

Health Access Coalition

Meeting Minutes, 3/14/06

Present: Aimee Chitayat, Mary Ann Ferrera, Martha Fuentes, Marta Bernal, Rochelle Robinson, Padmini Parthasarathy, Tiombe Mashama, Wanda Session, Regina Davis, James Acuña, Nilda Perez, Yolanda Thompson, Joanne Genet, Sue Martini, Lynn Pilant, Patricia Snyder, Lorena Martinez-Ochoa, Rachel Berry-Millett.

Welcome and Introductions: Lorena welcomed the group and members introduced themselves.

Committee Reports:

- Steering Committee: Mary Ann informed the group of the co-chair position opening, responsibilities, and selection process. Interested volunteers should contact Lorena. If there are multiple candidates, each will be given the opportunity to address HAC at the April meeting regarding their background, qualifications, and interest in the position, and then HAC members will vote to select a co-chair. Christina addressed the April and May HAC meetings. April's agenda includes a discussion of talking points for the Board of Supervisor's hearing on April 25, a presentation by Sandy Baldwin on EHSD Business Practices, and an update from CHDP Gateway. The May HAC meeting will be a presentation on public charge by Mark Silverman. The meeting will be opened up to a larger group, including newly trained CAAs.
- Parent and Community Outreach and Education Committee: Rachel updated the group on the status of the drafted public charge statement: Once it is approved, the statement will be added to the *It's No Secret* flyer as well as the newly revised Health Coverage for Children and Youth Brochure. The documents will then be re-printed and distributed to HAC members for dissemination. James described the RFI process CHDP is doing in the schools. The return rate has been fairly high and the process is going well.
- Simplified System Committee: Wanda reported that the majority of the committee's goals have been completed. They are currently looking to develop a low-literacy script for CAAs and other front-line staff to use when they are assisting clients.
- Policy Outreach and Education: Members will be preparing for the April 25 Board of Supervisors meeting, and Aimee requested that HAC members attend if possible.

Presentations:

Luis Pardo, Kaiser Permanente Child Health Plan

Luis distributed materials and presented on the Kaiser Child Health Plan, which was changed from Kaiser Permanente Cares for Kids in April 2004. The plan is designed for uninsured children ages 0-19 that are not eligible for government-sponsored coverage or coverage that is paid for, in any part, by an employer. Family income requirements are in the middle-income range. Residency is not required. The plan does not request the social security number, medical records, or birth certificates of its applicants. Renewal occurs every 12 months. Since this is an in-house Kaiser program that does not receive State or Federal funding, the plan is private, and there is no reporting to the State or Federal governments.

The plan provides comprehensive services to children for low premium costs. The application process takes approximately 45 days. Through a contract with Dental PMI, all KP Child Health Plan children are now automatically enrolled in Dental PMI's separate plan (with no extra charge) and are able to receive full dental services. For adults, Kaiser has the Steps Plan, but it is only for former Kaiser members who have left within the last six months, or for parents of children enrolled in KP Child Health Plan or Healthy Families. For more information on the Kaiser Child Health Plan, contact Luis Pardo: luis.pardo@kp.org, (510) 625-2381, or visit the Kaiser Permanente website: www.kaiserpermanente.org.

While the Health Access Coalition does not take an official stance on legislative and political issues, it strives to help members stay current on healthcare and health access legislation and policies. The following speakers provided background information on two important issues: Senate Bill 840 and the 2006 Tobacco Tax Initiative.

Judy Pope and Karen Armstrong, Health Care for All California

Guest speaker Judy Pope discussed Senate Bill 840, The California Health Insurance Reliability Act (CHIRA), authored by Senator Sheila Keuhl. The bill has passed the Senate and is now before the Assembly. If passed, the bill would provide single payer health coverage to *all* Californians, regardless of age, employment status, disability, residency, etc. There would be no co-pays, deductibles, or premiums. The plan involves no new spending on health care, and reports have shown that it would save California \$8 billion in the first year alone. Judy outlined the comprehensive services that would be provided under the system. She emphasized that it is not socialized medicine. People would still have the freedom to choose their primary care provider and facility. A significant amount of support has been shown for the bill: in a Public Policy Institute Survey in 2005, 60% of those surveyed responded positively to single-payer healthcare.

Aimee Chitayat, 2006 Tobacco Tax Initiative

Aimee addressed the November 2006 ballot initiative that would raise California's tobacco tax by \$2.60 per pack. If passed, it is expected that the initiative would reduce overall tobacco use while still raising approximately \$2.2 billion in revenue to fund the following areas of healthcare:

- Treatment – 52.75%
 - Including Emergency care, nursing education, community clinics, and others
- Prevention – 42.25%
 - Including children's health insurance, tobacco prevention programs, and other disease prevention and control programs
- Research – 5%
- Funding for Prop 10 Programs (\$159 million)

Announcements & Updates

Christina announced an upcoming lunchtime presentations on heart disease in women. The events will be held on March 16, 2006, and March 23, 2006. Contact Christina (925)-646-5925, for more information.

Tiombe distributed the current Health Department newsletter and updated the group on the African American Health Conductors who will soon begin working in Bay Point.

Committee Meetings

The meeting was adjourned at 11:30am and strategic plan committees met in small groups to discuss their current activities.

The next HAC meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 11, 2006, from 10am – 12pm at 2425 Bisso Lane in Concord.