

HEALTHCARE REFORM UPDATES

State Opens Health Insurance Plan to Provide Coverage to Uninsured Californians

California's Pre-Existing Condition Insurance Plan (PCIP) has opened for enrollment with coverage beginning today, Monday, October 25, 2010. The PCIP is one of the first major provisions of national health care reform to take effect and is designed to bridge the gap between now and 2014, when insurers will no longer be allowed to decline health coverage or charge higher premiums to individuals with pre-existing conditions.

Coverage under the PCIP is available to Californians who have been without health coverage for at least six months and have been declined coverage from a carrier due to their pre-existing condition or have been offered coverage at a rate higher than the preferred provider premium rate of the state's high risk pool, the Major Risk Medical Insurance Program. Californians interested in coverage under the PCIP are encouraged to visit www.pcip.ca.gov or call 1-877-428-5060 for more information.

Last month the Governor took action on another major component of federal health care reform and [made California the first state in the nation to enact legislation creating a health benefit exchange](#). The California Health Benefit Exchange will make it easier for individuals and employees of small businesses to compare plans and buy health insurance in the private market using federal tax subsidies to make health coverage more affordable.

For more information on federal health care reform and the changes that will happen in California, please visit www.healthcare.ca.gov.

COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO - COVERAGE INITIATIVE

If you have been diagnosed with one of the following chronic conditions and are age 21 - 64, you may be eligible for health coverage (**call 800.587.8118**).

- Asthma
- Chronic Obstruction Pulmonary Disease
- Congestive Artery Disease/Angina
- Pre-Diabetes or Diabetes
- High Cholesterol/Hyperlipidemia
- Hypertension

San Diego Kids Health Assurance Network

SD-KHAN e-announcement



LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

[Assembly Bill 354 Becomes Law](#)

The CA Department of Public Health has issued an **Early Alert to Health Care Providers regarding Assembly Bill 354**, now chaptered into CA Law, which will require students (entering 7th grade and through high school) to be immunized against Pertussis beginning July 1, 2011. Click "Assembly Bill 354 Becomes Law" above for attachment.

As these requirements apply to millions of students in CA – using every opportunity to provide a Tdap booster vaccine to adolescents and adults (10 years and older) may help NOW to curtail the current epidemic and help students and families meet the forthcoming school requirement. You can help inform parents and students of this new requirement.

[Letter to Parents regarding the Pertussis Epidemic, the Flu and the importance of getting vaccinated.](#) (Click link for letter)

COMMUNITY EVENTS

“Bullying Prevention and Intervention 101”

San Diego Family Support Network Meeting Friday, November 5th

The quarterly San Diego Family Support Network meeting will be held on Friday, November 5th from 10-12. Click [November 5th SD Family Support Network mtg.pdf](#) for meeting location and information.

Health Education Action for Latinas (HEAL)

Mental Health Support Group Sessions for Latina Women of Reproductive Age

The highly successful Health Education Action for Latinas (HEAL) free mental health support and empowerment group sessions to any Latina woman of reproductive age has been expanded. Please distribute [HEAL flyer-Final.pdf](#) widely and refer your program participants.

For referrals- please contact the HEAL educator Yuri Batche- ybatche@projectconcern.org; tel. 619-791-2610 ext. 304

4th Annual Health and Community Resource Fair sponsored by the Lincoln High School Student Wellness Center and Student Wellness Council

The Lincoln High School Student Wellness Center and Student Wellness Council are sponsoring our 4th Annual Health and Community Resource Fair. This event will take place Friday, November 19, 2010. It is scheduled from 0700 until 1200 with approximately 600 students and staff attending in 75 minute shifts.

If you have questions or you are able to help with this event as an exhibitor and/or by contributing items for our drawing contact Kathy Ryan at 619-266-6502 or by e-mail at kfinniganryan@sandi.net. See [2010-11LinHF letter.pdf](#) and [EXHIBITOR registration Form.pdf](#) for additional details and registration form.

**Seasonal
FLU SHOTS
WOODGLEN VISTA APTS
10450 N Magnolia Ave, Santee
Thursday, November 4, 10
a.m. – 11:30 a.m.**



November 1, 2010

COMMUNITY EVENTS CONTINUED

Special Invitation: SD CAA Coalition's 10 YEAR Anniversary CAA & Community Partner Appreciation Luncheon-Friday November 12 (RSVP by Oct 29)

The San Diego CAA and Community Partners Coalition would like to invite you to our upcoming 10 Year Appreciation Luncheon that will take place on Friday, November 12, 2010 starting 12 noon at the Tom Ham's Lighthouse Restaurant on Harbor Island.

Please join us as we celebrate 10 years as an organization with making this the best luncheon ever. Please RSVP either by fax or by email jperez@care1st.com before October 29, 2010. Plus, if you know of a CAA or community partner that helps with health care services, please forward this invitation to them as we want to include as many CAA's as possible.

Registration application [SD CAA Coalition LUNCHEON RSVP rev.pdf](#)

FREE FLU SHOTS, PERTUSSIS VACCINATIONS AVAILABLE *Participants in Mass Vaccination Drills Receive Free Immunizations*

You can help the County of San Diego Health and Human Services Agency (HHSa) test its emergency response plans and receive free immunizations for your participation.

HHSa is conducting mass vaccination drills in El Cajon and Chula Vista on **Friday, Nov. 5**. The drills are aimed at ensuring the County is able to handle any type of major emergency that requires a large amount of people to receive medication as quickly as possible.

"We regularly hold these exercises to test our emergency response," said Supervisor Dianne Jacob, District 2, San Diego County Board of Supervisors. "This is an excellent opportunity for the public to help us ensure we are prepared, and for them to receive important vaccinations that help keep our communities healthy."

The vaccinations will take place at the Ronald Reagan Community Center, 195 East Douglas Avenue, El Cajon from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. and the HHSa South Region Family Resource Center at 690 Oxford Street in Chula Vista from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Members of the public will be able to receive a flu shot, and those ages 10 and older will also be able to get a pertussis vaccination. Pneumococcal vaccine for pneumonia will also be available for people ages 65 and over and those that have chronic medical conditions. See [News Release](#)

IRC's Healthcare Navigator job posting

The Food Security and Community Health Department is expanding its health program!

We are hiring for a Healthcare Navigator position as part of our ORR Preferred Communities grant to increase healthcare and health advocacy for our recently-arrived clients, particularly Iraqi clients in El Cajon. Arabic-speaking highly, highly preferred.

See [job description](#). Please pass along to interested, qualified, culturally-competent people you know.

Applicants should go to the IRC website (www.theirc.org) and apply online.

RESOURCES



Reduced Cost for Glasses

Lion's club offer glasses for the following prices:

1. \$30.00 for single vision
2. \$45.00 for bi-focals

What to do if you want to sign your client up for glasses:

1. Fill out the [Lions Club.pdf](#) application
2. Make an appointment with an ophthalmologist (if you make one with the Lyon's club, there is a 2 month wait period; **OR** if you have your client see someone outside of Lyon's club which is really easy and fast-all you have to do is have the ophthalmologist write the prescription for the kind of glasses the client needs and simply walk into the **Lyon's club M-F, 9am-1pm** with the prescription and get your glasses.

**Address is 1805 Upas St., San Diego CA 92103
#619-298-5273**

**RESPONSE REQUESTED ~ COMMENT LETTER REGARDING DHCS
PROPOSED CHANGES TO MC 321**

Dear Covering Kids and Families & LA Access to Health Coverage
Coalition Members

As many of you know the Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) and the Managed Risk Medical Insurance Board (MRMIB) are contemplating redesigning the MC 321 Joint Application for Healthy Families and Medi-Cal for Children and Pregnant Women. Their reasoning is that "DHCS and MRMIB are revising the application to make clear that the application is an application for the Healthy Families Program (HFP) and a screening document used to evaluate eligibility for the Medi-Cal Federal Poverty Level (FPL) programs for children and pregnant women only."

CONTINUED BELOW

**San Diego Kids Health
Assurance Network (SD-KHAN)**
3851 Rosecrans Street
San Diego, CA 92110

619-542-4195

www.sdkhan.org

Whereas they have stated that this does not change any policy with how the document is used once it is forwarded to the County Social Services office, it is our concern that this will cause confusion and is not necessary especially as we prepare for Health Reform. Along with members of the CKF and LA Access Policy/Action Committees we have drafted comments to submit to DHCS.

Also attached is a copy of the proposed revised application for your review. In concert with other advocates we chose not to make any recommendations on improving this application but simply to state that the MC 321 should be kept as is, an application for Healthy Families and Medi-Cal for Children and Pregnant Women.

We apologize for the quick turn around but we need to get these comments to the state by Monday. We are still working on the structure of the letter but the overall concepts will remain. Therefore **if your organization is interested in signing on to the letter please let me know along with whose name and title should be added to the letter no later than Monday November 1st at Noon.**

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call Sonya Vasquez at (323) 295-9372 x235 or email her at svasquez@chc-inc.org. Thank you in advance for your support.

http://www.sdcounty.ca.gov/hhsa/programs/phs/documents/10-29-10_MC321_comments.pdf