



Welcome Back! – after a BUSY summer!

Next MCH Access monthly meeting:

This Thursday, Sept. 17, 2009, 10 AM – 12 noon

MCHA 1111 W. 6th St., Fourth Fl.

Free parking in back, entering on Fifth St. – please allow time to park

National Health Reform – Nancy Gomez, Health Access

Welcome, Baby! - Luz Chacon

Updates – Healthy Families wait list, legislation to Governor

“New” (since February) Medi-Cal Managed care packets – how are they being received?

Help plan evaluation for these packets.

We have gone green! Feedback welcomed!

In this mailing:

- Healthy Families update
- Bills on the Governor’s Desk
- Tell your insurance story on TV!
- Positions at MCH Access
- Resources
- Save the Date
- Advocacy Tip!

Materials from June meeting (call or email for copies: info@mchaccess.org)

- *Families First* flyer on budget cuts
- Income calculation sample sheet – Healthy Families; Self Affidavit of Income letter
- Health Consumer Center flyer on cuts to adult Medi-Cal services effective July 1, 2009
- 3 State Department of Health Care Services flyers on Reductions in Medi-Cal Benefits (see www.medi-cal.ca.gov)
- 1931(b) Medi-Cal and Third Trimester Entry Into Managed Care – MCHA background sheet
- Medicare’s Role for Women – Fact Sheet June, 2009

Healthy Families Update Due to a \$196 million budget shortfall, all new applicants to the Healthy Families program who were not approved as of July 17, 2009, are being placed

on a waiting list. Advocates are recommending that all potentially Healthy Families eligible children continue to apply for the program to save a place on the waiting list and to show the state the need that exists for this program. As of this writing (9/11/09) the waiting list has over 75,000 names. Click [HERE](#) for a list of alternative programs for children who are on the wait list.

Maternal and Child Health Access is the lead plaintiff in a lawsuit against the State of California for failing to ensure that children who are potentially eligible for benefits under Medi-Cal are being correctly screened at Single Point of Entry and not simply placed on the Healthy Families Waiting list. For information on the lawsuit click [HERE](#)

On September 3 the State legislature passed AB 1422 which plans to close the \$196 million gap in the Healthy Families program by raising premiums and co-pays for program participants and by taxing health plans that participate in the program and changing participants’ dental coverage to managed care. For a list of premium and co-pay changes taking place in November, click [HERE](#). To read the *Los Angeles Times* article on AB1422, click [HERE](#). These new funds will prevent the previously planned disenrollment of up to 700,000 children from the program and that children on the

waiting list will be enrolled into Healthy Families. MRMIB will meet on September 16 to decide if there are enough funds to abolish the waiting list. Read the Sept. 3 announcement by MRMIB's Executive Director that Healthy Families will reopen:

http://www.mrmib.ca.gov/MRMIB/HFP_Remain_Open_website_update_9-3-09.pdf

Bills on the Governor's Desk! (more at meeting 9/17)

Breastfeeding bills from California WIC Association - AB 513 (de Leon - Healthcare Coverage/Breastfeeding)

See the sample letter [here](#). Please fax your letter of support to the Governor as soon as possible. AB 513 seeks improved support for breastfeeding by requiring health care service plans and health insurers to include coverage for:

- Lactation consultation by an Internationally Board Certified Lactation Consultant (IBCLC)
- The provision of quality breast pumps, as part of their health care service plans or insurance policies that provide maternity coverage.

[Read the bill](#)

SB 257 (Pavley - Employee Notification/Breastfeeding Accommodation)

See the sample letter [here](#). SB 257 bill would require every state agency and department, through their existing channels of communication, to notify female employees nearing maternity leave of the current lactation accommodation law. [Read the bill](#)

AB 98 (de la Torre) – Maternity Services

Requires individual or group health insurance policies on file with the California Department of Insurance (CDI) as of January 1, 2010, to cover maternity services, as defined, by March 1, 2010, and requires new policies submitted to CDI after January 1, 2010, to cover maternity services.

[Read the bill](#) ([http://www.leginfo.ca.gov/pub/09-10/bill/asm/ab_0051-](http://www.leginfo.ca.gov/pub/09-10/bill/asm/ab_0051-0100/ab_98_bill_20090904_amended_sen_v97.pdf)

[0100/ab_98_bill_20090904_amended_sen_v97.pdf](http://www.leginfo.ca.gov/pub/09-10/bill/asm/ab_0051-0100/ab_98_bill_20090904_amended_sen_v97.pdf))

Tell your insurance story on TV!

National Women's Law Center is teaming up with SoCal Connected (<http://www.kcet.org/socal/>) to demonstrate on television how the health insurance crisis has impacted young individuals, which constitute a large portion of the uninsured. We are looking to interview people aged 19-29 who live in Southern California and are uninsured or at risk of losing insurance because of a medical condition or other situation. If you think you would be comfortable talking on TV and are interested in being interviewed, please contact me at (202) 588-5180 or mhan@nwlc.org at the National Women's Law Center. You will most likely be interviewed by Lisa Ling, an American journalist best known for her role as a co-host of ABC's The View. Please don't hesitate! This can be our chance to let our legislators know that health reform is important to young people. Also, please join our facebook group "1 Million Women and Families Strong for Health Care Reform!"

(<http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=124788225506>) and check out our website

<http://www.nwlc.org/reformmatters/>, where you can find information on current health policy and how the health system hurts women in particular.

Michelle Han

• Positions!

MCH Access is still hiring for Welcome, Baby! positions – nurses and other home visitors - posted at www.mchaccess.org. Finance/Executive Asst. to be posted soon.



Resources!

On November 13th, 2009, *The Future of Children* will present a conference in Washington, DC, "Preserving Child Maltreatment Prevention During a Time of Economic Crisis: A Research & Policy Conference". Prior to this, on Oct 1, a Future of Children volume on the topic will be released. See <http://www.futureofchildren.org/> on/after that date.

Save the Dates!

Thurs. Sept. 17 5 to 7 PM: "**Health Advocate Training Session**" - all aspects of the proposed health care reform bills. Seating is limited to 50- please RSVP promptly to Angela Woods at:

awood@health-access.org

Or call Angela at (213) 413-3587

Location: Planned Parenthood Los Angeles
400 W. 30th Street
Los Angeles, CA 90007

Weds. Oct. 14, 2009 9am - 4pm: Valley Care Olive View, Sylmar, "**Breastfeeding Current Issues: Obesity, Baby Friendly, WIC Changes & H1N1**" For more information please visit:

<http://www.breastfeedingtaskforla.org/seminars/upseminars.htm>.

Advocacy Tip!

AIM vs. Medi-Cal – Part II! (see also March, 2009 Tip)

When using the IRS form 1040 as proof of income for someone who has earned wages, Medi-Cal usually divides the annual gross income by 12 to calculate the monthly gross income. The exception is when the applicant has not worked a full year. If the applicant has only worked part of the year, Medi-Cal will divide the annual gross by the number of months the applicant worked in that year (see ACWL 01-50).

The AIM program does not always make this distinction and instead divides the annual income by 12, meaning that AIM can find an applicant Medi-Cal eligible by their calculations while Medi-Cal finds them AIM eligible according to theirs. MCHA is working with MRMIB to correct this problem. Meanwhile, if you find clients caught in the AIM/Medi-Cal ping-pong game, contact AIM and request them to calculate the income as Medi-Cal does or call MCHA for further assistance.