



HMHB Resource Watch

June 13, 2007

Healthy Mothers, Healthy Babies Coalition of Georgia, Inc.

Final 2007 Session Summary

June 4, 2007

The 2007 Session finally ended on April 20, 2007. This legislative session was unusual in a number of ways. For such a long session, very little legislation passed. There were also major disagreements over the Amended FY 2007 budget between the House, Senate, and Governor Perdue. When the Governor vetoed the Amended FY 2007 budget, the House overrode the veto, but the Senate did not follow suit. It was believed that a special session to re-work the 2007 budget would be required. However, Governor Perdue managed to avoid a special session by withdrawing his veto. He instead used a line-item veto to overturn a tax break included in the 2007 budget which, in his opinion, was too costly and cumbersome to enact.

HMHB spent much of the session doing defensive work, attempting to protect policy and budget gains made in the past on behalf of women and children. The biggest battles concerned the PeachCare program, as changes were proposed that threatened eligibility and benefits. In the end, the proposed changes were prevented, but a freeze on new enrollment put in place on March 11, remains in place.

Governor Perdue had 40 days, through May 30, to sign or veto bills. In all, he vetoed 41 bills and approximately \$140 million from the FY 2008 budget.

UPDATE ON HMHB LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

- Restore Medicaid eligibility for pregnant women and infants to 235% of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL). Although this goal was not met, restoring eligibility from 200% of poverty to 235% of poverty, the level in effect prior to July 2004, remains a priority.
- Increase funding for the Babies Born Healthy Program. Increased funding for the Babies Born Healthy (BBH) Program was one of the casualties of the fighting between the House, Senate and Governor Perdue. The House version of the Amended FY 2007 budget included \$1 million in additional funds for BBH. Unfortunately, the Senate took the position that the amended budget should only be used to address the PeachCare shortfall, to fund the

Department of Education midyear adjustment, and to fund a few other emergencies. The Senate version of the FY 2007 budget stripped out most additional funding, including the additional BBH money. It did not help matters that work on the Amended FY 2007 and FY 2008 budgets was postponed until late in the session. The additional \$1 million for BBH was not included in the final version of the Amended FY 2007 budget, and no additional funding for the program was included in the FY 2008 budget either.

- HMHB is working closely with the Georgia Obstetrical and Gynecological Society and the March of Dimes to secure additional funding for Babies Born Healthy in the FY 2009 budget.
- Provide funding for the Cervical Cancer Prevention Vaccine. DHR requested, and Governor Perdue recommended, \$4.3 million in the FY 2008 budget for the new human papilloma virus (HPV) vaccine. Neither the House nor the Senate provided for such funding in their versions of the budget, thus no funds were appropriated for the HPV vaccine in the FY 2008 budget.
- Oppose legislation that threatens health insurance benefits such as mammograms, pap smears, and childhood immunizations. A number of bills were introduced during the 2007 session that dealt with health insurance and there were proposals that would have done away with most of the mandated health insurance benefits. None of these bills got out of committee, but during the last two days of the session, such language was included in a conference committee report on a bill dealing with high deductible health insurance plans. HMHB and other advocacy organizations quickly mobilized and generated enough grassroots opposition from women throughout the state to defeat that proposed legislation.
- Monitor legislation that would impact services or funding for PeachCare, Medicaid or other important preventive healthcare programs for women and children. HB 340 (Speaker Glenn Richardson) as introduced would have lowered the income eligibility for PeachCare from 235% to 200% of the Federal Poverty Level and would have made dental and vision services optional at an additional premium. HB 340 passed the House and the Senate and a conference committee was appointed to work out differences between the House and Senate versions. In the end, no final action was taken on HB 340 in either chamber, and time ran out on the 40th day as the disagreement between the House and Governor Perdue over the Amended FY 2007 budget took center stage. HMHB worked long and hard with other advocacy groups to defeat HB 340 and other proposals that threatened the PeachCare program. This was a major victory.

OTHER ITEMS OF INTEREST

FY 2008 Budget Highlights

- PeachCare and Medicaid are adequately funded in the DCH budget.
- \$1 million for “new start” Community Health Centers in Bacon, Bibb, Gwinnett, Lanier, Murray and Richmond counties was included in the DCH budget.
- In an unusual move, Governor Perdue included language in his budget veto message concerning a handful of small line items in the FY 2008 budget that authorizes DHR to “utilize appropriate procurement procedures.” One such item was \$140,000 for the Juvenile Justice Fund of Atlanta for a regional assessment center for child victims of prostitution and

trafficking. The Governor's office has clarified that this was not intended as a veto, but gives DHR greater oversight of this budget item.

LEGISLATION

HB 429 (Rep. Sharon Cooper, 41st) requires HIV testing for pregnant women unless the woman refuses. Passed and signed by Governor.

SB 155 (Sen. Don Balfour, 9th) would require female students are to be vaccinated for human papilloma virus prior to entering grade 6, effective fall of 2008. Parents could opt out because of medical or religious reasons, as with other vaccinations. Passed Senate Health and Human Services Committee but was not voted on by Senate.

This update was prepared for HMHB by Mary Frances Williams. If you have questions, email her at mfwilliams@speakeasy.net.

HMHB Upcoming Events

Keep checking out our website www.hmhbg.org for more events. If you know of any events that are not listed, please contact us at 770.451.0020.

Sponsors, Please Save the Date!!

July 20, 2007 6:30-9:00 PM

Healthy Mothers, Healthy Babies Coalition of Georgia presents the Sponsors and Friends Appreciation Gala.

**Please contact Jessica or Rena for more information at
770-451-0020 x303 or x201.**

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

2007 Annual Meeting and Conference

Wednesday, October 3, 2007

9:00 am- 4:00 pm.

Freight Room

Georgia Railroad Freight Depot
65 Martin Luther King Jr. Drive SW
Atlanta, GA. 30303

News from National HMHB

This week: June 13, 2007

News from National.

Last week, the American Heart Association urged women of child-bearing age to take a multivitamin with folic acid. HMHB is quoted in a release by our friends at the Council for Responsible Nutrition about science showing that folic acid can offer protective effects against the development of heart defects if taken by moms-to-be prior to conception. Additionally, the release, at http://www.crnusa.org/PR07_CRN_AHA-FOLIC060507.html shares information about folic acid and the prevention of neural tube defects.

- 1) Study: Flu Vaccine During Pregnancy Jump-Starts Fetal Immune System
- 2) Web Resource Expands its Women's Health Content
- 3) Registration Open for Second National Summit on Preconception Health
- 4) New Findings on Longer-Term Benefits of Prenatal Vitamins
- 5) AAP Endorses Kids & Cars Safety Act of 2007
- 6) Free Report for Download: "Developing Better Non-English Materials"
- 7) AMA Program Supports Future Nonprofit Leaders
- 8) Northern California Chapter of CFF Seeks Special Events Director

MATERNAL-INFANT HEALTH NEWS

1) STUDY: FLU VACCINE DURING PREGNANCY JUMP-STARTS FETAL IMMUNE SYSTEM

A new study published in the Journal of Clinical Investigation finds that immunizing a pregnant woman against influenza has the positive effect of jump-starting the immune system of her developing fetus. Using a new technique to analyze B- and T-cell immune responses in umbilical cord blood after pregnant women were vaccinated with Fluzone, the research team discovered that responses to these antigens occur in utero after pregnant women receive the vaccine. According to the authors, these findings have important implications for determining exactly

when human immune responses to environmental exposures begin. For the abstract, go to <http://www.jci.org/cgi/content/abstract/117/6/1637>.

2) WEB RESOURCE EXPANDS ITS WOMEN'S HEALTH CONTENT

The web-based resource StateHealthFacts.org has added new and updated information on women's health, including data on breastfeeding rates, depression, preventive health, health status and eating disorders. Developed by the Kaiser Family Foundation, the site provides state-by-state information organized by topic areas. It is useful for researchers, health and medical journalists, state and local health officials and others. To access this resource, go to <http://www.statehealthfacts.org>.

3) REGISTRATION OPEN FOR SECOND NATIONAL SUMMIT ON PRECONCEPTION HEALTH

The Second National Summit on Preconception Health and Healthcare is scheduled for October 29-31, 2007 in Oakland California, focusing on strategies for implementing the national recommendations published by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). The First National Summit on Preconception care, sponsored in 2005 by 35 national partner organizations and 22 CDC program units, brought together professionals from across the country to discuss innovations and opportunities to promote the health of women before, during and beyond pregnancy. Since that time, national recommendations have sparked debate and action in programs nationwide, engaging leaders from public health, clinical medicine and community-based organizations. For more on this event, go to http://www.marchofdimes.com/california/4947_24789.asp.

4) NEW FINDINGS ON LONGER-TERM BENEFITS OF PRENATAL VITAMINS

A new study published in the journal Clinical Pharmacology and Therapeutics finds that the children of women who take multivitamins both before and during pregnancy have a lower risk of certain types of childhood tumors. The University of Toronto team's systematic review found that taking a multivitamin before and in early pregnancy reduced the risk of childhood leukemia by 36 percent, and reduced the risk of childhood brain tumors by 27 percent. The lead author notes that although they suspect that folic-acid-containing multivitamins are responsible for the decrease in these childhood cancers, the data is insufficient to make the claim, and more research is needed. For more on the study, go to http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/news/fullstory_50576.html.

CHILD, ADOLESCENT, FAMILY & COMMUNITY HEALTH NEWS

5) AAP ENDORSES KIDS & CARS SAFETY ACT OF 2007

Since the year 2000, approximately 1,150 US children have been killed in non-crash, non-traffic vehicle fatalities – such as back-over accidents, power window strangulation and children left in cars who become hypothermic or overheated. And the CDC's data shows that over 9,000 children are treated in emergency rooms each year from non-crash, non-traffic accidents involving vehicles. Toddlers are most at risk, with the average age of the victims at 12 to 23 months. Federal legislation responding to this data is now in Congressional committee and would require automakers to install safety devices in all vehicles sold in the US, including back-over warnings systems, power windows stops and brake shift locks. The Cameron Gulbransen Kids and Cars Safety Act of 2007 [s 694, HR 1216] has been strongly endorsed by the American Academy of Pediatrics (AA) and is sponsored by Senator Hillary Clinton and Representative Janice Schakowsky. For more details, go to <http://www.kidsandcars.org> and click "Legislation."

ADVOCATES IN ACTION

6) FREE REPORT FOR DOWNLOAD: “DEVELOPING BETTER NON-ENGLISH MATERIALS”

A new report is available from Hablamos Juntos, “Developing Better Non-English Materials: Understanding the Limits of Translation,” shares lessons learned about the barriers healthcare organizations face in producing useful, translated Spanish-language text for consumers. The report addresses the reasons why production of non-English materials can be a struggle for healthcare organizations, as well as how they can improve the quality of materials for their non-English speaking clients. Hablamos Juntos (We Speak Together) is a project funded by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and administered by the Center for Medical Education and Research at UCSF Fresno, with 10 demonstration sites nationwide. Hablamos Juntos works with linguists, translators and researchers to develop practical tools that help health groups develop non-English materials. To download this free report, go to http://www.hablamosjuntos.org/resource_guide_portal/pdf/Brief-NonEngl-Final.pdf. For more about the organization, go to <http://www.hablamosjuntos.org>.

NONPROFIT MANAGEMENT RESOURCE

7) AMA PROGRAM SUPPORTS FUTURE NONPROFIT LEADERS

The American Management Association (AMA) and the Leader to Leader Institute have established an AMA Scholarship Program to assist social-sector nonprofit organizations in developing strong leaders for the future. The Association has allocated funding for 75 scholarships to be administered by the Leader to Leader Institute, providing one management education and professional development seminar and one year of AMA member benefits and a one-year membership with the Leader to Leader Institute. Eligible candidates are employees of nonprofit 501(c)(3) or those under the fiscal sponsorship of such an organization, have a minimum of three years of work experience in the social sector and must receive a nomination by the executive director/CEO of their sponsoring organization by November 15, 2007. For complete information on this program, go to <http://www.leadertoleader.org>.

MCH JOB OPPORTUNITY

8) NORTHERN CALIFORNIA CHAPTER OF CFF SEEKS SPECIAL EVENTS DIRECTOR

The Northern California Chapter of the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation (CFF), located in Sausalito, is accepting applicants for a Director of Special Events who will network to solicit new corporate relationships for black tie events and other major fundraisers. The ideal candidate will have excellent communication skills, a proven track record of sales experience, prior success with developing a presence in local communities through volunteer recruitment and development, and the ability to maximize fundraising opportunities to meet goals. The person in this position will also manage top-tier volunteers. For more information and contact details, go to <http://www.cff.org/chapters/nca/>.

Sources:

<http://www.jci.org>

<http://www.statehealthfacts.org>

<http://www.marchofdimes.com>

<http://www.nlm.nih.gov>

<http://www.kidsandcars.org>

<http://www.hablamosjuntos.org>

<http://www.leadertoleader.org>

<http://www.cff.org>

Information is reported as provided and does not necessarily represent the view of or the endorsement by the National Healthy Mothers, Healthy Babies Coalition. A complete copy of HMHB's disclaimer is available on the HMHB Web site at <http://www.hmhb.org/disclaimer.html>

Last week: June 6, 2007

News from National.

June is Home Safety Month. The Home Safety Council has a fabulous set of tools to carry out this year's theme – Hands on Home Safety. The campaign asks the public to take some simple hands-on steps to create a safer home environment from such leading hazards as falls, fires and burns, and poisonings. Turnkey resources are available at <http://www.homesafetycouncil.org/homesafetymonth/homesafetymonth.aspx> in English and Spanish to help families nationwide learn how to be “hands-on” with proper home safety practices.

This Week:

- 1) Kaiser Family Foundation & March of Dimes to Co-Host Forum on Maternity Care Costs
- 2) Study: Infant Sleep Problems Associated with Maternal Depression
- 3) Breastfeeding Advocates Support National Paid Maternity Leave
- 4) This Week: NIH Hosts Open Seminar on Adolescent Girls' Health
- 5) CDC Report: Unintentional Injury the Leading Cause of Child Deaths in the United States
- 6) La Raza Supports Newly-Introduced Community Health Workers Act of 2007
- 7) Funding Opportunity for Home-Visit Nurse Programs Aimed at Preventing Child Abuse & Neglect
- 8) NFI Seeks Director of Outreach

MATERNAL-INFANT HEALTH NEWS

1) KAISER FAMILY FOUNDATION & MARCH OF DIMES TO CO-HOST FORUM ON MATERNITY CARE COSTS

The Kaiser Family Foundation and the March of Dimes will co-host a forum on Tuesday, June 12 at 9:30 a.m. at the Barbara Jordan Conference Center in Washington, DC to release new research analyzing the cost of maternity care and assessing insurance coverage under consumer-driven health plans (CDHPs). Kaiser will release a new study comparing the out-of-pocket costs of pregnancy under CDHPs and traditional health insurance plans, and March of Dimes will release a new study that examines the overall costs of having a baby, prepared by Thomson Healthcare. This policy forum will explore issues such as how much a typical birth or c-section delivery costs, how costs are affected when complications arise and how cost-sharing features like co-payments and deductibles vary among health plans and affect families. For more information or to RSVP, contact Tiffany Ford at 202.347.6270 or tford@kff.org. For the Foundation's work on women's health policy, go to <http://www.kff.org/womenshealth/index.cfm>

2) STUDY: INFANT SLEEP PROBLEMS ASSOCIATED WITH MATERNAL DEPRESSION

A new study published in the May issue of the journal *Pediatrics* finds a significant correlation between infant sleep and maternal depression. The longitudinal population study, conducted in Australia with 5,000 infants and 5,000 preschoolers, found that a baby's sleep problems almost doubled the odds of "serious psychological distress" for the infant's mother, in addition to negatively affecting the overall general health of both mom and dad. The research team concludes that "Infant sleep problems, in particular, are associated with poorer health in both parents, especially the mental health of mothers with no past history of depression." This effect was particularly evident among new mothers who had no prior history of depression. For the abstract of this study, go to <http://pediatrics.aappublications.org/cgi/content/abstract/119/5/947>.

3) BREASTFEEDING ADVOCATES SUPPORT NATIONAL PAID MATERNITY LEAVE

A new article in the journal *Breastfeeding Medicine* makes the case for national paid maternity leave in the interest of infant nutrition and health. The review article, authored by pediatrician Gerald Calnen, MD, has received the support of the Workplace Breastfeeding Support working group of the US Breastfeeding Committee. In an open letter on the lack of support for nursing mothers in the United States, the working group notes that "At least 150 countries around the world provide some sort of national paid maternity leave," while "The USA is one of the few that does not." The Committee's letter stresses that "For breastfeeding mothers, it takes time to recover from birth and build a reliable milk supply. Babies, too, take awhile to establish their feeding skills. Several studies have found that early return to work leads to earlier weaning." For the journal article, go to <http://www.liebertpub.com/bfm>.

CHILD, ADOLESCENT, FAMILY & COMMUNITY HEALTH NEWS

4) THIS WEEK: NIH HOSTS OPEN SEMINAR ON ADOLESCENT GIRLS' HEALTH

The Office for Research on Women's Health (ORWH) Seminar Series will feature "The Health of Girls and Women Across the Lifespan: Adolescents" tomorrow, June 5, from 2 to 4 p.m. in the Lipsett Amphitheater, Building 10 on the National Institutes of Health (NIH) campus in Bethesda, Maryland. The seminar is open to the public and registration is not required. For more information, go to <http://orwh.od.nih.gov/news/events.html>.

5) CDC REPORT: UNINTENTIONAL INJURY THE LEADING CAUSE OF CHILD DEATHS IN THE UNITED STATES

According to a report issued by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) on May 18, unintentional injury is the leading cause of death among US children ages one to 19 years, followed by homicide as the second leading cause. The MMWR Surveillance Summary, "Fatal Injuries Among Children by Race and Ethnicity, United States, 1999-2002," finds that mortality rates from injuries, whether unintentional or intentional, are particularly high among certain racial/ethnic groups. During the 1990s, injury death rates for black and American Indian children were two to three times those for white children. However, injury rates for Hispanic and Asian/Pacific Islander were equal to or less than rates for whites. For more on the findings, go to <http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/ss5605a1.htm>.

6) LA RAZA SUPPORTS NEWLY-INTRODUCED COMMUNITY HEALTH WORKERS ACT OF 2007

The National Council of La Raza (NCLR) is endorsing federal legislation recently introduced to Congress by Senator Jeff Bingaman (D-NM) and Representative Hilda Solis (D-CA). The Community Health Workers Act of 2007 (CHWA) [S 586, HR 1968] addresses the work of community health workers, also known as promotoras de salud. The CHWA would provide

grants to community-based organizations, often the lifeblood of Latino communities, for health education, promotion, prevention and outreach to those who are underserved and underinsured. The grants would also allow community-based organizations to devote more promotion efforts to healthy lifestyles, especially among women and children, which have been shown to decrease chronic diseases. Finally, the legislation would ensure that community-based programs receive enrollment resources to help connect individuals with programs like Medicaid and the State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP). For more on this bill, go to <http://www.nclr.org/content/publications/detail/44609/>

ADVOCATES IN ACTION

7) FUNDING OPPORTUNITY FOR HOME-VISIT NURSE PROGRAMS AIMED AT PREVENTING CHILD ABUSE & NEGLECT

The Administration on Children, Youth and Families, Children's Bureau at the US Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) has announced a funding opportunity aimed at preventing child abuse and neglect with nurse home-visit services. Programs selected for this funding will "employ strong partnerships with child abuse prevention, child welfare, family support and other disciplines to implement and evaluate a combination of services," including providing or referring parents who would benefit from them to healthy marriage, responsible fatherhood, substance abuse, mental health and family violence services. Grant applications are due by July 2, 2007. For an application, go to <http://www.acf.hhs.gov/grants/open/HHS-2007-ACF-ACYF-CA-0038.html>.

MCH JOB OPPORTUNITY

8) NFI SEEKS DIRECTOR OF OUTREACH

The National Fatherhood Initiative (NFI), with headquarters in Gaithersburg, Maryland, invites applicants for a Director of Outreach responsible for identifying, developing and managing strategic alliances with companies, corporate foundations and large 'network' social service organizations. The Director of Outreach will also contribute to other aspects of NFI's efforts, including assistance with preparing government funding proposals. NFI promotes the wellbeing of children by increasing the number of children growing up with involved, committed and responsible fathers. To apply, contact VP of Development and Outreach Kirsten Blair at kblair@fatherhood.org with a cover letter, resume and salary requirements. For more on NFI, go to <http://www.fatherhood.org>.

Sources:

<http://www.kff.org>

<http://pediatrics.aappublications.org>

<http://www.liebertpub.com/bfm>

<http://orwh.od.nih.gov>

<http://www.cdc.gov>

<http://www.nclr.org>

<http://www.acf.hhs.gov>

<http://www.fatherhood.org>

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Other Public Health News

June is.....

Vision Research Month

Prevent Blindness America
211 West Wacker Drive, Suite 1700
Chicago, IL 60606
(800) 331-2020
www.preventblindness.org

Home Safety Month

Home Safety Council
1250 Eye Street NW, Suite 1000
Washington, DC 20005
(202) 330-4900
www.homesafetycouncil.org/homesafetymonth

11 - 17

National Men's Health Week

Men's Health Network
236 Massachusetts Avenue NE, Suite 301
P.O. Box 75972
Washington, DC 20013
(888) MEN-2-MEN (636-2636) Men's
Healthline
(202) 543-MHN-1 (6461) x101
www.menshealthweek.org

24 - 30

Helen Keller Deaf - Blind Awareness Week

Helen Keller National Center Office for
Development
141 Middle Neck Road
Sands Point, NY 11050-1299
(516) 944-8900 x254
(516) 994-8637 TTY
www.hknc.org

Join SOPHE for A Healthy Aging Webinar, <http://www.sophe.org/>

TRANSFORMING COMMUNITIES ONE STEP AT A TIME: A NATIONAL WEBINAR, Thursday June 14, 2007, 1:30pm– 3:30pm (Eastern Time) Join the Society for Public Health Education (SOPHE) and the Healthy Aging Program of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention on Thursday June 14th, 2007, to learn about promoting healthy aging, forging partnerships and using data for action.

[ENROLL TODAY](#)

Events in Georgia

CATCH—A Coordinated Approach to Child Health

From Research to Practice: Public Health Grand Rounds

National Satellite Broadcast and Webcast, June 15



CDC and the University of North Carolina will broadcast the second in its series of [Public Health Grand Rounds](#) presenting real-world case studies that highlight the agency's [Health Protection Goals](#) on June 15. To register, [click here](#).

The June 15th program, [Coordinated Approach to Child Health: From Research to Practice](#), airing from 2 pm to 3 pm (Eastern time), focuses on the agency's [Healthy People in Every Stage of Life Goal](#) and features the CATCH (Coordinated Approach to Child Health) program implemented in the school system in Austin, Travis County, Texas.

[CATCH](#) is a coordinated school health program that is helping more than half a million school children at 1,200 elementary schools in Texas to improve their diets and increase their physical activity.

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. Thank you for assisting HMHB in improving the health status of Georgia's families.

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