



Maternal and Child Health Access

1111 W. Sixth Street, Suite 400  
Los Angeles, CA 90017-1800  
Tel 213. 749. 4261  
Fax 213. 745. 1040  
[info@mchaccess.org](mailto:info@mchaccess.org)

**MCH Access September meeting: THURSDAY SEPT. 30, 2004**  
**10 AM – 12 Noon**

**NOTE DATE CHANGE THIS MONTH ONLY – to respect Jewish Holiday 9-16**  
**1111 W. 6<sup>th</sup> St., Suite 400 - Free parking in back, entering 2-story lot on 5<sup>th</sup> St.**

**Guest speaker Lucy Quacinella, Health Policy Expert:**  
**“The California Performance Review and its Impact on Health” (see materials included)**  
**Review of state legislation passed or on Governor’s desk**  
**Updates: Health Programs and Health Issues**

**In this mailing:**

- Pregnancy Exemption for Midyear Status Report ALL PREGNANT WOMEN EXEMPT FROM MSR, however, the EW must know to exempt – REPORT PREGNANCIES to EW!
- SB 1555 (Speier) – requires insurance companies to cover pregnancy in policies – on Governor’s desk!
- CAP – on Calif. Performance Review
- MCH Access comments on selected California Performance Review recommendations
- LA Times, 9-7-04 “Big Strings on ER Aid” and “Hospitals Are Gouging the Uninsured”.
- Oct. 6-8, March of Dimes, “Going Up In Smoke” Visiting Professorship
- La Opinion “La Salud de las Latinas” July, ‘04
- CA Childcare Providers for Action
- World Breastfeeding Month – August
- LA Times, 9-1-04, “Some Bus Drivers Ban Breastfeeding...”
- 10/27 CIWC Regional Training So. Cal, “Immigrants and Healthcare”

**No meeting in August - Distributed 7-15-04**  
**Call for copies 213.749.4261:**

- Link to New Study on Children’s Eligibility for Public Insurance
- Free Vision Exams at KidCity Event

- New mailing address for AIM
- “Stop the Raids” Emergency Town Hall Meeting 7-22-04
- Immigration Legal Services List
- Series of National Immigration Law Center flyers ([www.nilc.org](http://www.nilc.org)):
  - Protecting Your Patients Against Immigration Enforcement (Eng & Span)
  - Protecting Yourself Against Immigration Enforcement in California (Eng & Spanish)
  - What To Do If You Are Arrested Or Detained By Immigration
  - Protecting Yourself Against Immigration Enforcement
- Endorsement form for Coalition for Quality Healthcare’s Statement of Principles on Tenet Hospital Sales
- Powerpoint presentation by Dr. Maritza Cabezas, “Dental Decay is Transmissible”

**Guest Speaker: Maritza Cabezas, D.D.S. Los Angeles County, Dept. of Health Services, Public Health Dentistry**  
**“New Issues in Pediatric Dental Care”**

Dr. Cabezas presented new information on dental caries being transmissible from person to person via bacteria, similar to contagious infections like the flu. Highlights from her presentation:

- The mechanism by which cavities progress, starting with white spots. At this stage the harm is still reversible if treatment is provided.
- Bacteria present in the mouth combined with acids and carbohydrates leads to demineralization, which can then lead to decay.
- We now know that bacteria is the primary cause of early childhood caries and preventing infection is the key, especially in the first 3 years of life.
- Protective factors: normal saliva flow, fluoride (water, mouthrinse, toothpaste, fluoride varnish), and antibacterials (Chlorhexidine Gluconate and Xylitol). However, it is important to balance use of fluoride since excess can lead to fluorosis, especially in children 0-6.
- ECC (Early Childhood Caries) is perhaps the most prevalent infectious disease of U.S. kids
- Vertical and horizontal transmission of bacteria via contact (salivary exchange) with mother, siblings, primary caretakers. High risk for children of mothers with high caries rates.
- Modification of mother's infection during pregnancy and first 3 years of child's life are critical.

**Key education points:**

- Use fluoridated toothpaste (pea-size amount for children under 6).
  - Parents should brush their children's teeth (rather than let them do it alone) until about 8-9 yrs. due to lack of manual dexterity and for those under 6 to ensure they are not swallowing toothpaste.
  - Avoid sweets or at least eat them with or right after a meal because salivary flow is high and can act as a buffer.
  - Brush daily, especially at night so there is fluoride in the mouth during sleep since salivary flow is decreased.
  - If bacteria count/caries is already high, decrease sugar, increase fluoride and ask dentist to prescribe fluoride varnish.
- Lastly, Dr. Cabezas discussed state legislation that would require that fluoride varnish be administered to children by a nurse or other health care provider when children are receiving their immunizations.

**AIM-Healthy Families change:**

Babies born to mothers enrolled in the AIM Program on or after July 1, 2004 will be enrolled into Healthy Families instead of AIM. Healthy Families will extend to 300% of poverty, the same income level as the AIM Program, for the infants' first two years. About 30 days before the estimated date of delivery, the mother will be sent a Healthy Families Handbook and a form to send back information on the newborn: name, gender, date of birth, and birth weight. Parent will need to select a primary care and dental provider. This form and the premium payment must be returned before the baby can be enrolled into the Healthy Families program.

AIM also has a new administrative vendor. There will be changes with the new vendor these include:

- The AIM toll-free fax line is now 888-889-9238.
- The address to mail AIM applications is now P.O. Box 15559, Sacramento, CA 95852-0559.
- The address to mail AIM payments is now P.O. Box 15207, Sacramento, CA 95851-0207.

**Updates – Celia Valdez, from the Covering Kids in Families meeting**

**Medi-Cal Redesign:**

The State Department of Health Services needed more time and decided not to submit a proposal to redesign Medi-Cal in May. They are also negotiating financing for hospitals. They are currently developing a proposal and are reviewing report from the stakeholder workgroups.

**CHDP Gateway:**

700, 000 children had been pre-enrolled though the gateway program in the past year. Of those, 563,000 requested an application – of which 14-16% were successfully returned to Single Point of Entry for processing.

Enhancements were made to the CHDP Gateway program on June 1<sup>st</sup> that automatically enroll eligible infants under one year of age into Medi-Cal (if born to a mom on Medi-Cal).

There have been approx. 5,800 infants enrolled through the Gateway program since June '04.

### **Maximus**

Maximus attended the meeting to address some of the transition and processing problems with Healthy Families applications. Many of the problems centered on Staff training and Maximus said they continue to deal with this issue. We were advised to continue to report problem cases to MRMIB if not resolved by Maximus or through the Appeals process.

### **Healthy Kids Enrollment update**

Enrollment in Healthy Kids is at about 12,000 children as of today, July 15, 2004. These numbers are attributed to the expansion of the program to older children (6-18), and outstanding outreach, enrollment and media.

**SB1275 update:** SB1275, which failed passage in the Assembly Health Committee on June 22<sup>nd</sup>. Lessons learned and possible next steps to be discussed on July 22<sup>nd</sup> at the Statewide Breastfeeding Advisory Promotion Committee.

**Lead in Candy:** An informational poster, "Toxic Treats", which depicts Mexican candies that have tested positive for lead and was produced by the Orange County Register was passed around. A series of investigative articles on the issue can be found on the OC Register website – for posters call 714-796-2239 [www.ocregister.com/investigations/lead/](http://www.ocregister.com/investigations/lead/)

### **Immigration issues**

A town hall meeting "Stop the Raids" will be held on Thursday, July 22, 2004 at the Immanuel Presbyterian Church starting at 6:30pm at 3300 Wilshire Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90010. The town hall is being sponsored by a coalition of organizations concerned about the effects that recent raids to arrest and deport Latino immigrants are having on public health, safety and education. For more info, contact Debbie Winski or Luz Chacon at MCHA.

### **New since meeting:**

**Emergency rooms may have to choose to count undocumented or refuse funding...**

See *LA Times*, enclosed. If you disagree, call your Congressional Representatives and ask them to contact the Centers for Medicaid and Medicare (CMS) to tell them "not to use claims-based methodology". The following links are to the CMS proposal and NILC's comments on the proposal:

CMS proposal (note Appendix B):  
[http://www.nilc.org/immspbs/health/Issue\\_Briefs/Sec1011Reimbrsmnt.pdf](http://www.nilc.org/immspbs/health/Issue_Briefs/Sec1011Reimbrsmnt.pdf)

NILC comments:  
[http://www.nilc.org/immspbs/health/Issue\\_Briefs/Section\\_1011\\_Comments.pdf](http://www.nilc.org/immspbs/health/Issue_Briefs/Section_1011_Comments.pdf)

NILC's pre-proposal comments:  
[http://www.nilc.org/immspbs/health/Issue\\_Briefs/MPDIMActsec1011\\_061004.pdf](http://www.nilc.org/immspbs/health/Issue_Briefs/MPDIMActsec1011_061004.pdf)

### **California Performance Review**

See CAP document and MCHA comments. Other comments are available from the Western Center on Law and Poverty ([www.wclp.org](http://www.wclp.org)) Health Access has a CPR "Summary and Initial Comment for Health Advocates" available at web site, at:

<http://www.health-access.org/docs/CPRHealthSummaryComment.doc>. The California Budget Project has also released their analysis, "Soup to Nuts: An Analysis of Selected Recommendations..." at

<http://www.cbp.org/2004/040806cpr.pdf>

More hearings are being held locally this Thursday and Friday. The topics are noted below. "While each hearing will focus on a specific topic or topics within CPR, the Commission will take public testimony at the end of each day on any issues contained in the CPR report". However, those in attendance in San Diego, focused on Health & Human Services, found there was not much time available for public comment. Go to [www.cpr.ca.gov](http://www.cpr.ca.gov) for more information.

### **EDUCATION, TRAINING, AND VOLUNTEERISM**

September 9, 2004

10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Delacour Auditorium

Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County

900 Exposition Boulevard

Los Angeles, CA 90007

### **CORRECTIONS REFORM - INDEPENDENT REVIEW PANEL (IRP) AND PUBLIC SAFETY**

September 10, 2004

10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Carpenter Performing Arts Center (CPRC)

California State University, Long Beach

1250 Bellflower Boulevard

Long Beach, CA 90840