

Health Access Coalition Minutes 9-13-05

Present: Margie Boleyn, Odessa Stone, Paula Hines, Padmini Parthasarathy, Jana Aloo, Susan Nairn, Timobe Mashama, Lynn Pilant, Wanda Session, Maeve (for Margaret Ovenden), Lola Ejiwunmi, Mary Ann Ferrera, Christina Reich, Sandra Baldwin, Nilda Perez, Mario Serrano (for Hector Calderon), Sandra Padilla, Gary Buchanan, and Erika Jenssen.

Welcome and Introductions: Christina welcomed those present and everyone introduced themselves.

Medi-Cal Service Center: Gary Buchanan, a Project Manager at EHDS, gave an overview of the new service center (see handout). Caseloads were growing and there weren't the resources to hire more staff so the service center was the answer. The service center staff will not be doing eligibility, they will handle case maintenance and the concept of caseloads will go away. The facility is located in Antioch and will launch on 11/1/05. Brochures, post cards and posters are available. Contact Gary, if interested at gbuchanan@ehsd.co.contra-costa.ca.us or call him at 925-313-1567.

Program Updates:

- **Medi-Cal:** Sandy Baldwin reported that Katrina evacuees are being given priority eligibility and are being considered homeless California residents. Basic Health Care and CHDP are doing the same. In most case, evacuees are given same-day coverage. Erika Jenssen shared that she has access to immunization registries in Mississippi, Louisiana, and Alabama. Anyone needing to access records for school entry can contact her. For more information call [Erika Jenssen at 925-313-6734](tel:925-313-6734) or email her at ejenssen@hsd.co.contra-costa.ca.us.

Sandy also shared information regarding Medicare Part D, which is a prescription drug program that becomes effective in January 2006. Persons enrolling in Part D will be required to choose a Prescription Drug Program (PDP). There will be about 50 programs available to CCC residents and we will start seeing a glut of advertising from these companies soon. Part D will have monthly premium of about \$27 per month and an annual deductible which will be the first \$250.00 in drug costs they encounter in a given year. There are also co-payments equaling about 25% of the cost of the drug. When the total cost of drugs purchased in a given year reaches \$2,250 (including deductibles), the drug program will stop paying for any more drugs. When the total cost of drugs in a given year reaches \$5,100, the drug program will pick up the cost of the drug again and pay 95% of the drug cost. The gap between these two amounts is called the "donut hole." This whole cycle starts over again each year, beginning in January. There is also a LIS (Low income subsidy) program available. Participants must apply for this program. With the LIS, there is no coverage gap and no or reduced premiums and co-pays. For clients that are dually eligible (Medi-Medi), there are no premiums, no deductions and coverage gap BUT they will also have to enroll in a

Drug program – they can no longer use their BIC card to get free medications, as they are used to doing now. There will be a \$1 to \$3 co-pay.

Regarding the PDPs - they will all have their own drug formulary, so some drugs are covered while others are not, depending on what program clients choose. In some cases, clients may have to choose what drug to take and what they cannot afford. These are the clients that are accustomed to not paying anything at all, and now they have a co-pay. Some drugs will be covered 100% by Part B Medicare (mostly mental health drugs).

There is a HICAP training at 30 Muir Rd. scheduled for 10/11 from 9-12. This is the same time as our HAC for October. Several members (4) were going to attend, and many others were interested. To sign up for the October 11, Medicare Part D training, please call Leah McIntosh. You may reach her at 335-8791 or Lmcintos@ehds.cccounty.us. The conference room at 30 Muir can hold 125 people. **We may need to re-schedule or cancel our October meeting, if many people will be unable to attend.**

- **Schools Outreach:** Paula Hines reported that they are now working with ALL the Pittsburg Unified Schools, a large percentage of the low income schools in Mt. Diablo Unified School District, and 15 schools in West Contra Costa. Major outreach is taking place. Paula will be reporting the data they are collecting so we have an idea how many children are covered and how many are not. She is already gearing up for the 2006 school year.
- **Teach Project:** Sandra Padilla reported that work continues in the Monument and Pittsburg/Bay Point Groups. The Monument group is working on placing bus stop benches using funds from a community block grant. The Pittsburg/Bay Point group has funding to create a 10 Latina Action Team. Sandra will be bringing us information regarding opportunities to engage in community based transportation planning. MTC will be doing outreach to see what the most important routes are so they don't get cut if funding gets tighter.

Strategic Plan:

Goal A: Christina explained that she lost her notes and will convene a meeting in the next few weeks to finalize the verbiage and move forward on some of the items. Will e-mail date to Lorena when she can speak with Lynelle McElhannon.

Goal B: The "Oral Health Committee" has changed its name to "Health Provider Committee." All items are on target. Paula suggested quarterly meetings and will e-mail next date to Lorena.

Goal C: No one present to report on this.

Goal D: Mary Ann Ferrera reported that this group was waiting for clarification from the county as to what we, as a HAC, can and cannot do and they got that so they can now move forward and will plan a meeting.

Goal E: Item 1 is on target; Item 2: group needs to know which meeting Lorena wants to invite the appointment managers to; Item 3: on target – starting ed.

Sessions “real soon”; Item 4: on target – change “one-stop” to “one e-app” – Wanda to schedule visit; Item 5: not worked on yet.

Outreach Events Calendar: About six members had viewed the calendar and really liked it. People would like to know if there is currently or could be a link to send Lorena a request for the calendar directly from the web page. It would make it easier for people to just hit the link and create an e-mail to Lorena, particularly community members that may access it and not know who Lorena is. To view the calendar, go to <http://calendar.yahoo.com/ourcchac>.

Announcements:

- **Invitation to Apply for Kaiser Funding:** Christina Reich shared that HAC was invited to apply for funding and that Lorena was going to try to fund a support person for the coalition.
- **Margie Boleyn** reported that Brookside Community Health Center conducted an Immunization Fair on August 20 and over 200 children benefited. The event was funded by Chevron. The Ronald McDonald Dental Care Mobile was there and did fluoride varnishes and the HOW van was there doing physicals and immunization. The event will be even bigger next year. Margie also reported that this will be her last HAC meeting as she is taking a job as a Nurse Manager for Palo Alto Medical Foundation. The members wished her well.

Adjourned at 11:40 am (EARLY!)