

Health Access Coalition December 13, 2005 Meeting Minutes

Present: Sandra Padilla, Yolanda Thompson, Tiombe Mashama, Nilda Perez, Mary Ann Ferrera, Paula Hines, Cheri Pies, Joanne Genet, Sandy Baldwin, Aimee Chitayat, Christina Reich, Sue Martini, Rachel Berry-Millett, Jennette Claassen, Lorena Martinez-Ochoa.

HAC Membership Survey Results: Jennette Claassen, MSW Intern with FMCH Programs, presented the results of the Health Access Coalition Member Survey, which was implemented in November 2005. A copy of the PowerPoint presentation, including all of the survey questions and results, was distributed. Based on the survey results, members gave suggestions for future HAC activities and direction.

An important recommendation was the formation of a Steering Committee. The following individuals volunteered to be Steering Committee members: Sandy Baldwin, Christina Reich, Aimee Chitayat, Sandra Padilla, Mary Ann Ferrera. Rachel and Lorena will provide staff support. A first meeting date was set.

In January, a packet will be sent to all survey respondents, which will include a copy of the results, the "*It's No Secret*" flyer, a revised Strategic Plan, and a form for members to complete indicating their desire to continue their participation in HAC or be removed from the roster.

Program Updates:

- **Medi-Cal:** Sandy Baldwin reported on issues regarding Medicare Part D. At the end of the year, Medi-Cal recipients also enrolled on Medicare will stop receiving drug coverage. This group primarily includes the aged and disabled population. Medicaid and Medicare have been enrolling Medi-Cal enrolled clients that they will no longer be receiving these benefits, and that they will automatically be enrolled in Medicare Part D. The California Department of Health Services (CDHS) has also send out notices, but it is unknown how widely they have been distributed/read. Also beginning with the New Year, CDHS will stop paying monthly premiums for clients on Medicare HMO plans. These clients are also being sent notification.

With a prescription, Medi-Cal will provide 100 days of medicine if the prescription is filled before the end of the year. CDHS has not publicized this widely; the information is related between patient and doctor. There are some restrictions within HMOs. However, these 100 days will help facilitate the transition to Part D. Some clients will be disenrolled from all coverage if they *do not* disenroll from Medi-Cal Part D. For questions or concerns about Medicare Part D or choosing a drug plan, call 1-800-MEDICARE or 1-800-510-2020, the Health Insurance Counseling & Advocacy Program (HICAP).

Other news: Contra Costa continues to struggle with CalWin. Medi-Cal providers have lost 5% of funding. It is not known how this will impact managed care rates. It is currently impacting Family PACT, and the Planned Parenthood budget is being severely cut. This will result in more clients dropping fee-for-service providers and there will be an overflow in community clinics and health centers.

- **School Outreach:** Paula Hines reported that at a recent meeting with representatives from all CCC school districts, along with CISCO, discussed outreach and health access strategies for the 2006 school year. A smaller committee was created that includes representatives from Antioch, Mt. Diablo, and West County. The group has several plans including: assuring that the Request for Information (RFI) flyer is available in all schools at all times; using the RFI at kindergarten registration; CAA training for MDUSD parent liaisons, and expanding linkages for outreach in schools.

- **Transportation:** Sandra Padilla stated that the transportation working groups are going well. Bay Point just released a three-year marketing plan. Major components include a) Basic Spanish instruction to all drivers in Bay Point. b) A new daily pass that could allow multi-ride passengers up to \$10 savings/day. c) Proposal to extend Bay Point's transportation route to reach neighborhood with many single car families. A community resident designed the plan. Also, TriDelta is hiring a consultant to observe cases with monolingual/non-English-speaking customers and interactions with transit employees.

Monument Corridor: Community-based Transportation Planning document is in preparation. The plan lists the Corridor's needs among the low-income population. Concord is pushing to expedite the plan in order to receive funding to implement proposals.

TALC's TEACH (Transportation Equity and Community Health) three-year project is ending in mid-2006, but TALC would like to stay involved with the county and continue with follow-up projects in Bay Point, the Monument Corridor, and other areas.

- **Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC):** Flyers for Vita Sites are currently being ordered. If you are interested in obtaining copies of the flyer, please contact Lorena at (925) 313-6951.

Upcoming Trainings:

Please check the Health Access Coalition Calendar for current events: <http://calendar.yahoo.com/ourcchac>

- January 2006: Children's Oral Health training by Christina Reich, in preparation for Children's Oral Health Month in February.
- February 2006: CAA Training for HAC members and their staff
- February 2006: TALC Training – Access Now!

Strategic Plan:

Goal A: Christina distributed an updated plan for the Parent and Community Education Committee.

Goal B: Paula updated on a recent Saturday clinic held by a dental provider. Nilda updated on the Ronald McDonald Care Mobile and other dental news. Overall plans are ongoing and on target.

Goal C: The possibility of holding off on this goal until there is a more solidified committee and plan of action was discussed.

Goal D: On target. The newly formed Steering Committee will take over the plans for this goal and develop a schedule of HAC speakers for 2006.

Goal E: Amy Chitayat joined the Simplified System Committee. Objective #2, inviting an appointment manager to educate HAC re: scheduling appointments and access, has been completed. Objective #4, monitoring Alameda County's One-e-App pilot, has also been completed. Other objectives are on target.

Announcements:

- Paula updated the group on the Prop 63 Mental Health Plan hearing.
- Tiombe explained the African American Health Conductor's Project, which aims to increase African-American's access to and utilization of the Bay Point Health Clinic. The project, which will begin next year, will get information to the African American community about the project and the services available to them, in an attempt to eliminate racial disparities and increase access to care.
- Nilda updated on the mobile health clinic and the pilot health education programs being carried-out in community churches.