

Contra Costa Health Access Coalition



*Improving access to health care for all
children and families in Contra Costa*

**MEMBERSHIP PACKET
SUMMER 2006**

Contra Costa Health Access Coalition

Mission Statement

The Contra Costa Health Access Coalition is an inclusive, broad-based partnership of organizations and individuals whose mission is to improve access to care for all children and families in Contra Costa County. We do this by:

- Helping community organizations and county programs learn from each other, coordinate their services, and enhance the continuum of care,
- Promoting public education and programs that reduce health disparities and are responsive to the needs of the community, and
- Providing leadership for improving local, state, and federal health coverage programs, policies and legislation through outreach and education.

Members include representatives from:

- Kaiser Permanente
- John Muir Health
- Hospital Council
- Planned Parenthood Shasta-Diablo
- The Perinatal Council
- Contra Costa Child Care Council
- Sutter Delta Medical Center
- Contra Costa Community Services -- Head Start and Early Head Start
- Contra Costa Employment & Human Services Department
- Contra Costa Housing Authority
- Brookside Community Health Center
- California Partnership
- La Clínica de la Raza
- Blue Cross of California
- Contra Costa Community Development Department
- Community Housing Development Corporation of North Richmond
- Contra Costa Health Plan
- Contra Costa --- Public Health
- Health Net
- Public and Environmental Health Advisory Board (PEHAB)
- Contra Costa Community Clinic Consortium
- Familias Unidas
- Transportation and Land Use Coalition
- Welcome Home Baby
- Contra Costa Interfaith Supporting Community Organization (CCISCO)
- TriDelta Transit
- First 5 Contra Costa
- League of Women Voters – Diablo Valley Chapter
- Operation Access

History of the Health Access Coalition

The Health Access Coalition (HAC) was established in 1998 to ensure that low-income families have affordable, accessible health care in Contra Costa County.

The HAC has established strong collaborative relationships between Contra Costa Health Services, other county departments and community-based organizations. Collaboration has fostered the sharing of resources, facilitation of referrals and information, and successful coordination of outreach activities. Collectively, our efforts have assisted Contra Costa children in obtaining health coverage.

Highlights

2006

- ◆ Hosted a presentation on Public Charge with immigration expert Mark Silverman. More than 90 individuals attended.
- ◆ Sponsored a Certified Application Assistant (CAA) Training for 39 individuals representing 11 programs in Contra Costa County to increase the number of staff available to assist clients with the combined Medi-Cal/Healthy Families application.
- ◆ Updated the *It's No Secret* health coverage flyer and the Health Coverage for Children and Youth Brochure to include a Public Charge message to encourage immigrant families to apply for health coverage programs for their children.
- ◆ Developed a six-member Steering Committee to guide the future efforts of the coalition.

2005

- ◆ Developed and implemented a HAC membership survey in order to improve the collaborative efforts of the coalition.
- ◆ Developed and marketed the *It's No Secret* flyer campaign.
- ◆ Planned and conducted a "Refresher Course," which updated 80 health professionals on health coverage programs, including Medi-Cal, Healthy Families, Basic Health Care, CHDP Gateway, and Kaiser Child Health Plan.

2004

- ◆ Hosted a fourth countywide summit on access to care with financial support from HAC members who represent health plans. Expanded the membership of the coalition, developed a six-month work plan, and established five working groups: Community and Parent Outreach and Education; Health Providers; Coordinated Resources and Improved Collaboration; Policy and Legislative Outreach and Education; and Simplified System of Care.

2003

- ◆ Obtained a proclamation from the Board of Supervisors declaring March 10-16, 2003 as “Covering the Uninsured Week,” which was part of a national and Bay Area initiative of the United Way.
- ◆ Coordinated a workshop for service providers on the new CHDP Gateway and Basic Health Care programs.

2002

- ◆ Advocated for protecting and sustaining safety net programs such as the Child Health and Disability Prevention (CHDP) Program.
- ◆ Collaborated with various county departments to improve continuous eligibility efforts for infants born to women on Medi-Cal.

2001

- ◆ Participated in local, regional and state collaboratives, including the Bay Area Healthy Families Collaborative and the Covering Kids and Families Statewide Coalition, to raise awareness about barriers to care in Contra Costa.
- ◆ Promoted the Health Access Line through community outreach and education activities throughout the county.

2000

- ◆ Held a third successful countywide community outreach summit and identified important issues that are linked to access to care, such as transportation to large provider sites, cultural and linguistic diversity, lack of health insurance coverage, and training on health coverage options for community providers.
- ◆ Developed a strategy to reach small businesses throughout the county and obtained funding from the United Way to develop a brochure for small businesses.

1999

- ◆ Coordinated two countywide community outreach summits to develop access to care strategies for enrolling all eligible children and their families in Medi-Cal or Healthy Families.
- ◆ Acted as the oversight committee to the Healthy Families/Medi-Cal Outreach Project, coordinating existing efforts and identifying gaps in services in order to inform and enroll eligible children with appropriate benefits.
- ◆ Assisted in the coordination of a mini-grant process to develop innovative approaches to reaching marginalized populations, such as the Laotian community.

Health Access Coalition (HAC) Operating Principles

Attendance/Participation in Meetings: Anyone who wants to may attend and participate in discussions. Membership is defined by involvement in or attendance at meetings.

Decision Making: Simple majority consensus.

Designated Representatives: Once the Coalition decides on an issue, the group will designate individuals who will speak on behalf of the Coalition position to elected officials and media on the specific issue(s).

Resource Solicitations: Members are requested to keep the Health Access Coalition informed about any activities that their agencies are involved in that may imply a linkage to the Health Access Coalition. This includes applications for grants.

Communication: Communication to coalition members will be conducted via e-mail. For those individuals/agencies without access to e-mail, information will be faxed to them. The HAC staff will take minutes at monthly meetings, which will be emailed to the entire membership along with the following month's meeting agenda. The meeting minutes will be kept on file along with the agendas and other handouts at Family, Maternal and Child Health Programs, 597 Center Avenue, Suite 365, Martinez, CA.

Annual Evaluation:

- An evaluation of the Coalition's effort and membership participation will take place on an annual basis. The evaluation will be conducted in the form of membership surveys, sub-committee and Steering Committee reports, and review and revision of the Strategic Plan.
- Committees will report back to the coalition on progress made on their strategic plan goals, as well as future planned activities, on a bi-monthly basis.
- At monthly meetings, members will be asked to fill out index cards with feedback, comments, or opinions of that day's meeting.

Structure: The HAC will be structured in the following manner:

- Coalition co-chairs will develop the agenda and facilitate meetings.
- A designated Recording Secretary will take meeting Minutes.
- The HAC Steering Committee will meet monthly to discuss the coalition's structure, functioning, upcoming activities, and collaborative efforts. The Steering Committee will report back to Coalition members at the beginning of each HAC meeting.
- The coalition sub-committees will meet regularly to work on specific strategic plan goals and objectives.
- Committee leads are individuals that act as chairs of HAC committees. Their main role and function is to implement activities listed on the work plan and assist other committee members meet the tasks and timelines that have been agreed upon.

Membership Form

Health Access Coalition meetings are held from 10am – 12pm, on the second Tuesday of every month, at 2425 Bisso Lane in Concord.

Benefits:

- ♦ Network: receive information, share new ideas, and solve problems on obtaining resources or assisting clients.
- ♦ Collaborate: work as a group and accomplish activities you could not do on your own.
- ♦ Respond: educate community residents or legislators regarding the impact of policies or develop changes to policies.
- ♦ Coordinate: obtain training and information for your organization or staff.
- ♦ Plan: create improved access to care for families and children in Contra Costa County.

Responsibilities:

- ♦ Support the Health Access Coalition's mission of improving access to care for all children and families in Contra Costa County.
- ♦ Work collaboratively with other Coalition members toward the Coalition's strategic priorities.
- ♦ Attend monthly meetings and contribute to discussions.
- ♦ Participate in one of the Coalition's sub-committees and actively work toward achieving one of the strategic priorities set forth by the Coalition.
- ♦ Help to foster the sharing of resources, facilitation of referrals and information, and successful coordination of outreach activities.

Yes, I'd like to become an active member of the Health Access Coalition.

I'd like to receive more information; please contact me.

Name: _____ Title: _____

Organization: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ FAX: _____

Email: _____

Please complete this form at return to:

Family, Maternal and Child Health Programs

597 Center Ave, Suite 365

Martinez, CA 94553

Ph: (925) 313-6254

FAX: (925) 313-6708

Health Access Coalition – Membership Packet

Summer 2006