



Maternal and Child Health Access

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MCH Access Monthly Meeting
Thursday, September 20, 2007, 10 AM – 12 noon
At The California Endowment

1000 N. Alameda St., Los Angeles – near Alameda and Cesar Chavez Blvd.

See http://www.calendow.org/chc/center_directions.html - “Click here for driving directions...”

Guest speaker on State Health Care Reform Efforts
Update on DRA – state mailings Sept. 17
Bills which have passed legislature and awaiting Governor’s signature

In this mailing:

- **AS OF TODAY, Mon. Sept. 17 – letters from STATE to ALL Medi-Cal recipients except SSI – see enclosed and contact Donald here if questions. Update at meeting Thursday.**
- **Trainings on DRA – Call MCH Access**
- **Sat. Oct. 13 - Shop for a Cause (MCHA**
- **Become a teacher of nonviolent parenting**
- **Healthy Child Campaign – info and postcard**
- **Letter and info on OERU cuts – can you send to the Governor and copies to legislators?**
Thanks to CHC for facts and original of letter.

Speaker: Irene Dyer, Los Angeles County Dept. of Health Services, “Healthy Way LA”

Ms. Dyer spoke of the new program starting this month (September) in Los Angeles County and ten other counties with federal funding awarded to the state. LA was awarded up to \$54 million per year for three years. The County’s goal is to cover 94,000 residents ages 19-64 and strengthen the safety net at the same time.

- The program is for low income, uninsured adults who are already Public-Private Partnership (PPP) or DHS facility patients.
- It is not mandatory for PPPs to participate; once full network is known it will be published.
- Enrollees must be citizens, or Legal Permanent Residents for the last five years. The income limit for the program is 133 1/3 of the Federal Poverty Level, as it is for the PPP program.

- DHS wanting to reassure non-citizen immigrant populations who will still be eligible for ORSA/ATP.
- Participants can’t have other coverage.
- Healthy Way LA is targeting folks with diabetes, CHF, hypertension, asthma, high cholesterol. The focus also is on people who only use the emergency room or specialty care connected with a primary care physician.
- Enrollees must be between the ages 19-64 OR have at least 2 previous DHS/PPP visits and not eligible for Medi-Cal or other programs.
- DHS doesn’t know yet how many current users they already have will be able to meet the citizenship/LPR requirement.

The program will offer:

- A medical home and an assigned provider, but patients will be able to change providers
- A member service line and a 24/7 multilingual nurse advice line
- Urgent care appointments will be available, although the focus will be on preventive care
- Telephone-based care managers who will give appt. reminder calls and advice specific to each enrollee’s condition(s)
- Case management for homeless and other populations who need close monitoring
- Homeless pilot will be peer based, offer transport and meet people on the streets.
- DHS will add 20,000 clinic appointments
- System enhancements include:
 - Additional specialty care clinics-optometry, podiatry, ophthalmology

- Web based patient summaries available to doctors.
- Web referrals to specialty care
- Liz and Celia mentioned DHS should consider enrolling kids ageing out of Healthy Kids or kids aging out of Medi-Cal or CCS at age 21.
- For questions contact Idyer@ladhs.org

DRA update – Donald Nollar – MCH Access

- State issued final instructions to counties June 5, 2007.
- Still not known exactly when state will send their beneficiary letter.
- Los Angeles County will tie mailings requesting documents of beneficiaries to their annual redetermination
- Federal options to change DRA are mostly tied to S-CHIP (Healthy Families) reauthorization.
- MCHA and Health Consumer Center are offering trainings (see enclosed flyer) and MCHA will distribute a “How to help pregnant women” flyer once DRA operationalized in Los Angeles – prior to that might confuse people.

Healthy Families Self affidavit of income update – Liz Ramirez

- Will remove employer information requirement
- We are contesting hand written requirement
- If folks have problems, please let MCHA know

Problems “bridging” from Medi-Cal to Healthy Families at redetermination: DPSS still just telling folks to apply and not doing the bridging for families; workers are requiring family to give consent before they can bridge, we are saying that request for consent should be on NOA or annual redetermination.

- DPSS should forward all case info to H.F.
- Please let Celia know if you have problems

Medical Support Letters- we have seen an increase in unmarried parents being asked for these even if both parents are in the home.

- We are looking at if declaration of paternity sent at time of application if it will eliminate referral to DA.
- We would like the regulations to read “absent parent” and not “unmarried parent”.

Special Centinela Zip Code enrollment over in Healthy Kids for ages 6-19.

Advocacy Tip: Deemed Eligible Infants and Redetermination

“Deemed Eligible” infants (born to a mom on Medi-Cal) whose parents fail their own Medi-Cal redetermination should still receive SB 87 protections (i.e. worker looks at all documents in file or with other aid family receives to see if information needed can be fulfilled).

If not enough information found, the baby must receive its OWN redetermination form. In other words, the baby’s Deemed Eligibility status means baby cannot be cut off for parents’ failure to redetermine. Parents who missed filing their redetermination must re-file for Medi-Cal, unless their redet due date was within last 30 days and the termination can be rescinded.

New since meeting:

S-CHIP (Healthy Families) Reauthorization:

Congress must have a bill to the President by the end of September. Click on MCHA’s website to see our focus on changing the Deficit Reduction Act within the S-CHIP reauth, as well as the websites below for information and actions you can take:

http://www.firstfocus.net/pages/3273/Veto_Letter.htm

<http://familiesusa.org/resource-centers/medicaid-action-center/>

(the next link is long- it is on the LA County page, a Washington DC update from the CAO’s office, but good

http://lacounty.info/omd/q3_2007/cms1_073518.pdf#xml=http://search2.co.la.ca.us/omd/xmlread.asp?K2DocKey=http://lacounty.info/omd/q3_2007/cms1_073518.pdf@OMD2&QueryText=

http://lahealthaction.org/index.php/library/full_entry/1222/

Upcoming Events:

Sat. October 6 - Food Allergy Awareness Day at the Los Angeles Zoo - Diagnosed with food allergies? It can be a jungle out there! Sponsored by the UCLA Food Allergy Clinic:

<http://www.uclahealth.org/body.cfm?xyzpdqabc=0&id=173&action=detail&ref=286>

Sat. Oct. 13 – Healthy Neighborhood Festival,

“Groove to Your Health” at the California Endowment, 1000 N. Alameda St. LA 9:45 procession, 10– 4 PM Festival highlighting the connection between dance and fitness. www.calendow.org/Article.aspx?id=2226