



Executive Director Medical Director Finance Director Operations Director Billing Front Desk

The Governor's 2002-2003 Budget

Forces are mobilizing to respond to the governor's preliminary budget for 2002-2003, which was released a couple of weeks ago. Many components have direct effect on community clinics and their ability to serve the underserved.

The statewide California Primary Care Association (CPCA), the Council of Community Clinics and its member clinics have all initiated strategy meetings to begin crafting a response from safety net providers. Through advocacy and working with our partners statewide, we hope for significant changes to the governor's proposal as the budget process continues over the next six months.

The following summary was provided by Nicole Vasquez on the CPCA staff. The actual Governor's Budget Summary can be found at www.dof.ca.gov.

EAPC – In the current proposal, the \$10 million

dollar augmentation to EAPC in both 2001-02 and 2002-03 is not targeted for elimination. \$17.5 million in additional funding is also proposed because of changes in the Child Health and Disability Program (CHDP).

CHDP – The governor proposes to eliminate CHDP and shift the caseload into Medi-Cal and Healthy Families. CHDP was targeted because 90% of the funding is provided by the State of California. The state hopes to save \$69.5 million dollars by eliminating the program. CPCA, the Council of Community Clinics, private pediatric providers and the County of San Diego are mobilizing to respond aggressively to this threat.

Healthy Families – Coverage of parents is to be delayed until July 2003.

Medi-Cal – Media campaigns and outreach ef-

forts for adults are to be reduced by \$20.7 million.

Provider Rates – The budget rescinds the 2000-01 rate increases for physicians, dentists, home health, medical and other services in an effort to save \$155.1 million. Pediatric providers and long-term care providers are spared the rollbacks. **Co-Payments** – Co-payments ranging from \$1-3 and \$5 for emergency room services are being introduced. Provider reimbursements from Medi-Cal will then be reduced by the copayment amount (estimated savings of \$61.2 million).

The budget process this year will be long and contentious. Stakeholders for the underserved are committed to protecting critical programs for our populations. We will keep you informed as the process develops.

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Staying Informed

*A great source of information about issues concerning the community clinics and important meetings is the **Tides CCI (Community Clinic Initiative) web site: www.communityclinics.org***

In future months, the CCC/CCHN will be using the NewsBriefs forum to keep you updated on the activities of the TSO (Technical Services Organization), through a one page insert. This is just one of the ways we will be improving our communications with you in 2002.

Oral Health Update

The Oral Health Safety Net (OHSN) continues to increase access to dental care for children under the age of 5 in San Diego County. With generous funding from the San Diego Foundation and the San Diego County Children and Families Commission, the OHSN has three primary strategies for addressing the report card issued by Oral Health America. The strategies include prevention, early intervention, and treatment.

15 dental health educators are disseminating the prevention message at 13 clinics and in the community. We want every child in San Diego to see a dentist by age one. We want every parent to know that cavity-causing germs are transmitted from parent or caregiver to the child. We want everyone to know that early childhood caries is completely preventable. The OHSN message goes out to pregnant women, parents with children under five, head start, and preschool centers in our community.

The treatment portion of the OHSN has been strengthened by the addition of 2 new dental operatories. By completion of the grant a total of 9 operatories will be purchased and installed. The number of providers for treatment have been increased by hiring the equivalent of 2 FTE Pediatric Dentist and 2 FTE general practice Dentist and 2 FTE dental assistants to perform the tasks of dental examinations and treatment in the OHSN.

As of November 30, the OHSN has celebrated the following:

- 1,342 children under the age of 5 who had their first dental examination
- 1,366 children under the age of 5 who were linked to a dental home
- 607 children under the age of 5 who were referred for health insurance
- 1,351 children under the age of 5, their parents or guardians received dental education that will change their lives
- 2 dental operatories have been purchased and installed increasing access to care

This quarter the OHSN will begin mobile van early intervention. In collaboration with Healthy Steps of San Ysidro Health Center, the mobile van, dental screenings, dental health education and fluoride varnishes will be conducted for children under the age of five at participating clinics that currently lack dental facilities. The children will also be linked to a dental home and given health insurance referrals if needed.

We are increasing awareness of oral health needs and resources in the community. We are increasing Healthy Smiles for San Diego Children!

Funding Opportunity



The San Diego Foundation recently released their grant guidelines for their Spring 2002 Health and Human Services

Grants Program. Grant requests may be for up to \$25,000 for a 12-month period beginning June 1, 2002. Workshops are scheduled for February 4 in Oceanside and February 8

in San Diego. Application packages are due March 14, 2002. For more information visit www.sdfoundation.org and click on Current Grant Guidelines.



Hooray For Women!

The National Women's Health Information Center is a service of the Office of Women's Health in the Department of Health and Human Services. Their web site is located at : www.4women.gov.

The Office on Women's Health (OWH) in the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) is the government's champion and focal point for women's health issues, and works to redress inequities in research, health care services, and education that have historically placed the health of women at risk. The Office on Women's Health coordinates women's health efforts in HHS to eliminate disparities in health status and supports culturally sensitive educational programs that encourage women to take personal responsibility for their own health and wellness.



Quality Corner

Great news!! The Council of Community Clinics, in partnership with Children's Hospital and the American Lung Association of San Diego & Imperial Counties, has received local Prop 10 dollars to expand its Asthma Treatment Services Program from Mid-City and National City to both North and East counties.

Children who qualify for the Program will be seen at participating clinics to receive an asthma treatment plan that includes patient & family education, medications, follow-up visits, and enrollment into a health insurance program if eligible. The Program will also include provider education, asthma quality improvement activities and a home visiting component.

The Council will have a continued focus on disease management as a natural progression of quality management. For more information regarding the San Diego Childhood Asthma Initiative's Asthma Treatment Services Program, please contact Mina Paik at the Council of Community Clinics at (619) 265-2100, x 303 or mpaik@ccc-sd.org

Charting Supplies For Less!

If you are tired of paying top dollar for the unavoidably large volumes of charting supplies you purchase throughout the year, Council Connections has just the thing for you! In late 2001 Council Connections signed a contract with First Healthcare Products to provide a full array of custom charting supplies to our members at deeply discounted prices.

Among the many things you can purchase from First Healthcare Products are chart holders, index dividers, organizing systems and filing accessories, charting support and maintenance products, vinyl pockets, protectors, insert cards, labels, signage and much, much more. You can also purchase chart storage systems, chart stations and wall desks for your every charting need.

Whether your charting needs are standard or custom, First Healthcare Products is happy to do a price comparison for you today. They are confident that they can save you money, while matching the products you currently use. Contact Council Connections at 800-640-1662, x305 for a catalogue and information on how to get your price comparison. A First Healthcare Products representative will look at your current charting materials and let you know how much they can save your organization.

The Bureau of Primary Health Care has issued two new Policy Information Notices (PINS):

"Excellence in Practice: Health Disparities Collaborative Expectations" -- PIN 2002-12 -- can be accessed at the following URL: <ftp://ftp.hrsa.gov/bphc/docs/2002pins/2002-12.pdf>. This 6 page PIN addresses the expectations of the BPHC Collaborative program for the following six key elements of the care model that forms the foundation for the Collaboratives: (1) organization of health care; (2) community linkages; (3) patient self-management; (4) decision support; (5) delivery system design; and (6) clinical information systems.

"Funding Opportunities for Integrated Services Development Initiative and Shared Integrated Management Information Systems" -- PIN 2002-11 -- can be accessed at the following URL: <ftp://ftp.hrsa.gov/bphc/docs/2002pins/2002-11.pdf>. This 43 page PIN contains the eligibility requirements, review criteria and award factors for health centers seeking support for network activities under the Integrated Services Development Initiative (ISDI) and the Shared Integrated Management Information Systems (SIMIS) programs for the 2002 fiscal year. It is anticipated that the Bureau will approve 10 - 15 ISDI grants in 2002, ranging from \$150,000 - \$400,000, and 4 - 6 SIMIS grants ranging from \$150,000 - \$500,000.

Training Available From Kaiser!

On February 14 Permanente Medicine Today will hold a videoconference, "Women's Health in Primary Care: Opportunities for Prevention."

Only Kaiser Permanente clinicians will be able to participate in the live broadcast, but they are making a video copy of the conference available to clinic physicians on their web site afterwards for training purposes. If you are interested in viewing this and other educational material, you can access it at: <http://www.crewnoble.com/kpwellness/>

As a result of viewing this videoconference, clinicians will be better able to:

- 1) Describe approaches to pregnancy prevention including emergency contraception.
- 2) Explain current recommendations for calcium intake, mammography and cervical cancer screening.
- 3) Identify women at highest risk for cardiovascular complications and recognize approaches to minimize this risk.
- 4) Emphasize chlamydia screening for women at highest risk for infection.