

# CHAMP-Net News

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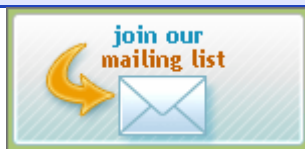
CHAMP-Net is a program of the National Health Foundation (NHF).

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

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Have a question/comment regarding CHAMP-Net or CHAMP-Net News? Please share your suggestions by contacting the CHAMP team at [askthetrainers@champ-net.org](mailto:askthetrainers@champ-net.org) OR

Hello CHAMPers!

September is time for kids to go back to school-an exciting time for students, parents and teachers. Healthy kids are better learners, so it is important that kids get all of their required vaccines to prevent illness and stay home from school when they are sick and visit a doctor. This fall, many parents can access free or low cost flu shots for themselves and their children offered by County Public Health Departments, pharmacies and other health care agencies. In addition, CAAs can help families access preventative care, such as annual check-ups and immunizations, and refer them to appropriate providers if their child is sick. It is also important that CAAs stay healthy, so take precautions like washing hands regularly and visiting a doctor if you are not feeling well. Let's all work together to keep our communities healthy this fall!

In this month's issue of CHAMP-Net News, we highlight some important topics of interest to health advocates including:

- [News & Events](#)
  - 2010 CAA/Health Advocate Conference: Workshop Topics Survey Winner: Claudia Molina
  - Building Blocks for Healthy Babies, Healthy Families, Healthy Communities
  - Los Angeles County Residents: Protect your health...Get your **FREE** flu shots!
  - Increasing Breastfeeding Success by Reading Baby Cues
  - Infant Mental Health Through the Lens of Speech and Language Therapy
  - Let's Get Dads Involved!
- [Healthcare Coverage Program Updates](#)
  - Healthy Families
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- [CHAMP-Net's County of the Month](#) - Alameda

Best,

213.538.0774. We look forward to hearing from you!

### [Quick Links](#)

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*Spotlight on:  
[Los Angeles County  
Pandemic Flu Hospital  
Planning Model](#)  
Each month CHAMP-Net  
News will highlight a  
current NHF project.*

Growing concern over acute, unpredictable public health emergencies have led to disaster planning at the local healthcare service and governmental levels. Unexpected shocks to hospital systems, like a pandemic flu, may cause temporary surges in demand for hospital care in excess of current supply. However, quantifying the number of patients who will not receive care due to the expected overwhelming need for hospital services has been absent from many preparedness efforts. To meet this need, a Pandemic Flu Hospital Planning Model (the Model) was developed and tested in the Los Angeles (LA) County hospital market.

The Model simulates inpatient and emergency department (ED) care at more than 100 LA County hospitals. Since these hospitals are interconnected, a systems approach is taken allowing patients to move between hospitals to more accurately capture true patient traffic. In this project two potential 25 week flu pandemics are considered: moderate (25% of population becomes ill) and severe (35% of the population becomes ill). Three policies were modeled to determine the impact of hospital intervention on reducing the number of patients who cannot

Brooke Fox, Program Manager

## News and Events

### 2010 CAA/Health Advocate Conference: Workshop Topics Survey Winner

The California Healthcare Advocates (CPHA) and the CHAMP team would like to take a moment to thank all the advocates who completed the 2010 CAA/Health Advocates Conference-Workshop Topics Survey. Your invaluable feedback will allow us to provide you with the quality information in the upcoming 2010 CAA/Health Advocate Conference that will be held in Orange County. We would also like to congratulate our survey raffle winner, **Claudia Molina from Community Connections in Delano, Kern County**. She has worked with the agency since 2001 and has helped families with applications for Medi-Cal, Healthy Families, AIM, and Healthy Kids. Congratulations!

### Building Blocks for Healthy Babies, Healthy Families, Healthy Communities

Come for learning and inspiration from national experts as we start to create a vision of how we can ensure lifelong health and well-being from birth for all children. Please see the attached [flyer](#) for more information.

Date: September 10, 2009

Location: Niles Hall, Preservation Park, 1233 Preservation Park Way, Alameda, CA

Cost: Free; Registration is limited to those who live or work in Alameda County

### Increasing Breastfeeding Success by Reading Baby Cues

This one day seminar on baby behavior gives clear information about baby body language and cues Seminar participants will gain important insight into what babies are trying to communicate in their unique and often difficult-to-understand body language. When counseling breastfeeding mothers or teaching health care professionals, baby behavior messages can be woven into breastfeeding guidance. Understanding baby behavior can impact in-hospital and clinic breastfeeding rates, parent satisfaction and confidence. For more information please click [here](#).

Date : September 11, 2009

Location: Pomona Valley Hospital Medical Center, 1798 N. Garey Ave, Pomona, CA

**Los Angeles County Residents: Protect your health...Get your FREE flu shot!**

receive hospital care due to overwhelming demand. These policies were: reduce elective admissions, increase acute respiratory support bed supply, and ignore insurance status.

The Model finds hospital interventions alone are insufficient; many patients needing care are unable to receive it. To reduce the demand for hospital services and improve the efficacy of limited hospital resources during a pandemic, targeted, early, and aggressive treatment in the community should be explored. Other regional hospital markets could benefit from more efforts to simulate patient flow through an interconnected system of services to plan for a variety of shocks besides a flu pandemic including hospital closures and other disasters such as floods and earthquakes.

For more information about this project, contact Andrew Barnes at [abarnes@nhfca.org](mailto:abarnes@nhfca.org).

Attention Los Angeles County Residents!! Beginning September 22nd through October 11th, various locations throughout the Los Angeles area will be offering **FREE** flu shots. Please see the attached [flyer](#) to find the locations.

### **Infant Mental Health Through the Lens of Speech and Language Therapy**

Westside Infant-Family Network (WIN) presents a full day seminar on Infant Mental Health through the Lens of Speech and Language Therapy. The content that will be discussed includes: introduction and review of neurorelational framework; the importance of speech and language and their distributed qualities across the four brain systems; speech and language processes from a developmental perspective; understanding how to assess for speech and language difficulties; integrating speech and language principles into the application of the four brain systems and socio-emotional milestones and lastly a case presentation by Richard Perkins, Speech and Language Pathologist. For more information, please see the [flyer](#).

Date: September 25, 2009

Location: Courtyard by Marriott, 6333 Bristol Parkway, Culver City, CA 90230

### **Let's Get Dads Involved!**

The San Fernando Valley Healthy Babies Learning Collaborative has organized a **FREE** 3.5-hour workshop Let's Get Dads Involved! Come join us for an important discussion on how to get dads involved and how to make your programs more "father/male-friendly". Our dynamic speakers and panel of experts and parents will offer useful tools and strategies that will empower your agencies to facilitate father involvement in their children's lives.

Date: September 30, 2009

Location: Valley Presbyterian Hospital Education Center, 15107 Vanowen St., Van Nuys, CA 91405

Parking Cost: \$6

To register, click [here](#).

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## **Healthcare Coverage Program Updates**

### **Healthy Families Program**

As you know, the Healthy Families Program implemented a wait list for new enrollment in the program, effective July 17, 2009. Because a funding shortfall still exists, MRMIB has determined that children will be disenrolled from the program starting November 1, 2009 without additional funds. Additional regulations were adopted to make cost saving changes to the Healthy Families Program, including increased co-payments for non-preventiveservices, prescription drugs, and outpatient emergency room visits.

MRMIB will meet again on September 3, 2009 to resume discussion of the agenda from the August 27th meeting. The CHAMP team will continue to keep you updated on plans for disenrollment as well as other program changes. Check the [Healthy Families Program](#) website and [CHAMP-Net \(www.CHAMP-Net.org\)](#) regularly for updates.

If you have questions about these or any other program changes, please contact us at [askthetrainers@champ-net.org](mailto:askthetrainers@champ-net.org).

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## CHAMP-Net's Tip of the Month: Medi-Cal Income Determinations

As you may know, Medi-Cal offers health care coverage at no cost to individuals and families who have income too low to cover their health care expenses. Additionally, Medi-Cal also offers coverage with a share of cost to families whose income is too high for no cost Medi-Cal. For families with a high income, Medi-Cal will require recipients to contribute to their health care by paying a share of the cost of the services they receive. However, meeting the share-of-cost amount has become a great hardship to many families who have recently experienced changes to their family income. These families might also be eligible for Healthy Families, however are unable to enroll due to the current waitlist.

For many families, the current economic state has reduced family income due to job loss, change in employment status from full-time to part-time, furloughs, increased family size, increased medical expenses and/or new increased expenses and many other reasons. It is important that health advocates ask families about any recent changes to their family income and assist them in notifying the County, as this may help the family lower their share-of-cost amount or make them eligible for no cost medical benefits.

Here are some steps health advocates can take in advocating for families:

- **Re-Calculate family income to ensure accuracy-**

Ensure that all income and any allowable deductions are applied correctly; countable/non countable income, sibling income, and inclusion of expenses such as, work, child-care, dependent care, alimony and/or child support. For detailed information on how to calculate income, please click [here](#).

- **Assist family in notifying Eligibility Worker-** If any changes exist in family income, assist family in notifying Department of Public Social Services (DPSS) case Eligibility Worker right away in order to make appropriate changes.
- **Share of Cost (SOC) Medi-Cal-** Children that are on the Healthy Families waitlist may also be eligible for Medi-Cal with a share of cost. Assist families in appropriately using and keeping track of other medical benefits while children are on the waitlist.

With the frequent changes to Healthy Families, it is crucial to help families find and keep healthcare coverage. As flu season approaches, we need to advocate for families to ensure that they are not discouraged from accessing medical care. Keep up the great work!!!!

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## Ask The Trainer Question of the Month

*Hi Trainers,*

I have the following question: If a 19 or 20 year old child has a family income greater than 100% of the Federal Income Guidelines (FIG), does the family have to meet the deprivation criteria for them to apply to Medi-Cal for the child?

Sincerely,

Jesse

*Hi Jesse,*

To answer your question, **YES**, Medi-Cal is available for families where at least one child is under 21 years of age and one parent meets the deprivation criteria. Under Medi-Cal, deprivation is met when one parent is absent, deceased, disabled, incapacitated, or with a family income at or below 100% of the Federal Income Guideline (FIG). This includes individuals receiving public assistance (e.g. CALWORKS, SSI/SSP); those who are blind or disabled; pregnant; diagnosed

with breast or cervical cancer, Tuberculosis and/or kidney (Renal) failure; or in a skilled nursing facility. However, for children under 21 years who still live at home and whose parents do not meet the deprivation criteria listed above, they can still access certain medical benefits under the Medi-Cal Minor Consent Program. These services are limited to treatment for sexually transmitted diseases, drug and alcohol abuse, family planning, sexual assault, pregnancy and pregnancy related issues and mental health.

As a rule of thumb, suggest that the family apply for Medi-Cal for the minor, even if their family income is over 100% FPL, because Medi-Cal will screen for various programs before making a final determination.

Sincerely,

*The CHAMP Team*

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## CHAMP Training: Custom Trainings

Did you know that the CHAMP team provides custom trainings? Yes, it's true; CHAMP can customize its trainings specifically for your agency's needs. The CHAMP team can provide trainings directly at your agency's site upon request. We will also provide our training materials which offer resources, useful forms, program updates at the state and federal levels as well as assistor tips which help facilitate community outreach and enrollment.

If you or anyone at your agency is interested in a customized training, please contact Tricia Fitzgerald at 213.538.0778 or [tfitzgerald@nhfca.org](mailto:tfitzgerald@nhfca.org) to schedule a training. We look forward to seeing you soon!

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## CHAMP-Net's County of the Month: Alameda

**Alameda County's Health Services Program** is administered by the Health Care Services Agency and includes the following program areas: Medical Care, Behavioral Care, Public Health, Agency Administration and Finance, and the Alliance for Health.

The **Alameda County Department of Behavioral Health Care** provides alcohol and other drugs and mental health services for Alameda County. Some services are provided directly by county staff, and other services are provided

through contract with community-based organizations. Programs may vary from description. Check with specific providers for additional information on specific services provided by their agency. Please check with the Behavioral Health Care Services [website](#) for more information.

The **Public Health Department** has an array of programs and services designed to protect the health and safety of Alameda County residents. The mainstay of Public Health includes assessments of the health status of residents, disease prevention and control, community mobilization and outreach, policy development, education, and assurance of access to quality medical and health care services. Programs and services included but are not limited to: alcohol and drug prevention, asthma start, dental health, disparities/diabetes, tattoo removals, tobacco control, surveillance, immunizations, education and prevention, injury prevention, family health, and community assessment planning and education. Please visit the Alameda County of Public Health [website](#) to find further information on these programs.

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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.