17 (no meeting August)
State Budget Update – Donald Nollar updated attendees about the status of the state budget in mid-July, when the budget was only a couple weeks overdue.

At the time of this mailing, it appears a budget agreement has been made between Democrats and Republicans in the Assembly and Senate, and that floor votes would be held today and the budget sent to the Governor. Unfortunately, a leaked memo over the weekend from Senate Speaker Pro Tem

Don Perata indicated that the budget would be balanced with no new taxes and no borrowing. The plan closes the \$15.2 billion gap in the \$103.4 billion budget for the fiscal year that began July 1 with \$9 billion in spending cuts. The rest of the gap will be patched by closing tax loopholes and "accelerated revenue collections," an accounting term for collecting some one-time revenues in this fiscal year rather than the next. The leaders indicated that while balanced, the budget anticipates at least a \$2 billion hole in next year's budget. The budget deal was to be voted on today, Monday, here's what we know:

- \$9 billion in spending cuts
- the Governor gets an increase in the "rainy day reserve fund" and limited authority to make midyear budget cuts. (not sure what limits are yet)
- A ballot measure that would ask voters to allow modernization of the state lottery and borrow money for next year's budget that would be repaid from future lottery revenue.
- One of the tax loopholes it would close limits how much operating loss a business can claim as a tax deduction. The legislative analyst estimated earlier this year that limiting the deduction to 50 percent would raise about \$330 million in new *revenues*. The media noted that "the Republicans failed to get deeper cuts in social services" which is encouraging. We will update our website with additional budget news as we get it.

DRA Update

Donald Nollar updated the group on DRA implementation in Los Angeles. He called to everyone's attention that DRA was implemented in Los Angeles July 1 and that new aid codes exist for clients who normally would have full-scope Medi-Cal, but for their inability or failure to turn in their citizenship documents, and who are then assigned to limited scope Medi-Cal. The aid code listing for Medi-Cal may be found at:

<http://www.dhcs.ca.gov/dataandstats/statistics/Pages/MCSSHomePage.aspx> on right hand side, under "General Information", "Aid Codes Master Chart".

Healthy Kids update:

MCHA noted the uncertainty of continued coverage of enrolled 6-18 year olds in Healthy Kids. CAAs and advocates want to be sure children are using the health plan. Now it has been announced that the Healthy Kids program in Los Angeles will be maintained at least through December for those 6-18 year olds enrolled (new enrollment for 5 and under is ongoing) and possibly longer. Good news!

NOTE! LOS ANGELES ACHIEVES COVERAGE FOR (Almost) ALL KIDS UNDER 300% OF POVERTY!

Since the re-opening of the Kaiser Permanente Child Health Plan in July, most areas of the county have a child health program available for children up to 300% of poverty (\$63, 600 annually for a family of four). If you know of an uninsured child – ask why she or he is uninsured! Call MCH Access at (213) 749-4261 for one-stop enrollment assistance, or (800) 430-4263 for a mail-in Medi-Cal Healthy Families application, (888) 452-2273 for an application and assistance with the Healthy Kids program or (800) 255-5053 for assistance with the Kaiser Permanente Child Health Plan.

Access for Infants and Mothers (AIM)

In all health care it is extremely important to communicate changes that have taken place. For AIM, it is critical to communicate about the end of a pregnancy - not to the provider, not to the health plan, although important, but to the AIM program itself. This is regardless of when – or how - the pregnancy ends. For AIM recipients whose application for enrollment was received on or after July 1, 2008, if pregnancy ends after the "effective date of coverage" (noted in the "welcome letter"), but still within the first trimester, the subscriber contribution amount may be reduced to one-third of

the original cost. In other words, women do not have to keep paying for health care they are no longer receiving. This is a result of work by MCHA and others with the AIM program. To qualify for the lower cost, the woman needs to notify the AIM Program within 30 days of the date that she is no longer pregnant. The woman must complete the Early End of Pregnancy Form (enclosed) or send a letter from a doctor or other licensed or certified health care professional, as long as it contains the same information. AIM will use the information not just to lower the woman's subscriber contribution but also to disenroll the woman from her health plan.

IMPORTANT: AIM health plan coverage will end 60 days after the end of the pregnancy, whether the woman sends in the information about the end of her pregnancy or not and even if AIM finds out about the end of the pregnancy after the 60th day. AIM will NOT cover any medical services received after the 60th day from the end of the pregnancy. It is critical that women know: 1) they must report the end of a pregnancy in 30 days, whether it has occurred within the first trimester or later; and 2) they must not go in for any medical visits any later than 60 days after the end of the pregnancy, unless they have other health care coverage or will pay for such services. For further information or questions call MCH Access (213) 749-4261. Remember our postpartum depression coverage flyer on website.

Serious Business – Defining Agenda, Allies and Direction: Securing Reproductive Justice for Black Women

This convening will bring together both local and statewide representatives of reproductive health and justice programs seeking solutions to the continuing reproductive health disparity of African American and Black women. Saturday, Sept. 27. 8:00am – 4:30pm at The Assistance League 1370 N St Andrews Place Los Angeles CA 90028 See www.bwwla.org to register, sponsor, and see agenda!

