



Chronicle

A publication for friends and neighbors of the
South Service Planning Area Health Office



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THE NEW HEALTHY KIDS CLINIC

On June 20th, 2003 the South Service Planning Area in collaboration with Los Angeles Unified School District celebrated the grant opening of the Healthy Kids Clinic at South Public Health Center. "Childhood obesity has been declared a public health epidemic," said Maxine E. Liggins, MD, Area Medical Director for SPA 6. "To prevent the complications of obesity such as diabetes, hypertension, stroke and heart attack, we must address this complex issue early in children's lives."

The clinic staff will teach children healthier eating habits and will help them manage their age-appropriate weight.



Dr. Jonathan E. Fielding, Director of Public Health and Los Angeles County Health Officer; Dr. Maxine Liggins, SPA 5/6 Area Medical Director

The Healthy Kids clinic is open on Thursdays and Fridays from 8:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. and will be staffed by a school physician, a medical assistant, and a dietitian. A pediatric endocrinologist will be available for periodic consultations. In addition to providing health care services to children, the clinic will advocate a healthier lifestyle for the entire family to create a healthier community.

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From left to right: Shobha Naimpalli, M.D., M.P.H. Director of Medical Services, LAUSD; A. Belinda Towns, M.D., M.P.H., Area Health Officer SPA 5/6; Jonathan E. Fielding, M.D., M.P.H. Director Public Health and Health Officer for the County of Los Angeles; Monica Trinidad, School Physician, LAUSD.

COMPTON 2ND BACK TO SCHOOL IMMUNIZATION CAMPAIGN

August is National Immunization month. Each year 11,000 babies are born in the United States. Timely immunization is the most successful and cost effective public health tool to prevent disease, disability, and premature death across all age groups. Community-based partnerships and public-private collaborations can effectively increase immunization rates across the nation through the implementation of culturally sensitive, timely, and relevant initiatives at the local level.

The Compton Family Health Collaborative (CFHC) was founded in 2001 to help close some of the gap created by the clinic closures and overall downsizing of public health services. The collaborative is a group of community leaders and members committed to improving the health of families in Compton. Members include Compton residents and businesses, local health providers, faith and community leaders, community based organizations, and local school districts.



The Collaborative seeks to build the capacity of Compton families to enhance their health and well-being through improving health care access and utilization in Compton.

The Compton Family Health Collaborative, in conjunction with the SPA-6 Area Health Office, has sponsored their 2nd Annual Compton Back to School Immunization campaign during July and August 2003. A similar effort was initiated by the collaborative last year, enhancing the immunization rates among Compton Children. Member reminder systems, parent educational tools, and means to increase health care access are utilized to attract more families to this event.

To participate or for a copy of the immunization schedule please call Daniel Flecha at 310-764-0955 ext. 122. You may also visit our web at:
<http://www.lapublichealth.org/SPA6/>

WITNESS FOR WELLNESS

The California Science Center hosted an excellent conference on Depression and its impact on people's lives in our community, entitled "Witness for Wellness". This conference took place on July 31st, 2003 and was sponsored by Healthy African American Families (HAAF) and their collaborators including Charles R. Drew University of Medicine and Science, UCLA, RAND, and Los Angeles County Department of Health Services SPA 5/6 among others.

The goal of the conference was to provide a community forum demystifying depression and to develop and facilitate strategies to address it. Community and clinical aspects of depression, best practices in service provision, mental health disparities in communities of color, deleterious effects of depression on maternal and child well-being, and strategies to provide and maintain good mental health were among the topics discussed at this conference. Our thanks to all the sponsors and participants for this wonderful opportunity to address such an important issue that plagues the lives of many individuals and families.

This conference established several work groups that will meet on an ongoing basis to solve this problem in our community. **To join a work group, please contact Loretta Jones at 323-292-2002 or Erika Altamirano at 323-235-6702.**

LATINO HEALTH ISSUES

Los Angeles County houses an estimated 4,242,213 (45%) people of Latino decent, the majority of whom are of Mexican origin. Almost one-third of the County's residents were born outside the United States and there is a noticeable amount of border crossing. Approximately half (46%) of non-elderly adult Latinos are uninsured in Los Angeles County; 47% of these uninsured persons report difficulty obtaining needed medical care². In 1993, the Institute Of Medicine identified financial, structural, and personal barriers that hinder access healthcare. In spite of educational efforts, health care systems often do not adequately address how culture, language and personal beliefs regarding health affect access to services. Services such as early diagnosis of HIV, appropriate screening for cervical and breast cancer, and childhood immunizations often succumb to cultural biases in health care provision.

Often times, the resulting utilization of unregulated medical care can prevent or delay the patients from seeking legitimate medical evaluation and diagnosis, resulting in untreated disease, health complications, or death²; at least two children in southern California have died as a result of these practices. Accurate estimates of numbers of persons who suffer these adverse effects are unknown because they frequently go unrecognized or unreported [M. Cuevas, *personal communications, Health Authority Law Enforcement Task Force (HALT)*].

Despite considerable legal efforts to curb unlicensed health care through the formation of HALT and Operation Safe Medicine (OSM), little is known about individuals who seek illegal medical services. Reasons for seeking care outside licensed health care facilities include social, cultural, political, and economic factors, such as the cost of health care, cultural norms/beliefs and immigration status. The reasons for seeking illegal medical services in the U.S. have not yet been systematically analyzed.



The Los Angeles County Department of Health Services (LACDHS) Binational/Border Health Program Disease is collaborating with the Investigations and Surveillance Branch (DISB) of the California Department of Health Services (CDHS) on a pilot study to explore the social, cultural, and Medical/health issues associated with the utilization of illegal health care practices. We propose to accomplish these objectives through the use of surveys to explore relevant issues with the members of the Latino community. Ideally, this will lead to heightened community awareness and the development of the best approaches for behavior modification.

*By Olga Galvan MPH
Director, Binational Border Health Program
Los Angeles County, Department of Health Services*

1-Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000 Redistricting Data (Public Law 94-171) Summary File, Matrices PL1, PL2, PL3, & PL4.

2-Binational/Border Health Program, Current Status of the Program Document, 5/30/2002

CENTER FOR HEALTH IMPROVEMENT FOR MINORITY ELDERS (C.H.I.M.E.)

Center for Health Improvement for Minority Elders (C.H.I.M.E.) is a new collaborative project proposing a research and mentoring program to help reduce health disparities among African American and Latino elders. One of the goals of this project is to connect minority research physicians with community mentors who lead various health programs and projects throughout SPA 6. The research physicians will be trained and mentored: 1) to advance their academic careers, and 2) to conduct community participatory research that significantly improves the health of the elderly of our community. The South SPA Area Health Office, and other community-based organizations have partnered with C.H.I.M.E. to develop this project and to mentor the faculty. **To inquire about C.H.I.M.E., participate in developing the project, and/or become a mentor please contact the South SPA Area Health Office (323-235-6732) or Healthy African American Families (323-292-2002).**

LOS ANGELES COMMUNITY OF PROMISE

The Los Angeles County Health Department is proud to announce its partnership in the Los Angeles Community of Promise. This important coalition is committed to bringing the "Five Promises of America's Promise—The Alliance for Youth" to Los Angeles County.

The Five Promises are:

1. Caring Adults-Fostering and building ongoing relationships between youth and caring adults
2. Safe Places-creating safe places for youth with structured activities during non-school hours
3. A Healthy Start-to help guide and meet the health and nutritional needs of youth
4. Marketable Skills-through effective education
5. Opportunities to Serve- to give back through community service

We have had great success in our "Schools of Promise" pilot programs, and are ready to formally launch the Los Angeles Community of Promise "Schools of Promise", as well as our Promise Station Website. We are currently operating in 3 elementary schools, and are planning to establish 4 additional sites by the end of 2004. The Los Angeles County Public Health is working on bringing existing County programs in HIV/AIDS and sexually transmitted disease education to the Schools of Promise to complete the Healthy Start Promise.

A successful Five Promise Dinner Awards Ceremony took place on June 20, 2003 at the Regent Beverly Wilshire Hotel. The gala event attracted in excess of 200 community members, politicians, and health care professionals to raise money for the schools of promise. **For additional information, to volunteer, or to support this effort, please contact: Hope Worldwide at (310) 665-0888.**



*Photo caption:
Partners for the Los Angeles Community of Promise include, from left to right
Lance Williams, U.S. Drug Enforcement Agency; Rodney Dixon, Street Legend Basketball; Robert Cordova, Trinity Street Elementary School; Andrea Perry, Cedar-Sinai Medical Center; John Liechty, Los Angeles Unified School District; Douglas Webber, HOPE worldwide—Los Angeles; Belinda Towns, Los Angeles County Department of Health Services; and Harris Wofford, America's Promise
Not pictured: Terris Cota ABLE International*

OUTREACH SPECIALIST AT SOUTH HEALTH CENTER

It is our pleasure to have Mr. Carey January as an outreach specialist for healthy families at South Health Center. Mr. January has made himself available through the Watts Labor Community Action Committee since August 2002. The outreach office is located in room 106 at the South Public Health Center on 1522 East 102nd Street in Los Angeles. The hours of operation for this office is Thursdays from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Health Kids Clinic

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The services provided at the clinic are free to all LAUSD students who are uninsured or qualify for Healthy Families/Child Health and Disability Prevention (CHDP).^{*} These services include:

- Overweight/obesity management
- Regular check-ups or CHDP examinations
- Nutritional counseling
- Health education on physical activity and disease and injury prevention
- Immunizations
- Screenings for tuberculosis, lead poisoning, anemia, and diabetes
- Referrals to other pediatric specialty care, as necessary.

For further information, please call (213) 763-8342.

Families with private insurance will be evaluated and appropriately referred. Medi-Cal will be billed for those eligible for Medi-cal.

From July 2003 Connections



VIOLENCE LEAVES PERMANENT SCARS

Violence is a public health issue plaguing our nation. Gun violence in particular claims many innocent lives every day. Worldwide, one in every three women is physically or sexually abused, often by family members. Violence leaves physical and emotional scars that may last a lifetime and rob its victims of a happy productive life.

Let us NOT accept this "UNACCEPTABLE REALITY"; let us join hands to stop violence from claiming the lives of our friends, brothers, and sisters worldwide.

"The only limitation you face is that of your own consciousness"

Leland Kaiser

The Los Angeles County Department of Health Services, Injury and Violence Prevention Program is hosting a conference to address this growing epidemic in our communities. This 3-day conference will take place in January 2004 at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in Downtown Los Angeles. **To participate or to obtain additional information, you may visit WWW.VPCLA.ORG or contact Maryanne Galindo, Associate Director of the Violence Prevention Coalition at 213-351-7888.**

"Never Accept an Unacceptable Reality"

EMPOWER YOURSELF WITH GOOD HEALTH

California Medical Review Inc. (CMRI) is a nonprofit federally funded health care quality improvement organization that assists and advocates for Medicare beneficiary Rights. CMRI works with health-care providers, consumer groups and community-based organizations to improve the quality of care Medicare beneficiaries receive.

When you have Medicare, you have the right to the care you need. You also have the right to be fully informed, to be involved in decisions made about your care. This means you have the right to question decisions you think aren't best for you. Another medical expert can consider those decisions. It's like getting a second opinion.

CMRI's multilingual help line can be reached toll-free at 1-800-841-1602, weekdays between the hours of 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. The hearing impaired can use a special TTD line at 1-800-881-5980.

Erica L. Jones

Sr. Beneficiary Relations Specialist.

For additional questions about the Medicare program contact 1-800-Medicar(e) or 1-800-633-4227.

Knowledge is Power



CMRI encourages healthy partnerships for quality care; it's your Right.

South SPA Quarterly Chronicle Selected Reportable Diseases (Provisional Data)

Disease	Jan-Mar 03	Jan-Mar 02	Apr-Jun 03	Apr-Jun 02
AIDS	40	46	80	42
Amebiasis	0	1	0	0
Campylobacteriosis	16	21	37	23
Chlamydial Infections	2259	1978	2073	2116
Encephalitis	0	0	2	5
Gonorrhea	552	622	614	565
Hepatitis Type A	10	10	12	8
Hepatitis Type B	14	3	5	8
Hepatitis Type C	0	5	1	0
Measles	0	0	0	0
Meningitis	6	5	6	7
Meningococcal Infections	1	0	0	1
Non-gonococcal Urethritis	65	66	55	62
Pertussis	0	4	11	7
Salmonellosis	22	40	14	40
Shigellosis	30	37	26	25
Syphilis, primary & secondary	9	6	7	9
Syphilis, early latent (<1 yr.)	12	13	8	8
Tuberculosis	22	16	32	35

South SPA Team

Area Health Officer	A. Belinda Towns, M.D., M.P.H.
Area Medical Director	Maxine Liggins, M.D.
Director of Operations	Willie Mae Howard, M.P.A.
Area Nurse Manager	Martina Travis, RN, M.P.H.
Community Liaison	Lottie Perkins, BSN, M.H.A.
Epidemiology Analyst	Farimah Fiali
Health Ed. Coordinator	Teresa Level
Area Secretary	Erika Altamirano

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Editor in Chief— Farimah Fiali

The South Chronicle is a quarterly publication of the South Service Planning Area (SPA6), providing updates on projects, outreach and health and safety issues relevant to the community. Please forward comments, suggestions or address changes to the Editor at the address below or contact us at: **Office: (323) 235-6732—Fax: (323) 846-5442; WWW.lapublichealth.org/SPA6/**

SOUTH SPA HEALTH VISION STATEMENT

Individuals working together in families, organizations, and businesses to increase the length of healthy life for all residents of South SPA 6

SOUTH SPA COMMUNITY PLEDGE

I pledge to promote the health of our community by keeping a watchful eye on my own health, cherishing the health of my family, and reminding my friends and neighbors to practice healthy habits.

I pledge to affirm and protect the innocence of our youth, the success of our families, and the wisdom of our seniors.



SOUTH SPA 6
Area Health Office

Chronicle

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