

What is going on with the DRA in your county?

CHAMP-Net hopes to highlight what is happening in different counties around their implementation of the DRA. Please email Nabihah Basrai at nbasrai@nhfca.org about your experience with the DRA implementation in your county. We will highlight the information you provide to us in March's CHAMP-Net News.

Thank you!

What's New on CHAMP-Net?

You can register to attend CHAMP Trainings on [CHAMP-Net](#).

Ask The Trainer

Have a question about program eligibility and/or requirements? Ask our experts at the [Ask The Trainer](#) section of CHAMP-Net.

To view previously asked questions, [click here](#).

Visit our site, [CHAMP-Net](#), to learn more.

Hello CHAMPers!

Spring is almost here and we hope everyone is enjoying this exciting time of the year. The change in season also brings forth new beginnings, and this month we want to encourage all advocates to refresh their best-practices in hopes of increasing utilization and retention of services in our communities. If you need to review the procedure for following up with families, this is the time to start! As you might have heard, California is expecting many changes in regards to healthcare coverage programs and because one community is not isolated from the rest, changes affect everyone. As this year progresses, CHAMP-Net is committed to providing updates and support to advocates and Certified Applications Assistants Statewide.

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

- CHAMP-Net Expansion – Fresno, Imperial, Kern and Shasta County!
- Medi-Cal – Deficit Reduction Act
- Major Risk Medical Insurance Program (MRMIP)
- Consolidated Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act (COBRA)
- CHAMP's Documentation Training
- CHAMP-Net's County of the Month – Imperial County
- Save the Date - 1st Annual California Partnership of Healthcare Advocates Conference
- CHAMP-Net's Ask The Trainer Feature

With best wishes,
Sara Train

CHAMP-Net Expansion

Are you a Certified Application Assistant (CAA) or healthcare advocate in Fresno, Imperial, Kern, or Shasta County? CHAMP-Net is expanding its web services to these four counties and we want to get to know YOU and CAAs in your county! Please email Nabihah Basrai at nbasrai@nhfca.org with your contact information as well as contact information for any CAA/healthcare advocates you know in any of the four counties listed above.

We are excited about the opportunity to work with you to reduce the number of uninsured families in California. We look forward to providing your county with the online resources and healthcare coverage program and policy information it needs.

Medi-Cal

Medi-Cal – Deficit Reduction Act (DRA)

On February 4, 2008, the State started to send out the 2nd quarter DRA notices to Medi-Cal beneficiaries who have re-determinations in March, April and May. As of now, Los Angeles County has not yet implemented the DRA and Medi-Cal staff has stated that the DRA will most likely take effect in June 2008. Please note that these letters are simply informational and families do not need to provide proof of citizenship/identity at this time. We encourage CAAs to recommend families start gathering their original citizenship and identity documents. This will allow families to have all the information necessary once the DRA is implemented. Also, as CAAs and health advocates, we must ensure that we are providing families with current and complete information regarding the DRA so this new process does not pose any challenges for them when accessing or retaining healthcare coverage. Please do not hesitate to contact the CHAMP team for more information regarding the DRA at askthetrainers@champ-net.org.

Please visit these websites for additional information regarding the DRA.

- [California Department of Health Care Services](#)
- [California Primary Care Association](#)
- [Health Consumer Alliance](#)

Major Risk Medical Insurance Program (MRMIP)

As you know, the Major Risk Medical Insurance Program (MRMIP) is designed to provide healthcare coverage to Californians who are not able to obtain individual insurance coverage because of pre-existing health conditions. Under this program, enrollees receive comprehensive medical benefits for inpatient and outpatient hospital and physician services.

As of February 1, 2008, MRMIP has a \$450 calendar year deductible. All individuals enrolled into MRMIP are responsible to meet the deductible before the health plans will begin paying for covered services. However, each health plan is applying the deductible differently and there are certain preventive services that are not subject to this deductible.

In addition, MRMIP is no longer disenrolling subscribers that have been receiving services for 36 consecutive months. Effective December 31, 2007, any MRMIP subscriber can continue to receive services under MRMIP for as long as they qualify.

For more information about this program please call 800-289-6574 or visit www.mrmib.ca.gov.

Consolidated Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act (COBRA)

Did you know...

Consolidated Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act (COBRA) is a program that gives workers and their families who lose their employer provided health benefits provided by their employer the option to continue group health benefits for a specific period of time. Under this program, beneficiaries can continue receiving the same benefits that they were receiving through their employer for a limited time by paying for their own coverage. This provides uninterrupted coverage at the group rate and individuals keep their existing health plan.

Employees should receive a notice indicating their eligibility for Federal COBRA or Cal-COBRA within 30 days after the employee's death, termination, reduced hours, etc. The employee should then notify the health plan in writing that they want to sign up for COBRA within 60 days.

For more information about COBRA please visit <http://www.dol.gov/dol/topic/health-plans/cobra.htm>

CHAMP's Documentation Training

Did you know that CHAMP offers a training specifically addressing all of the needed documentation when applying for a healthcare coverage program? The Documentation Training covers what income is counted/excluded, income documentation, program deductions and tax forms that may be used as documentation. Participants will receive copies of useful forms at the training as well. This training is an excellent way to update yourself on the required documentation and also learn the documentation options available to families. If you are interested in hosting or attending the 3 hour training please contact Tricia Fitzgerald at tfitzgerald@nhfca.org or 213-538-0778.

CHAMP-Net's County of the Month - Imperial County

Imperial County advocates are working hard to ensure that children and teens in Imperial County obtain the health services they need. The CHAMP team was pleased to have the opportunity to visit Imperial County in December 2007 and presenting CAAs and advocates with information on the DRA and healthcare coverage program updates.

Here are some programs available in Imperial County:

The **High-Risk Infant (HRI) Program** support at-risk infants and their families by providing home based services to help reduce preventable illness and unnecessary hospitalizations, prevent or minimize developmental disabilities or delays and promote optimal health. Please call 760-482-4451 or e-mail robinwendell@imperialcounty.net for more information.

The **Adolescent Family Life Program (AFLP) Program Activities** is a no cost program where case managers provide assessment, guidance, support, and referrals to needed resources and services. Pregnant/parenting teens receive help in identifying, pursuing and achieving personal goals. They also receive help to become independent, and nurturing parents, delay future pregnancies and acquire job skills. Please call 760-335-3463 or e-mail yolandabernal@imperialcounty.net for more information.

Cal-Learn Program Activities is a case management program for pregnant/parenting teens that receive Cal-Works grant assistance. School attendance and progress towards graduation are required, monitored and rewarded. Reimbursement for child-care, transportation expenses and school supplies are provided to support the parenting teen's attendance in school. Case managers assist parenting teens to obtain educational and life goals, explore career options, and connect with job opportunities. Please call 760-335-3461 or e-mail marisamejia@imperialcounty.net for more information.

The Tuberculosis (TB) Control Program prevents the spread of TB in Imperial County and helps ensure adequate treatment for any individuals that have active TB. Please call 760-482-4661 or e-mail charlotteclunn@imperialcounty.net for more information about this program.

Please visit the Imperial County Department of Public Health website at <http://www.icphd.org/sub.php?idm=34> for more information.

Save the Date - 1st Annual California Partnership of Healthcare Advocates Conference

We hope to see you for the 1st Annual CAA conference on April 3, 2008 at the San Diego Convention Center. Please visit www.champ-net.org for more information and to register for the conference. The last day to register is March 20, 2008.

Sample list of workshops which will be covered at the conference:

1. Health Care and Cultural Competency
2. Medi-Cal Updates
3. Effective Outreach Strategies
4. Navigating the Health Care System - Where to begin?



2008 California Partnership of
Healthcare Advocates Conference

Thursday, April 3, 2008

San Diego Convention Center

For more information and to register, please visit
www.CHAMP-Net.org

CHAMP-Net's Ask The Trainer Feature

CHAMP staff encourages you to use the Ask The Trainer e-mail feature (askthetrainers@champ-

net.org) for any questions or concerns regarding healthcare coverage programs and policy. CHAMP-Net News will feature one question with "Jesse," our healthcare advocate, every month. The question will be one posed to CHAMP staff in the previous month.

Dear Trainer,

I am assisting a family with applying for Healthy Families. The parents do their annual income taxes separately and the father did not do 2006 taxes. Would we be able to use the annual income taxes from the mother? Do we need to include the father's pay stub?

Thanks!

Jesse

Dear Jesse,

Yes, you can definitely use the mother's income taxes as proof of income. However, the federal income tax forms will document the income of those family members in the household whose incomes are reported on that form, so the father's pay stub will be needed as well. I hope this helps! Please let me know if you have any further questions.

Diana

Have you checked out all of the features offered on CHAMP-Net? [Click here](#) to take a look!

To comment or share your suggestions about this newsletter, please contact us at the information listed below.

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