



## **HMHB Resource Watch**

**July 25, 2007**

### **HMHB Upcoming Events**

HMHB is proud to announce the opening of a satellite office in Savannah, GA. HMHB will be hosting a kick-off event to celebrate this new collaboration with HMHB and the Coastal District. The kick off event will be held at the GPHA Conference at the Savannah Marriott on the night of Wednesday September 5<sup>th</sup> from 6-7pm. Please come out and celebrate this exciting new time in HMHB history. More details to follow....

We would also like to thank those of you who attended the HMHB's Sponsors and Friends Appreciation Gala. We appreciate your support and we couldn't do it without you!

**Healthy Mothers, Healthy Babies Coalition of Georgia**

## 2007 Annual Meeting and Conference

Wednesday, October 3, 2007

9:00 am- 4:00 pm.

Register online by visiting [www.hmhbga.org](http://www.hmhbga.org).

### Legislative Update

**Please find The American Dental Education Association Advocacy Alert regarding the SCHIP Reauthorization as it relates to oral health attached to this email.**

#### **House Committees To Mark Up SCHIP Reauthorization, Expansion Bill** [Jul 24, 2007]

The [House Energy and Commerce Committee](#) on Wednesday plans to mark up legislation that would reauthorize and expand SCHIP and make revisions to Medicare, and the [House Ways and Means Committee](#) is expected to mark up the legislation on Thursday, *CongressDaily* reports (*CongressDaily*, 7/23). The legislation, called the Children's Health and Medicare Protection Act, would increase SCHIP funding by \$50 billion over five years. The bill also would reverse a scheduled cut in Medicare payments to physicians and provide a modest increase in fees for each of the next two years. In addition, the legislation would:

- Simplify the Medicare application process and relax the current asset limits;
- Allow the [HHS](#) secretary to expand Medicare coverage of preventive screenings;
- Pay primary care physicians to coordinate the care of some traditional Medicare beneficiaries;
- Abolish a provision of the 2003 Medicare law that mandates the president propose changes in Medicare to limit the program's reliance on general revenue;
- Give state insurance commissioners more power to regulate the marketing of private MA plans by agents and brokers;

- Reduce payments to private MA plans, which are estimated to be 12% higher than payments to the traditional program for equivalent benefits (*Kaiser Daily Health Policy Report*, 7/23);
- Increase reimbursement rates for rural health providers in 2008; and
- Provide larger subsidies to lower-income beneficiaries.

The bill is expected to cost about \$90 billion and would be funded by a tobacco tax increase and cuts to private MA plan payments (Wayne, *CQ Today*, 7/23). The rate of the tobacco tax increase has not been decided, according to House Ways and Means Committee Chair Charles Rangel (D-N.Y.). It is expected to range from 30 cents to 50 cents per pack (Reichard/Ferrechio, *CQ HealthBeat*, 7/23).

While some House Democrats do not support a tobacco tax increase, most "appear to be grudgingly accepting it because there are few other funding resources available to pay for SCHIP and Medicare," *CongressDaily* reports.

Source: Kaiser Network, Daily Health Report

## **News from National HMHB**

### **This week: July 23, 2007**

According to CDC, approximately 25 percent of pregnant women carry Group B Strep (GBS) – and although this bacterial infection is rarely serious for adults, it can cause preterm birth, sepsis, meningitis and pneumonia in newborns. CDC and Group B Strep International are observing July as National/International Group B Strep Awareness Month, getting the message out that all pregnant women should be tested for GBS at 35 to 37 weeks. More information is available at <http://www.groupbstrepinternational.org>.

- 1) Federal Report: Low Birthweight More Common, but Adolescent Birth Rate at All-Time Low
- 2) Study Finds Gum Disease Bacteria in Amniotic Fluid of Pregnant Women
- 3) TSA to Allow Breast Milk Through Airport Security
- 4) August 13-15: Rural Women's Health Conference in DC
- 5) Active Fathers Can Serve as Buffers Against Maternal Depression
- 6) July 31 Deadline for AAP Children's Art Contest
- 7) Applications Open for Council of Public Representatives at NIH
- 8) Small Tax-Exempt Organizations Now Must File with IRS

### **MATERNAL-INFANT HEALTH NEWS**

#### 1) FEDERAL REPORT: LOW BIRTHWEIGHT MORE COMMON, BUT ADOLESCENT BIRTH RATE AT ALL-TIME LOW

The Federal Interagency Forum on Child and Family Statistics has issued its annual report: "America's Children: Key National Indicators of Wellbeing, 2007," a compendium of the most

recently released federal statistics. Among the findings: The adolescent birth rate has dropped to an all-time recorded low, but the unmarried birth rate has increased. The percentage of low birthweight infants has also increased since last year, while the infant mortality rate remained unchanged. The rates for two of the most frequent health conditions among children, overweight and asthma, which have not changed significantly over the past few years, but remain at a high level. This report looks at many areas critical to child and adolescent wellbeing, encompassing health and healthcare, family and social environment, economic circumstances, physical environment and safety, education and behavior. For the complete document, go to <http://childstats.gov>.

## 2) STUDY FINDS GUM DISEASE BACTERIA IN AMNIOTIC FLUID OF PREGNANT WOMEN

A small study published in the July issue of the Journal of Periodontology found bacteria associated with periodontal disease in the amniotic fluid of some pregnant women. The P. Gingivalis bacteria, commonly found in the mouth, was detected in both the mouths and the amniotic fluid of the 30 percent of the 26 pregnant women participating in the study. Bacterial infection of the amniotic fluid can be potentially dangerous for both the mother and the developing fetus, and past research has suggested that periodontal disease is associated with adverse pregnancy outcomes. While this study did not find a causal relationship between periodontal disease and premature labor, its findings did suggest that the harmful bacteria associated with gum disease can make its way into the amniotic fluid. In response the American Academy of Periodontology reiterated its recommendation that “Women who are pregnant or considering becoming pregnant should speak with their dental and healthcare professionals about their oral health.” For the abstract of this study, go to <http://www.joponline.org/doi/abs/10.1902/jop.2007.060368>.

## 3) TSA TO ALLOW BREAST MILK THROUGH AIRPORT SECURITY

According to a report in last week’s New York Times, the US Transportation Security Administration is making some changes to carry-on restrictions at airports. Notably, “A ban on liquids in containers greater than three ounces, which was imposed last summer. . . will remain in effect, but the security agency will modify its rules related to breast milk.” According to the report, passengers will be allowed to go through security with breast milk in quantities greater than three ounces, “as long as it is declared for inspection at the security checkpoint.” Currently, breast milk is allowed through airport security checkpoints only when a passenger is traveling with an infant. For full details on current airport policies, go to the TSA website: <http://www.tsa.gov/travelers/index.shtm>.

## **CHILD, ADOLESCENT, FAMILY & COMMUNITY HEALTH NEWS**

### 4) AUGUST 13-15: RURAL WOMEN’S HEALTH CONFERENCE IN DC

The US Department of Health and Human Services’ Office on Women’s Health will host a Rural Women’s Health Conference, “Charting New Frontiers in Women’s Health,” August 13-15 at the Omni Shoreham Hotel in Washington, DC. The event aims to raise awareness and increase the use of best practices to address the needs of women and their families living in rural areas. Attendees will include rural healthcare professionals, consumers and government agencies, hospitals, community leaders and clinics. The conference will present the latest research and programs, will share effective clinical programs and tools, will cover national and regional strategies to enhance outreach and will provide hands-on workshops teaching participants how to implement programs in their communities. Continuing education credits will be available. For more details or to register, go to <http://www.esi-bethesda.com/ruralfrontier2007>.

#### 5) ACTIVE FATHERS CAN SERVE AS BUFFERS AGAINST MATERNAL DEPRESSION

A large study that followed US children over a decade has found that while children whose mothers had depressive symptoms were more likely to show behavior problems, fathers who were positively-engaged and active served as a buffer against those effects. The study, published in the Archives of Pediatric and Adolescent Medicine, uses data from over 6,500 mother/child pairs who were tracked from 1992 to 2002. Among the children of depressive mothers, those who suffered few behavioral issues reported feeling close to their father and perceiving him as being very involved in their lives. As the research team notes, these findings do not downplay the importance of diagnosing and treating mothers' depression. Instead, they can encourage healthcare providers to share the message with fathers that their positive presence is essential to child wellbeing, especially when a mother suffers from mental health troubles. For the abstract of this study, go to <http://archpedi.ama-assn.org/cgi/content/abstract/161/7/697>

#### 6) JULY 31 DEADLINE FOR AAP CHILDREN'S ART CONTEST

July 31 is the final day to submit entries for the 2007 American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) National Children's Art Contest, open to boys and girls in two groups – grades 3-5 and 6-8. Winners in each group will be invited with their parents/guardians to attend the 2007 AAP National Conference in San Francisco this October, and will receive awards of \$500, plus up to \$1,000 for travel expenses. Second place winners will also receive cash awards, and the winners' schools will receive matching cash amounts. Winners will also have their artwork featured on the AAP website. This year's theme is "Things I Can Do to Keep Safe and Be Healthy." For entry forms and more information, go to <http://www.aap.org>.

### **ADVOCATES IN ACTION**

#### 7) APPLICATIONS OPEN FOR COUNCIL OF PUBLIC REPRESENTATIVES AT NIH

Applications are due by September 14 for applicants to fill vacant appointments on the 2008 Council of Public Representatives (COPR) at the National Institutes of Health (NIH). COPR is a federal advisory committee made up of members of the public who advise the NIH director on issues related to public input and participation in NIH activities, public input and participation in the NIH research priority-setting process, and NIH outreach efforts. The committee is made up of 21 individuals from across the country, including healthcare professionals, health and science communicators, patients, family members of patients, scientists and educators. It meets twice a year on the NIH campus in Bethesda, and participates in public outreach and other NIH initiatives throughout the year. For more information and an application, go to <http://copr.nih.gov/application.asp>.

### **NONPROFIT MANAGEMENT**

#### 8) SMALL TAX-EXEMPT ORGANIZATIONS NOW MUST FILE WITH IRS

Beginning next year, the Internal Revenue Service will require small tax-exempt organizations to file an electronic document, Form 990-N, also known as the e-Postcard. Organizations that were not previously required to file returns must comply with the new filing requirement or risk the loss of tax-exempt status. The new requirement applies to tax periods beginning after December 31, 2006 and to most tax-exempt organizations whose gross receipts are normally \$25,000 or less. While there will be no paper form, the IRS is developing an electronic system and says it will publicize the new procedures when the system is ready for use. For more about the requirement and how they may affect your organization, see the "Charities" page at the IRS site: <http://www.irs.gov>.

Sources:

<http://childstats.gov>  
<http://www.joponline.org>  
<http://www.esi-bethesda.com>  
<http://archpedi.ama-assn.org>  
<http://www.tsa.gov>  
<http://www.aap.org>  
<http://copr.nih.gov/application.asp>  
<http://www.irs.gov>

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### **Last week: July 16, 2007**

- 1) New Report Cites Progress on Newborn Screening
- 2) Study: One in Eight American Households with Infants is "Food Insecure"
- 3) Flu Vaccination Recommendations for 2007
- 4) National Poll Looks at Child Care Standards & Parent Concerns
- 5) Pennsylvania Passes State Law Protecting Public Breastfeeding
- 6) America's Promise Aims at Improving Life for At-Risk Kids
- 7) National Children's Oral Health Foundation Seeks Director of Development & Communications

### **MATERNAL-INFANT HEALTH NEWS**

#### **1) NEW REPORT CITES PROGRESS ON NEWBORN SCREENING**

Last week the March of Dimes released its latest Newborn Screening Report Card, which reports that most American babies are now routinely tested at birth for 21 or more of the American College of Medical Genetics' recommended 29 screenings for disabling or deadly genetic conditions. In the past year, 88 percent of the four million newborns in the United States received at least 21 of the tests, up dramatically from the 38 percent of newborns who received these tests two years ago. According to the report, 13 states and the District of Columbia now mandate all 29 recommended newborn screenings, and three more states are in the process of implementing a 29-test system. However, the March of Dimes notes that half a million newborns are still not screened for serious genetic disorders. In a press statement, March of Dimes President Dr. Jennifer Howse said, "Despite the pleas of parents, clinicians and advocacy groups, the United States still lacks consistent federal guidelines for newborn screening. The lack of federal guidelines makes it difficult for states to get support for needed legislation." For current state-by-state newborn screening status, go to

[http://www.marchofdimes.com/images/NBS\\_Status\\_060107\\_NBS\\_alpha.pdf](http://www.marchofdimes.com/images/NBS_Status_060107_NBS_alpha.pdf)

#### **2) STUDY: ONE IN EIGHT AMERICAN HOUSEHOLDS WITH INFANTS IS "FOOD INSECURE"**

A new analytical study released by nonprofit research organization Child Trends finds that one in eight (12.5 percent) US households with infants is "food insecure," which the USDA defines by "limited or uncertain availability of nutritionally adequate and safe foods." The rate is even higher for households with low-birthweight infants and low-income families. The Child Trends

analysis also found that “food insecurity” is linked to maternal depression, poor parenting and paradoxically-overweight toddlers, who may receive high calories and fat but insufficient nutritional value. To download the complete report, go to [http://www.childtrends.org/files/Child Trends-2007\\_07\\_11\\_RB\\_FoodInsecurity.pdf](http://www.childtrends.org/files/Child_Trends-2007_07_11_RB_FoodInsecurity.pdf).

## **CHILD, ADOLESCENT, FAMILY & COMMUNITY HEALTH NEWS**

### 3) FLU VACCINATION RECOMMENDATIONS FOR 2007

The Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has issued new recommendations on the prevention and control of influenza. The groups for whom flu vaccination is recommended have not changed since 2006 - it is still recommended for pregnant women, young children, healthcare professionals, and adults who have risk factors for influenza complications. However, ACIP is re-emphasizing the importance of giving two doses of the flu vaccine to all children ages six months to eight years who have previously received no flu vaccine or just a single annual dose. ACIP also wants to reiterate the previous recommendation that school-aged children and all adults who want to reduce the risk of becoming ill with the flu or transmitting it to others should be vaccinated. For the complete report, go to <http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/rr5606a1.htm>.

### 4) NATIONAL POLL LOOKS AT CHILD CARE STANDARDS & PARENT CONCERNS

The National Association of Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies (NACCRRRA) has released the results of a national poll conducted in both English and Spanish with almost 600 parents across the US, providing insight into their experiences with child care. Parents told NACCRRRA that quality remains their top concern in choosing a child care provider, with cost coming in as a close second. However, the report finds that most parents assume that there are significant government regulation, screening, standards and inspection of child care programs, although this is not yet a reality in many states. And, in line with NACCRRRA’s previous focus group findings, respondents indicated that high costs for child care may lead them to “make sacrifices in the quality of care that their children receive.” In a press statement, NACCRRRA Executive Director Linda Smith responded to the findings: “The results of this survey should be a wake-up call to policy-makers. . . We recommend that states require caregiver training in child development and safety, background checks with fingerprinting and quarterly, unannounced inspections of all child care programs.” For the executive summary of this report, go to <http://www.naccrra.org/policy/docs/Execsumm.pdf>.

## **ADVOCATES IN ACTION**

### 5) PENNSYLVANIA PASSES STATE LAW PROTECTING PUBLIC BREASTFEEDING

More than a decade after the first proposal was introduced in Pennsylvania to protect public breastfeeding, Governor Rendell has signed a bill into state law. The bill (SB 34) stipulates that breastfeeding is not indecent exposure, nuisance, obscenity or illegal sexual behavior. And although some in the lactation field have noted that the measure does not offer as much protection for nursing women and babies as in other states, such as Delaware and New Jersey, its passage is nevertheless considered an advocacy victory. According to data from the National Conference of State Legislatures, Pennsylvania is the 39th state to pass a law protecting public breastfeeding. For the text of the bill and its history in the state legislature, go to <http://www.legis.state.pa.us/cfdocs/billinfo/billinfo.cfm?year=2007&sind=0&body=S&type=B&BN=0034>.

### 6) AMERICA’S PROMISE AIMS AT IMPROVING LIFE FOR AT-RISK KIDS

The America's Promise Alliance, working with the Bill & Melinda Gates and W.K. Kellogg foundations, has announced a new national campaign aimed at improving the lives of America's 15 million disadvantaged children over the next five years. Their "Fifteen in Five" campaign focuses on a health start in life, safe places, effective education, caring adults and opportunities to help others. The program's three "action strategies" include All Kids Covered, which will get eligible children enrolled in the State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP) and Medicaid; Ready for the World, which engages middle-school students in service learning; and Where the Kids Are, which delivers on the campaigns focus areas in schools and communities. To get involved with the campaign or bring it to your community, go to [http://www.americaspromise.org/APAMini.aspx?id=5854&ekmense=c580fa7b\\_358\\_370\\_btnlink](http://www.americaspromise.org/APAMini.aspx?id=5854&ekmense=c580fa7b_358_370_btnlink).

### **MCH JOB OPPORTUNITY**

#### **7) NATIONAL CHILDREN'S ORAL HEALTH FOUNDATION SEEKS DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT & COMMUNICATIONS**

The Charlotte, North Carolina-based National Children's Oral Health Foundation is accepting applicants for a Director of Development and Communications. The individual in this position will lead, manage and coordinate the Foundation's fundraising and communication strategies, reporting to the president and working collaboratively with other senior staff. The qualified candidate will be experienced at developing and driving efforts to increase income from individual, corporate and foundation donors, and to effectively support the board and president's fund development/communication efforts. Extensive experience using a donor/relationship database software package is required. Cover letters and resumes should be emailed to [careers@ncohf.org](mailto:careers@ncohf.org). For more information, go to <http://www.ncohf.org>.

Sources:

<http://www.marchofdimes.com>

<http://www.childtrends.org>

<http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr>

<http://www.naccrra.org>

<http://www.legis.state.pa.us>

<http://www.americaspromise.org>

<http://www.ncohf.org>

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### **Other Public Health News**

#### **SMALL TAX-EXEMPT ORGANIZATIONS NOW MUST FILE WITH IRS**

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While there will be no paper form, the IRS is developing an electronic system and says it will publicize the new procedures when the system is ready for use. For more about the requirement and how they may affect your organization, see the "Charities" page at the IRS site: <http://www.irs.gov>.

### **August 1-7 is World Breastfeeding Awareness Week**

Here is some great information from the AAP, "Ten Steps to Support Parents' Choice to Breastfeed Their Baby" [www.aap.org/breastfeeding/tenSteps.pdf](http://www.aap.org/breastfeeding/tenSteps.pdf) and the AAP's breastfeeding resources [www.aap.org/breastfeeding/new%20resources.cfm](http://www.aap.org/breastfeeding/new%20resources.cfm)  
The World Alliance for Breastfeeding Action website has materials on the 2007 theme "The 1st Hour" at <http://worldbreastfeedingweek.org/downloads.htm>

### **July is.....**

**1<sup>st</sup> – 31<sup>st</sup>**

Hemochromatosis Awareness Month  
Iron Disorders Institute  
[www.irondisorders.org](http://www.irondisorders.org)

**1<sup>st</sup> – 31<sup>st</sup>**

International Group B Strep Awareness Month  
Group B Strep International  
[www.groupbstrepinternational.org](http://www.groupbstrepinternational.org)

**1<sup>st</sup> – 31<sup>st</sup>**

National Group B Strep Awareness Month  
[www.thejessecause.org](http://www.thejessecause.org)

**1<sup>st</sup> - 31<sup>st</sup>**

UV Safety Month  
American Academy of Ophthalmology  
[www.aao.org](http://www.aao.org)

### **August is.....**

**1<sup>st</sup> - 7<sup>th</sup>**

World Breastfeeding Week  
World Alliance for Breastfeeding Action  
La Leche League International  
[www.lalecheleague.org](http://www.lalecheleague.org)

**1<sup>st</sup>**

National Minority Donor Awareness Day  
National Minority Organ Tissue Transplant Education Program  
[www.nationalmottep.org](http://www.nationalmottep.org)

**1<sup>st</sup> - 31<sup>st</sup>**

Cataract Awareness Month  
American Academy of Ophthalmology  
[www.aao.org/eyemd](http://www.aao.org/eyemd)

**1<sup>st</sup> - 31<sup>st</sup>**

Children's Eye Health and Safety Month  
Prevent Blindness America  
[www.preventblindness.org](http://www.preventblindness.org)

**1<sup>st</sup> - 31<sup>st</sup>**

National Immunization Awareness Month  
National Immunization Program  
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention  
[www.cdc.gov/nip/](http://www.cdc.gov/nip/)

## Public Health Conferences and Events

### August

**Aug 9**

Title: American Kidney Fund (AKF) Regional Conference, "Empowering Patients to Overcome Barriers to Adherence"  
City: Atlanta, GA  
Location: Loudermilk Conference Center

**Aug 13-17**

Title: 2007 UW Summer Institute for Public Health Practice  
City: Seattle, WA  
Location: University of Washington William H. Gates Law School

**Aug 13-17**

Title: CDC Cancer Conference  
Location: Hyatt Regency Hotel Downtown  
City: Atlanta, GA

**Aug 27-29**

Title: Public Health Information Network (PHIN) Conference  
City: Atlanta, GA.  
Location: Omni Hotel, CNN Center  
Website: [www.cdc.gov/phn](http://www.cdc.gov/phn)

**Aug 23-27**

2007 Minority Women's Health Summit  
Location: Hyatt Regency Washington on Capital Hill

City: Washington, D.C.

See: <http://4women.gov/mwhs/>

**Aug 29-30**

Title: National Conference on Health Communication, Marketing and Media

Location: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Tom Harkin Global Communication Center

City: Atlanta, GA.

Email: [nchrnconference@cdc.gov](mailto:nchrnconference@cdc.gov)

**August 30-September 1**

Title: Georgia Nurses Association, GNA's 100 years - A STORY TO TELL...

Location: Westin Savannah Golf and Spa Resort

City: Savannah, GA

See: [http://www.georgianurses.org/annual\\_convention.htm](http://www.georgianurses.org/annual_convention.htm)

**September**

**September 5-7**

Title: GPHA 78<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting and Conference

Location: Savannah Marriott Riverfront

City: Savannah, GA

See: <http://www.gapha.org/>

**September 6 & 7**

Grady Health System-Nursing Perspectives XXVII

Location: Emerald Pointe Conference Center and Resort

City: Lake Lanier Islands

Contact: Gail Grimes at Grady Health System, M & I Project, (404) 616-1000

**September 6-9**

Title: Georgia Obstetrical & Gynecological Society [56th Annual Meeting](#) at The Ritz-Carlton Location: Lodge Reynolds Plantation

City: Lake Oconee, GA

See: <http://www.georgiaobgyn.org/meetings/>

**September 17-19**

Title: Georgia Rural Health Association's Annual Conference: Making Rural Healthy People 2010 a Reality in Georgia

Location: UGA Conference Center and Hotel

City: Athens, GA.

See: <http://www.garuralhealth.org/>

**September 26<sup>th</sup>**

From: 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Title: "The Best Years of Their Lives: Improving Outcomes for Older Adolescents". Voices for Georgia's Children, presents 100 Voices: A Policy Institute.

Location: Carter Center

City: Atlanta, GA.

See: <http://www.georgiavoices.org/EventCalendar/100Voices07.aspx>

This newsletter is being distributed to HMHB Coalition Members. Please submit your questions or comments about this newsletter and or its content to Jessica Hawkins at [jessica.hawkins@hmhbga.org](mailto:jessica.hawkins@hmhbga.org). Thank you for assisting HMHB in improving the health status of Georgia's families.

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