

CHAMP-Net News

February 2, 2009 | Volume 3, Issue 2



CHAMP-Net is a program of the National Health Foundation (NHF).

Click [here](#) to visit NHF's website.

Important Links/Information *February 2009*

[AIM-California Residency Requirement Changed](#)

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[February 2009 CHAMP Training Schedule](#)

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[Kaiser Permanente Child Health Plan Renewal Update](#)



Have a question/
comment regarding

Hello CHAMPers,

Welcome to the February issue of CHAMP-Net News! I would like to begin by introducing myself to you. My name is Jeanette Peña and I am the newest member of the CHAMP Team. For the past month, I have been attending community meetings, trainings and events where I have had the pleasure of meeting many community members, health advocates and CAAs. It gives me great pleasure in knowing there are so many joined in the effort of ensuring comprehensive healthcare access to many uninsured families.

My goal is to assist you in ensuring healthcare coverage for families by providing training, up-to-date information, support and continued community involvement through new and existing partnerships. I look forward to meeting you soon or in the near future. Keep up the great work!

This issue of CHAMP-Net News highlights some important topics of interest to health advocates including:

- Events
 - Free Fresno Train-The-Trainer Course
 - Learning Collaborative Series: Strategies for Health Care Coverage
 - National Children's Oral Health Month
 - 2008 CAA Forum - Los Angeles
- Healthcare Coverage Program Updates
 - Medi-Cal - Mid-Year Status Reports
 - Healthy Families - Premium Increase/New Website
 - AIM - California Residency Requirement Changed
 - Healthy Kids - Update
- CHAMP-Net's Tip of the Month - The Importance of Redetermination
- Ask the Trainer Question of the Month
- CHAMP Training - CAA Training
- CHAMP-Net's County of the Month - Santa Barbara

Best always,



CHAMP-Net or CHAMP-Net News? Please share your suggestions by contacting Nabihah Basrai at nbasrai@nhfca.org or 213.538.0745. We look forward to hearing from you!

[Quick Links](#)

[CHAMP-Net](#)

[Last Month's Newsletter](#)

[Ask The Trainers](#)

[Spotlight on: Pregnant Teen and Parenting Support Program](#)

Each month CHAMP-Net News will highlight a current NHF program.

The Pregnant Teen and Parenting Support Program ended 2008 with an exciting celebration. Five high schools hosted the program on their campuses last semester and had a combined total of 65 teens that were committed to finishing the 10-week workshop series. The workshops were very successful. Topics covered included: nutrition, childcare, family planning, career preparedness, and much more. At the end of ten weeks, a graduation dinner took place at a local restaurant. Each participant received a certificate and gifts for their babies.

The ultimate objective of this program is to empower students to make healthy decisions for themselves and also access the support they need.

If you have any questions about this program, please contact Sara Train: saratrain@nhfca.org.

Jeanette Peña, Program & Education Specialist

Events

Free Fresno "Train the Trainer" Course

Please register now to attend the UCLA Center for Health Policy Research's Health DATA Program's three-day 'Data & Democracy: Performing a Community Assessment' Train the Trainer course. This free training will give you an opportunity to learn and teach others how to obtain and use community and research data to benefit YOUR organization and build healthy communities!

[Register online by February 2](#)

Contact Information: Call 310-793-098.

Learning Collaborative Series: Strategies for Health Care Coverage

Community Health Councils, Inc. and the California Covering Kids and Families Project are hosting two learning collaborative sessions on February 24, 2009 at KVIE Public Television Community Room located at 2030 W. El Camino Avenue, Sacramento, CA 95833. The sessions will address Best Practices in Utilization (9:30am - 12:30pm) and Data Collection and Management (1:30pm - 4:30pm). Interested participants are expected to attend the learning collaborative session(s) in teams in order to develop a realistic and achievable action plan to take back to their county. For more information, click [here](#).

National Children's Oral Health Month

Did you know that February is National Children's Oral Health Month? On February 7, the Give Kids a Smile program is providing oral health services at three locations in Los Angeles County. All services are free! Make sure you encourage your families to stop by and receive these free services.

Free screenings for children under 12 years old!

M.E.N.D. Center
10641 N. San Fernando Road, Pacoima
Friday, February 6, 2009, 9:30AM - 2:30PM
(818) 897-2443

The free services include exams, x-rays, cleanings, sealants, fillings, dental care, health education, and fun activities!

Children's Dental Center of Greater Los Angeles
300 East Buckthorn Street, Inglewood
Saturday, February 7, 2009, 9:00am - 5:00pm
(310) 419-3000

The free services include exams, x-rays, cleanings, sealants, fillings, dental care, health education, and fun activities!

Venice Dental Center
323 S. Lincoln Blvd., Venice
Saturday, February 7, 2009, 9:00am - 3:00pm
(310) 392-4103

2008 CAA Forum - Los Angeles

On December 16, 2008, CAAs from all-over Los Angeles County participated in the 2008 CAA Forum. The information presented was intended to help CAAs stay updated on the changes occurring in healthcare programs and also provide resources to better assist our communities. Please [click here](#) to view the materials from some of the workshops.

Healthcare Coverage Program Updates

Medi-Cal

Mid-Year Status Reports

Beginning January 1, 2009, counties in California are required to collect Mid-year Status Reports (MSR) for most Medi-Cal beneficiaries, including children (for information about exemptions, please visit [CHAMP-Net](#)). In Los Angeles County, the first round of letters has been sent to Medi-Cal beneficiaries who must submit their MSR in February. Upon receipt of the letter, beneficiaries must complete, sign and return the MSR on time to ensure that they maintain their coverage. CAAs should remind families to send in the MSR on time since children can now lose their Medi-Cal coverage if any family member fails to submit their MSR. For beneficiaries who must submit their MSR in February, failure to do so will result in loss of coverage for all family members enrolled in Medi-Cal starting in April. As CAAs, it is more important than ever to remind families to complete and return the MSR on time for every member of the family so that nobody loses their Medi-Cal coverage. For information about this policy in other counties, please contact your local DPSS office. Check [CHAMP-Net](#) regularly for updates about this new requirement.

Healthy Families

Premium Increase Effective February 1

As you may have heard, effective February 1, the Healthy Families Program has increased their monthly premiums. Families in Category A have not been affected; however, families in Category B and C will be required to pay a higher premium. If a child in Category B is enrolled in the Community Provider Plan, their monthly premiums will be \$9, and if not enrolled in this plan, will be \$12. Similarly, children in Category C will pay \$14 if enrolled in a Community Provider Plan, and \$17 if not. The maximum premium for Category B is \$36 per family,

and \$51 for Category C. Please encourage families to submit a [Premium Re-evaluation Form](#) with their current income documentation as their premium category might have decreased and they might be required to pay a lower premium amount. Filling out this re-evaluation form may also alert families that they may now be eligible for Medi-Cal, which is at no-cost to the family.

Please let us know if you have further questions regarding the new premium increase. As always, updates will be posted under the "[What's New](#)" section of CHAMP-Net.

New Website!

The Healthy Families Program has a new and improved website with valuable information for CAAs and families! Please save/update any links in your bookmarks related to the website as pages may have changed. The website can be viewed [here](#).

Access for Infants and Mothers *California Residency Requirement Changed*

Access for Infants and Mothers (AIM) no longer has a 6 month California residency requirement to qualify for the program. Pregnant women who are current California residents and meet all AIM eligibility criteria can now apply regardless of how long they have resided in California (the previous requirement was that women had to be living in California for at least 6 months).

Healthy Kids

Great News! The Healthy Kids Program has extended their funding for children ages 0-5 through June 30, 2010. Keep up the great work with enrolling families! Please visit [CHAMP-Net](#) frequently for any updates.

CHAMP-Net's Tip of the Month: The Importance of Redetermination

During this time families need to be very proactive about the redetermination process. With changes in the Medi-Cal redetermination process, the best way for families to advocate for keeping their healthcare coverage is by sending in their redetermination paperwork on time, including their Mid Year Status Report (MSR). CAAs also play an important role in keeping track of when families six-month review is due and can remind them to send in their redetermination paperwork. Here are some easy ways to keep track of families' redetermination dates:

- Put a reminder in your calendar
- Make periodical phone calls to the family to ensure they

are using services and are mailing in their paperwork if needed

- Schedule an appointment with the families every 5 months just to touch base, update information, and help with the redetermination process

Helping families understand the redetermination process will continue to empower our communities to stay healthy.

Ask The Trainer Question of the Month

Dear Trainer,

Can a child be eligible for Healthy Families if they have a high employer-sponsored insurance deductible, or does the 90 day wait period still apply?

Thanks!

Jesse

Dear Jesse,

Unfortunately, the 90 day wait period does apply even though there is a high deductible. It does not matter how high the out of pocket expenses are for the family receiving employer sponsored insurance; what matters is that the children are dependents on the employer coverage. Verify that the child is a dependent on the employer insurance, because if only the parents receive coverage through the employer, the 90 day rule does not apply. Also, there are exceptions such as if an individual loses their job, goes from full-time to part-time, stops receiving benefits, etc. The three month rule generally only applies if an individual voluntarily drops their dependent (child) off the employer sponsored insurance.

Hope this helps!

-The CHAMP Team

*Please do not hesitate to send us a question or comment at askthetrainers@champ-net.org. Our trainers will respond to you within 48 hours.

CHAMP Training: CAA Training

We are excited to announce that the Managed Risk Medical Insurance Board (MRMIB) has updated their CAA Web-Based Training! All the chapters and certification exam have been updated to reflect current program changes.

The CHAMP Team offers a two-day face-to-face training in which our trainers walk participants through all of the Web-Based Training slides. There will be an opportunity to ask questions and clarify any confusing concepts. At the end of the second day, all participants take the CAA Certification Exam and upon successful completion, instantly receive their CAA numbers.

Call Tricia at 213.538.0778 to sign up for a training! We look forward to seeing you and/or your staff at the next CAA Training.

CHAMP-Net's County of the Month: Santa Barbara

Santa Barbara County is dedicated to promoting individual, family and community health by preventing disease, promoting wellness and ensuring access to needed healthcare. We would like to highlight some of the programs available in this county.

Comprehensive Perinatal Services Program (CPSP)

The CPSP was implemented to provide free and enhanced prenatal and postpartum care to Medi-Cal eligible low-income women. CPSP offers programs on nutrition, health education and psychosocial (supportive services) assessments, interventions, and classes with clinical obstetrical care

For more information contact:
Grace E. Van Doren, MSN, PHN
Perinatal Services Coordinator
(805) 346-7231

AIDS Prevention & Support Services

Santa Barbara County staff collaborate with local organizations to provide a range of HIV/AIDS prevention and care programs to over 10,000 people each year. Services include prevention education, testing and counseling, early intervention, case management, partner notification, and assistance with housing, medication, food, and other basic needs. Services are provided in Spanish and English throughout the county.

For more information contact:
Dan Reid
(805) 681-5421
Dan.Reid@sbcphd.org

Cancer Detection Program

The Tri-Counties Cancer Detection Partnership coordinates free breast and cervical cancer screening to over 6,000 lower-income women in Santa Barbara, Ventura, and San Luis Obispo Counties each year, under the state's Every Woman Counts program. Women are linked to free treatment services as needed. Call 800-511-2300 for eligibility information. To schedule free cancer prevention education, call (805) 681-5296.

For more information contact:

June English
(805) 681- 4783

June.English@sbcphd.org

Children's Dental Health Program

The Children's Dental Health Program provides oral health and nutrition education and supplies to over 15,000 eligible preschool-6th grade students each year, and includes classroom presentations by the Tooth Fairy health educators, toothbrushes, floss, and fluoride tablets for students, teacher training, and parent education.

For more information contact Jeri Waite at (805) 681-5152 or

JeriWaite@sbcphd.org.

Network for a Healthy California

Health educators assist eligible schools, agencies, and coalitions in developing and implementing policies that promote healthy eating, nutrition education, and physical activities, toward the prevention of obesity and related health problems. Services include the school-based Harvest of the Month program, and the Communities of Excellence capacity-building program.

For more information contact Susan Horne at (805) 681-4757 or

Susan.Horne@sbcphd.org.

To obtain more information about all the programs mentioned above, please refer to Santa Barbara's Public Health Department website: www.sbcphd.org

NHF is an independent, charitable, tax-exempt 501(c)(3) corporation dedicated to improving and enhancing the healthcare of the underserved by developing and supporting innovative programs that 1) can become independently viable, 2) provide systemic solutions to gaps in healthcare access and delivery and that 3) have the potential to be replicated nationally.