



HEALTHY MOTHERS, HEALTHY BABIES
Coalition of Georgia

HMHB Resource Watch

Improving the health status of Georgia's families.

Volume 9, Issue 5

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HMHB Legislative Alert

Urgent Action Needed

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Advocates have been following a number of bills dealing with health insurance and have tried to work with bill sponsors to include language that protects health care services such as mammograms, pap smears, after childbirth hospital stays, newborn coverage, immunizations and other preventive health care. Now House leaders have taken a step which makes it virtually impossible for any other voices to be heard in this debate: HB 1087 (a bill dealing with high deductible health plans) has been added to HB 977 (another bill giving tax preferences to such health insurance policies) and HB 977 has been placed on the House general calendar under what is called Structured Rules. This means that when HB 977 comes to the House floor for a vote, it cannot be amended or changed in any way.

WE NEED YOUR HELP! Please contact House Rules Members and insist that HB 977 be amended to ensure coverage of preventive care before people have to meet their high deductible under this type of insurance plan. Also, HB 977 needs to include language that requires a clear explanation of what a health plan does and does not cover so that people will know exactly what they are buying.

Also, please contact your own legislator to let him or her know your concerns about HB 977 and other health insurance legislation that threatens preventive health care for women and children.

Please call today- HB 977 could be on the House floor tomorrow morning!

For the House Rules Committee Members click [**HERE**](#)

HMHB in the Community

March 8th 9 am - 4 pm Georgia World Congress Center Atlanta, Georgia

March 15th 9 am -1 pm Healthy Kids Day Albany, GA Albany YMCA

March 13th 8 am - 3 pm Southwest Georgia Chapter of Alzheimer’s Association 12th Annual Caregiver Conference, Sherwood Baptist Church, Albany, GA

March 15th 10:00 am -2:00 pm Atlanta Fulton Public Library Second Annual Health Fair Atlanta, GA

April 5th 10am -2pm HMHB Health Fair, “Health, It’s a Family Affair” Expo, Savannah State University, Savannah, GA

Come out and support us.....

To volunteer for an event call our office at 770-451-0020, ext. 302

Get Involved with HMHB

Join, Shop & Give to Support HMHB!

HMHB recently joined Benevolink, an innovative program that gives you an easy way to support our mission to improve the health status of Georgia’s families year round without taking extra money out of your pocket. Through Benevolink, you shop for the things you want with 200+ brand name retailers and generate charitable giving to the causes of your choice. In fact, you could generate more than \$100 or more in a year for HMHB by shopping through the Marketplace@Benevolink. To learn more and join, visit www.benevolink.com.

Legislative News

Please see the dates below for the Georgia General Assembly. Note that Crossover Day is next Thursday, March 11.

- Tuesday, March 4 - Day 27
- Wednesday, March 5 - Day 28
- Thursday, March 6 - Day 29
- Tuesday, March 11 - Day 30
- Wednesday, March 12 - Day 31
- Thursday, March 13 - Day 32
- Tuesday, March 18 - Day 33
- Wednesday, March 19 - Day 34
- Thursday, March 20 - Day 35
- Tuesday, March 25 - Day 36
- Wednesday, March 26 - Day 37
- Thursday, March 27 - Day 38



News From National Healthy Mothers, Healthy Babies— March 3, 2008

- 1) Mayo Clinic Launches Pregnancy Blog
- 2) Pregnancy Nutrition Fact Sheet - & More – Available for National Nutrition Month
- 3) Study Finds Decreasing Rates of Cystic Fibrosis
- 4) APHA Announces Policy on Breastfeeding & Public Health
- 5) CDC Panel Urges Broader Children's Flu Vaccination
- 6) Nominations Open for Symbol of H.O.P.E. Award
- 7) FLIP Reaches New Generation of Nonprofit Leaders

MATERNAL-INFANT HEALTH NEWS

1) MAYO CLINIC LAUNCHES PREGNANCY BLOG

The Mayo Clinic has launched a pregnancy blog on its consumer-oriented website. "Pregnancy & You" is facilitated by certified nurse-midwife (CNM) Mary Murry and aims to help women navigate the maze of pregnancy dos and don'ts, while also connecting with other expectant mothers online. Murry is director of the Advanced Practice Ob/Gyn Service and instructor in the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology at the Mayo Clinic, Rochester, MN. To visit this new web resource, go to <http://www.mayoclinic.com/health/pregnancy/PR00162>.

2) PREGNANCY NUTRITION FACT SHEET - & MORE – AVAILABLE FOR NATIONAL NUTRITION MONTH

To mark March as National Nutrition Month, the American Dietetic Association (ADA) is offering free, downloadable promotional and educational materials on its website. The annual campaign focuses on the importance of making well-informed dietary choices for nutritional value and overall health. This year's theme is "Nutrition: It's a Matter of Fact," and available resources include fact sheets and other handouts in both English and Spanish, teacher's guides, healthy recipes, nutrition quizzes and games, a "fad diet" timeline, and sample press releases/PSAs, proclamations and event ideas. Among the MCH-oriented resources available is the ADA fact sheet "Pregnancy: Fact vs. Fiction," available as a PDF at: <http://www.eatright.org/ada/files/Pregnancy.pdf>. For the complete lineup of information and tools, go to http://www.eatright.org/cps/rde/xchg/ada/hs.xsl/NNM_2007_home.htm.

3) STUDY FINDS DECREASING RATES OF CYSTIC FIBROSIS

According to a study just published in the New England Journal of Medicine, the incidence of cystic fibrosis may be decreasing. The study found that the overall incidence of this inherited disease dropped from between 25 and 35 infants a year before 2003 to less than 20 infants each year for most years post-2003. They also found a "dramatic" decline in the most severe form of cystic fibrosis, caused by one particular gene. Data was drawn from the New England Newborn Screening Program and the Massachusetts Cystic

Fibrosis Newborn Screening Work Group. The authors attribute the decreases to effective prenatal screening, which identifies whether parents are carriers of a cystic fibrosis gene. Critics of the study argue that the findings would be more useful if they were broken down by ethnic groups, since the disease is more common in families of Northern European descent, and that the small cohort means the findings need to be confirmed with a larger group. For an extract of the report, go to <http://content.nejm.org/cgi/content/extract/358/9/973>.

4) APHA ANNOUNCES POLICY ON BREASTFEEDING & PUBLIC HEALTH

The American Public Health Association (APHA) is addressing breastfeeding as a fundamental public health issue, including it among 20 newly adopted policies covering a broad range of issues. The 20 new policy measures were approved at by the Association's governing council during APHA's annual meeting in November. The APHA policy (200714) "affirms that exclusive breastfeeding for the first six months of life, with continued breastfeeding for at least the first one or two years of life, is the biological norm, and that all alternative feeding methods carry health risks in comparison, with rare exceptions." The policy urges that maternal and child and comprehensive public health policies include attention to breastfeeding protection, education, promotion and support, and it "denounces aggressive marketing of human milk substitutes, particularly in healthcare settings." For the complete policy statements, go to <http://www.apha.org/advocacy/policy>.

CHILD, ADOLESCENT, FAMILY & COMMUNITY HEALTH NEWS

5) CDC PANEL URGES BROADER CHILDREN'S FLU VACCINATION

Last week the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) revised its recommendations on children's influenza vaccination, urging that all children ages six months to 18 years of age should receive annual flu shots. The current recommendation from CDC is that children six months to five years of age get the vaccine. The recommendation covers an additional 30 million children. "This new recommendation should reduce the risk of influenza infections among children of all ages, and their consequent need for medical visits and missed time from school," said Dr. Anne Schuchat, director of CDC's National Center for Immunization and Respiratory Diseases. For more from CDC, go to <http://www.cdc.gov/od/oc/media/pressrel/2008/r080227.htm>.

ADVOCATES IN ACTION

6) NOMINATIONS OPEN FOR SYMBOL OF H.O.P.E. AWARD

The American Journal of Health Promotion has invited nominations for its annual Robert F. Allen Symbol of H.O.P.E. Award, with a deadline of April 25. The award "honors individuals who have worked to promote cultural diversity within health promotion, or who have demonstrated significant achievement in serving the health promotion needs of underserved populations." The award winner receives a cash prize of \$3,500 and will be selected from nominations submitted by peers. For complete details, go to <http://www.healthpromotionjournal.com/resource/hope.htm>.

NONPROFIT MANAGEMENT

7) FLIP REACHES NEW GENERATION OF NONPROFIT LEADERS

A special project of onPhilanthropy.com, FLIP (Future Leaders in Philanthropy) is an online publication by and about the next generation of nonprofit leaders. FLIP features articles, commentary, news about philanthropy, job fair announcements and profiles young, emerging leaders in the nonprofit sector. The e-newsletter also explores traditional and evolving career tracks in nonprofit management, including certification programs, graduate degrees in nonprofit management, and climbing the ladder through job experience and networking. To check out this resource, go to <http://flip.onphilanthropy.com/flip>.

Sources:

<http://www.mayoclinic.com>
<http://www.eatright.org>
<http://content.nejm.org>
<http://www.apha.org>
<http://www.cdc.gov>
<http://www.healthpromotionjournal.com>
<http://www.onphilanthropy.com>

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>

News From National Healthy Mothers, Healthy Babies— February 25, 2008

- 1) Report: One-Third of United States Births Are C-Section
- 2) Bills on Postpartum Depression, Down Syndrome Progress in Senate
- 3) Materials Available for March 5: IBCLC Day
- 4) CDC: Flu-Related Pediatric Deaths Are Down
- 5) New Resource from OWH: "Growing Great Girls"
- 6) Cameron Gulbransen Act Poised to Become Federal Law
- 7) Forum Site Provides Free Info & Tools
- 8) National Center for Missing & Exploited Children Seeks Community Outreach Coordinator

MATERNAL-INFANT HEALTH NEWS

1) REPORT: ONE-THIRD OF UNITED STATES BIRTHS ARE C-SECTION

According to a survey recently released by the US Health and Human Services (HHS) Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ), one-third of births in the United States were by cesarean section in the year 2005. That's 1.3 million c-section births in 2005, up from the 800,000 c-section births nationwide in 1995. The report finds that vaginal deliveries among women who gave birth in hospitals declined by 3 percent between 1995 and 2005, and that vaginal births after cesareans (VBACs) dropped by 60 percent over the same decade. The report is based on data from AHRQ'S Healthcare Costs and Utilization Project. AHRQ analyst Anne Elixhauser has been quoted by Congressional Quarterly as saying that the cesarean increase is due, at least in part, to growing risk-aversion among obstetricians. To download the complete report as a PDF, go to http://www.hcup-us.ahrq.gov/reports/annualreport/HAR_2005.pdf.

2) BILLS ON POSTPARTUM DEPRESSION, DOWN SYNDROME COUNSELING PROGRESS IN SENATE

After favorable reviews last week, the US Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee are expected to approve two separate bills affecting maternal-child health before the end of the month. The first is the Melanie Blocker Stokes Postpartum Depression Research and Care Act (HR 20), which has already passed in the House of Representatives. The bill would authorize grants over the next three years to study the causes and treatments of postpartum depression. In addition, it encourages NIH and HHS to carry out a national campaign increasing awareness of postpartum depression and postpartum psychosis. The committee has reviewed and is also expected to approve a bill (S 1810) that would require providers giving a diagnosis of Down syndrome (and other conditions) to provide comprehensive medical information to parents about life expectancy, referrals to support groups and options for caring for affected children. To track the progress of these bills online, go to <http://thomas.loc.gov>.

3) MATERIALS AVAILABLE FOR MARCH 5: IBCLC DAY

To mark March 5, 2008 as the Sixth Annual IBCLC Day recognizing International Board Certified Lactation Consultants, the International Lactation Consultant Association (ILCA) is offering free, downloadable materials online. Available to the general public and all who work with women and infants are an activities list, sample news releases and proclamations, certificates to honor lactation consultants, sample letters to healthcare providers and standards of practice for IBCLCs. Additional materials are available to ILCA members, including a patient education flyer, healthcare provider flyer and a PowerPoint presentation. This year's IBCLC Day theme is "Quality Breastfeeding Care: IBCLCs in Action." To learn more and access the resources, go to <http://www.ilca.org/ibclcday.html>.

CHILD, ADOLESCENT, FAMILY & COMMUNITY HEALTH NEWS

4) CDC: FLU-RELATED PEDIATRIC DEATHS ARE DOWN

The good news from this year's influenza vaccination season: The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) reports in this week's MMWR that flu-related deaths of infants and children have dropped significantly. As of February 9, CDC reported a total of 10 pediatric deaths among children with laboratory-confirmed influenza, registered through the National Notifiable Diseases Surveillance System for the 2007-08 flu season. Children who have died this season from flu complications range in age from four months to 14 years, with a median age of five and one-half years. In contrast, during the preceding three influenza seasons, the numbers of flu-related pediatric deaths reported to CDC have ranged from 46 to 74. To download CDC's complete report on the current flu season and influenza vaccination, go <http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/PDF/wk/mm5707.pdf>.

5) NEW RESOURCE FROM OWH: "GROWING GREAT GIRLS"

The National Women's Health Information Center at the Health and Human Services (HHS) Office on Women's Health (OWH) recently unveiled a newsletter for parents of "tween" and teenage girls. "Growing Great Girls" is a free monthly e-publication featuring information to help parents and professionals teach girls about the importance of a healthy, balanced lifestyle. To register for the newsletter and access more information from the parents' section of the GirlsHealth.gov website, go to <http://www.girlshealth.gov/parents>.

ADVOCATES IN ACTION

6) CAMERON GULBRANSEN ACT POISED TO BECOME FEDERAL LAW

Last week the US Senate passed the Cameron Gulbransen Kids Transportation Safety Act, which is expected to be signed into law by President Bush. Groups including Kids & Cars, Advo-

cates for Highway and Auto Safety, Consumers Union, Center for Auto Safety, Trauma Foundation, Consumer Federation of America and the National Consumers League advocated tirelessly for the passage of this legislation – which is named for two-year-old Cameron Gulbransen, who was killed when he was inadvertently backed over by an SUV because the vehicle's blind zone made it impossible to see him. The law will direct the US Department of Transportation to issue new safety standards within specific time periods that will lead to the installation of safety technologies as standard equipment in all vehicles. And it requires the department to establish a database of non-crash incident and develop a public safety information program on non-traffic vehicle dangers affecting young children. For more on this bill, go to <http://www.kidsandcars.org> and click "Legislation."

NONPROFIT MANAGEMENT

7) FORUM SITE PROVIDES FREE INFO & TOOLS

The Forum of Regional Associations of Grantmakers (FRAG) website isn't just a great resource for their members – It also provides free public access to information on grantmakers, individual donors, giving circles, racial/ethnic/tribal funds and funder network. Also on the site are tools for grant-seekers and jobseekers. To get started, go to <http://www.givingforum.org>.

JOB OPPORTUNITY

8) NATIONAL CENTER FOR MISSING & EXPLOITED CHILDREN SEEKS COMMUNITY OUTREACH COORDINATOR

The National Center for Missing and Exploited Children is accepting applicants for the position of Community Outreach Coordinator in its Alexandria, VA headquarters. The coordinator is responsible for training educators, law enforcement and other national, state and community groups on the Center's NetSmartz resources and Internet child safety education program. Experience working with focus groups and youth ages five to 17 preferred. A bachelor's degree in a related field and at least three years experience providing public speaking, training and presenting to relevant groups required. For complete details, go to http://www.missingkids.com/en_US/jobs/2007-08-03_Community_Outreach_Coordinator.pdf.

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Public Health Conferences and Events

March 1-5, 2008

Association of Maternal and Child Health Programs Conference

Location: Hilton Alexandria Mark Center, Alexandria VA

See: <http://www.amchp.org/Conference/2008/index.html>

March 6-8, 2008

Coalition for Improving Maternity Services

Location: Kissimmee, FL

www.worldgateresort.com

March 14-18, 2008

American Academy of Allergy, Asthma & Immunology Annual Meeting

Location: Philadelphia, PA

See: www.aaaai.org/members/annual_meeting/am2008

March 12-15, 2008

National After School Association Conference

Location: Fort Lauderdale, FL

See: www.naaconference.org

March 12-16, 2008

American Medical Student Association

Location: Houston, Texas

See: www.amsa.org/cony

March 17-20, 2008

CDC's 42nd National Immunization Conference

Location: Atlanta, GA

See: www.cdc.gov/majevnts/majcal.htm#mar2008

March 17-21, 2008

Forum for Improving Children's Healthcare

Location: Miami, FL

See: www.nichq.org



healthy mothers, healthy babies

HEALTHY MOTHERS, HEALTHY BABIES

Coalition of Georgia

Improving the health status of Georgia's families.

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March Health Observances

1 - 31

National Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month

Cancer Research and Prevention Foundation

www.preventcancer.org/colorectal

1 - 31

National Endometriosis Awareness Month

Endometriosis Research Center

www.endocenter.org

1 - 31

National Multiple Sclerosis Education and Awareness Month

Multiple Sclerosis Foundation

www.msfocus.org

1 - 31

National Nutrition Month®

American Dietetic Association

www.eatright.org

1 - 31

Save Your Vision Month

American Optometric Association

www.aoa.org

3 - 7

National School Breakfast Week

School Nutrition Association

www.schoolnutrition.org

10 - 17

Multiple Sclerosis Awareness Week

National Multiple Sclerosis Society

www.nationalmssociety.org

13

World Kidney Day

National Kidney Foundation

www.kidney.org/news/wkd/index.cfm

16 - 22

National Poison Prevention Week

National Poison Prevention Week Council

www.poisonprevention.org

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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.

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