



**HMHB Resource Watch**  
**September 20, 2007**

**Register Now for HMHB's Annual Meeting and  
Conference at [www.hmhbga.org](http://www.hmhbga.org)**

Wednesday, October 3, 2007  
9:00 am- 4:00 pm.

You can now register online by visiting [www.hmhbga.org](http://www.hmhbga.org). If you would like to be an exhibitor at the 2007 Annual Meeting and Conference please contact Jessica Hawkins at 770-451-0020, ext. 303, this is an excellent opportunity to highlight your agency.

**HMHB in the Community**

HMHB has been approved to participate in Community Health Charities of Georgia employee giving campaign. Please consider participating in this wonderful workplace giving program established by CHCG and mention our code #37995.

## Legislative Update

### **SCHIP Compromise Bill Unlikely To Include Medicare Revisions**

Congressional negotiators have agreed not to include revisions to Medicare in compromise SCHIP legislation that would reauthorize and expand the program, and lawmakers could vote on compromise legislation next week, *CongressDaily* reports (Johnson, *CongressDaily*, 9/19).

The draft compromise bill, announced on Sunday, closely resembles the Senate version of SCHIP legislation, which would provide an additional \$35 billion in funding over the next five years and bring total spending on the program to \$60 billion. The additional funding would be paid for by an increase in the tobacco tax, which would be similar to the 61-cent-per-pack tax proposed in the Senate version (*Kaiser Daily Health Policy Report*, 9/18).

The compromise bill does not include provisions of the House bill that would reduce payments to Medicare Advantage plans to help fund an expansion of the program, leaving a cigarette tax increase as the primary funding source for the legislation. However, a greater cigarette tax increase than was included in the House SCHIP legislation is "riling many members of Congress from tobacco-producing states," according to the *Washington Times*.

Sen. Jim Bunning (R-Ky.) said that under the proposed tax increase, Kentucky would pay \$602 million more in tobacco taxes over five years than it would receive in SCHIP funds. California would receive \$2.5 billion more in SCHIP funding than what it would spend on the tobacco tax, according to Bunning (Lengell, *Washington Times*, 9/19).

In addition, some House Democrats "have bristled" at being asked to separate the Medicare revisions, according to the *Wall Street Journal*. [Senate Finance Committee](#) Chair Max Baucus (D-Mont.) said he will pursue several Medicare issues at a later date, including cuts to MA plans and reversing a scheduled cut in physician reimbursement rates. Baucus said he is considering cuts to MA plans that are "not as much" as those in the House SCHIP bill, but he noted that some cuts "will be significant."

A "major motivation" for lawmakers to reconsider revisions to Medicare is the scheduled physician reimbursement rate cut. Reducing payments to MA plans could help provide funds to delay the physician reimbursement cuts, according to the *Journal* (Lueck, *Wall Street Journal*, 9/19).

### **Details**

A "number of fine points" within the compromise bill still "need to be determined," according to a House Democratic aide (Wayne, *CQ Today*, 9/18). House Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-Calif.) and [House Energy and Commerce Committee](#) Chair John Dingell (D-Mich.) will ask Senate negotiators to accept small changes in the bill on issues such as mental health, dental care, documented immigrant coverage and pregnant women, according to [House Ways and Means Committee](#) Chair Charles Rangel (D-N.Y.) (Johnson, *CongressDaily*, 9/18). House negotiators also are seeking mental health parity under SCHIP (*CongressDaily*, 9/19).

Sen. Orrin Hatch (R-Utah) said he is willing to hear Pelosi and Dingell's requests but is not willing to sacrifice any votes that would cause them to lose a veto-proof margin in the Senate (*CongressDaily*, 9/18). Rep. Deborah Pryce (R-Ohio) said that in the House, "[m]ost of the moderates will vote for SCHIP if the Medicare piece is taken out" (Weisman/Murray, *Washington Post*, 9/19).

### **Next Steps**

Pelosi said that the House is expected to vote on SCHIP legislation on Tuesday, *CongressDaily* reports. If the House passes the measure unchanged, it will go directly to President Bush to sign or veto. However, if the House makes changes to the bill, the Senate will need to hold another vote -- which could give "GOP leaders a chance to protest and cause delay," according to *CongressDaily*. Senate Republican leaders have not decided whether they will block an SCHIP bill if given the opportunity, according to a Senate leadership aide (*CongressDaily*, 9/18).

Baucus on Tuesday said it is likely that the Senate will need to re-vote on the legislation. If lawmakers are successful in passing legislation by Sept. 30, when the program is set to expire, Democrats will be able to blame the White House for

allowing the program to expire, House Majority Leader Steny Hoyer (D-Md.) said (*CongressDaily*, 9/19).

Meanwhile, the administration has asked Congress to send the president a short-term extension of the program. An [HHS](#) official said, "The proposals being discussed currently are unsound, and it looks increasingly unlikely that this will get resolved by Sept. 30. Congress needs to pass a clean extension now so low-income children will not lose their coverage and we will have sufficient time to continue to work on this issue." Democrats have said they will pass an extension of the program after the president issues a veto (*CongressDaily*, 9/18).

Source: Kaiser Network, Daily Health Report- September 19, 2007

## News from National HMHB

### September 10, 2007

- 1) CDC Web Feature, E-Card on Alcohol & Pregnancy
- 2) Congress Investigates Formula Industry Interference in Breastfeeding Campaign
- 3) New Fact Sheet: "Maternity Leave in the United States"
- 4) MCH Library Website Expands its Offerings
- 5) Save the Date: 45th Annual LDA Conference in Chicago
- 6) Website Connects Moms & the Nonprofits Who Serve Them
- 7) Autism Speaks Seeks Assistant Director of Research for Public Health

### MATERNAL-INFANT HEALTH NEWS

1) CDC WEB FEATURE, E-CARD ON ALCOHOL & PREGNANCY In recognition of International Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) Awareness Day, September 9, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has created a feature on its website spotlighting the importance of a healthy, alcohol-free pregnancy. The message: When a pregnant woman drinks alcohol, so does her unborn baby. Avoiding alcohol throughout pregnancy helps to prevent serious disabilities that may be caused by alcohol exposure in utero. An e-card developed as part of this feature, which can be shared with colleagues, family and friends, is available online at <http://www2a.cdc.gov/ecards/message/message.asp?cardid=48>. For the website feature, go to <http://www.cdc.gov/Features/AlcoholFree/>.

2) CONGRESS INVESTIGATES FORMULA INDUSTRY INTERFERENCE IN BREASTFEEDING CAMPAIGN The infant formula industry's influence over the 2003-2005 US Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) campaign promoting breastfeeding is now being investigated by Congress. The charge: The campaign's message on the risks of not breastfeeding was "toned down" after formula industry lobbyists intervened with the department. Recent reporting by The Washington Post has focused on former Surgeon General Carmona's recent testimony before the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, where he said the Bush administration repeatedly pressured him to avoid speaking or issuing reports on particular health issues, as well as editing his speeches. According to the Post, the House committee is now investigating whether Carmona was kept from participating in the breastfeeding awareness project and if there was political interference in the breastfeeding campaign. For a summary of this investigation and the history of the campaign from the Kaiser Family Foundation's Women's Health Policy Report, go to [http://www.kaisernetwork.org/daily\\_reports/rep\\_index.cfm?DR\\_ID=47229](http://www.kaisernetwork.org/daily_reports/rep_index.cfm?DR_ID=47229). For coverage from the Washington Post (free registration may be required), go to <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2007/08/30/AR2007083002198.html?hpid=topnews>.

3) NEW FACT SHEET: "MATERNITY LEAVE IN THE UNITED STATES"

The Institute for Women's Policy Research (IWPR) has released a new fact sheet, "Maternity Leave in the United States," reporting research showing that paid leave after childbirth is beneficial to both newborns and their mothers.

Recent studies cited in the fact sheet show, for example, that newborns of mothers who return to work early have decreased access to follow-up care, lower immunization rates and decreased breastfeeding by four and one-half weeks on average. Mothers with paid leave, who are able to take more time off than mothers with unpaid leave, experience improved health outcomes for themselves and their babies. For more findings and to download this free fact sheet, go to <http://www.iwpr.org/pdf/parentalleave.pdf>.

4) MCH LIBRARY WEBSITE EXPANDS ITS OFFERINGS The Maternal and Child Health (MCH) Library website has been expanded to include more than 300 historical documents, many of which are being made available online to researchers and advocates for the first time. The documents, published by the US Children's Bureau between 1912 and 1969, cover topics such as child health, infant mortality, child labor, and public health services for mothers and children, including children with disabilities. To access this collection, go to <http://www.mchlibrary.info/history/index.html>.

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

5) SAVE THE DATE: 45TH ANNUAL LDA CONFERENCE IN CHICAGO The Learning Disabilities Association (LDA) has announced its 45th Annual International Conference, to take place February 27-March 1, 2008 in Chicago. The event, the largest meeting on learning disabilities worldwide, offers over 300 workshops and exhibits. It includes four days of the latest research and findings on learning disabilities, including workshops specific to medical issues, mental health, teacher preparation, public policy, adult populations and many others. Attendees include parents of children with learning disabilities and ADHD, teachers, adults with learning disabilities and ADHD, school administrators, counselors, social workers, researchers, policy advocates and healthcare professionals. For more details, go to <http://www.ldanatl.org/conference/index.asp>.

#### **NONPROFIT MANAGEMENT**

6) WEBSITE CONNECTS MOMS & THE NONPROFITS WHO SERVE THEM MomJunction.com is a free, full-featured online "life tool" for mothers, allowing them to create personalized groups with friends and family. At the same time, MomJunction.com also provides nonprofit organizations – both locally and globally – with a free platform for communicating, growing membership and awareness around their issues, and raising funds. To find out more about how MomJunction.com works and how your organization could collaborate with them for a fundraiser, go to <http://www.momjunction.com>.

#### **JOB OPPORTUNITY**

7) AUTISM SPEAKS SEEKS ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF RESEARCH FOR PUBLIC HEALTH Autism Speaks has invited candidates to apply for a newly created position in its New York office. The Assistant Director of Research for Public Health will assist the senior program director and other research department managers in developing and managing Autism Speaks' public health/epidemiology research portfolio. The position requires an MPH, MD or PhD, with a minimum of two years' experience in an academic setting. For more information about the position, contact Jim Batten at [jbatten@veritassearch.com](mailto:jbatten@veritassearch.com). To learn more about Autism Speaks, go to <http://www.autismspeaks.org>.

Sources:

<http://www.cdc.gov>

<http://www.kaisernet.org>

<http://www.iwpr.org>

<http://www.mchlibrary.info>

<http://www.ldanatl.org>

<http://www.momjunction.com>

<http://www.autismspeaks.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>

## **September 17, 2007**

- 1) March of Dimes Launches New Podcast Series
- 2) Study: Low Vitamin D Levels Linked to Preeclampsia
- 3) NCBDDD Spotlights Sickle Cell Awareness Month
- 4) CDC & APA Share Preteen Immunization Message
- 5) Reeve Foundation Quality of Life Grants Program
- 6) Free Info & Resources at Grassroots.org
- 7) Children's Dental Health Project Seeks Project Manager

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

#### 1) MARCH OF DIMES LAUNCHES NEW PODCAST SERIES

Last week the March of Dimes launched a new series of consumer-oriented podcasts offering tips on pregnancy, baby health and nutrition, as well as answers to mothers' important questions. The new series, "March of Dimes and You – Champion for Babies," is a series of one-to-one interviews hosted by former CBS journalist Jane Clayson, whose own son was born 13 weeks prematurely. Each month, a new podcast episode brings together the latest research on maternal and child care with educational information for parents who are planning, expecting or raising a baby. The first in the series is an interview with new mom Nancy O'Dell, host of NBC's Access Hollywood. O'Dell shares the story of her pregnancy and her experience with her newborn daughter. For more details and the first podcast in the series, go to [http://www.marchofdimes.com/aboutus/791\\_26626.asp](http://www.marchofdimes.com/aboutus/791_26626.asp).

#### 2) STUDY: LOW VITAMIN D LEVELS LINKED TO PREECLAMPSIA

A study published in the September issue of The Journal of Clinical Endocrinology and Metabolism finds that women who have low vitamin D levels during pregnancy – especially early pregnancy - are at increased risk for preeclampsia. This condition, which typically begins with high blood pressure, slows the growth of the fetus, is linked to premature birth and can be fatal. Preeclampsia can also lead to stroke, seizures or kidney failure. In this study, women who developed preeclampsia had vitamin D levels that were significantly lower in early pregnancy than women whose pregnancies were normal. The risk of preeclampsia rose as the levels of vitamin D in early pregnancy decreased. The authors suggest that if their findings are replicated in future studies, "Vitamin D supplementation in early pregnancy should be explored as a safe and effective means of preventing preeclampsia." For the abstract, go to <http://jcem.endojournals.org/cgi/content/abstract/92/9/3517>.

#### 3) NCBDDD SPOTLIGHTS SICKLE CELL AWARENESS MONTH

More than 70,000 Americans have sickle cell disease, and more than two million individuals carry the gene that allows them to pass it on to their children. To mark September as Sickle Cell Awareness Month, the National Center on Birth Defects and Developmental Disabilities (NCBDDD) at the CDC has developed a web feature on this disease, one of the most common genetic diseases in the United States. "Sickle Cell Disease: 10 Things You Need to Know" shares information and highlights CDC-sponsored activities in recognition of Sickle Cell Awareness Month. To visit this feature, go to <http://www.cdc.gov/Features/SickleCell>.

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

#### 4) CDC & APA SHARE PRETEEN IMMUNIZATION MESSAGE

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) have recently partnered to encourage routine health checkups and immunization for 11- and 12-year-old children. The two are working together to educate parents about one of the most important things they can do to protect preteens: Making sure they are vaccinated against serious, sometimes life-threatening diseases such as meningitis, tetanus, diphtheria, whooping cough and cervical cancer. The effort is also educating parents, caregivers, family physicians and pediatricians about CDC's new vaccination recommendations for preteens. The three preteen vaccines include MCV4 (which protects against meningitis and its complications), Tdap (a booster against tetanus, diphtheria, and pertussis or "whooping cough"), and for girls, the human papilloma virus (HPV) vaccine, which protects against the most common types of cervical cancer. A new website hosted by CDC provides downloadable educational materials in both English and Spanish on this topic. Go to <http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/preteen/>.

### **ADVOCATES IN ACTION**

#### 5) REEVE FOUNDATION QUALITY OF LIFE GRANTS PROGRAM

The deadline is October 1 to apply for the Christopher and Dana Reeve Foundation Quality of Life Grants Program, which funds nonprofit organizations addressing the needs of persons living with paralysis (particularly spinal cord injury), their families and caregivers. Awards are made in 13 categories, including: children, accessibility, advocacy, health promotion, sports and recreation, practical services, independent living, education, employment, assistive technology, arts, counseling and therapeutic riding. For more details and application instructions, go to <http://christopherreeve.org>.

### NONPROFIT MANAGEMENT

#### 6) FREE INFO & SERVICES AT GRASSROOTS.ORG

Grassroots.org - a network of socially-focused websites - offers free information and services to help nonprofit organizations increase their efficiency and productivity. Based in Bethesda, Maryland, they serve nonprofits throughout the country. From their homepage, users can access sites that encourage individuals to get involved in their communities. Qualified nonprofits can take advantage of free services including website design, mentoring and consulting, or join one of their many online discussion forums. You can also download a free resource book, "Make Millions & Make Change: Strategies for Success, A Practical Guide to Business and Social Action." To find out more, go to <http://www.grassroots.org>.

### JOB OPPORTUNITY

#### 7) CHILDREN'S DENTAL HEALTH PROJECT SEEKS PROJECT MANAGER

Children's Dental Health Project is accepting applicants for the position of Project Manager for the Improving Perinatal and Infant Oral Health Project. Funded by a federal grant from the Health Resources and Services Administration to the American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry (AAPD), the position includes broad promotion of the issues of improving the oral health of pregnant women, infants and toddlers, staff support to the leadership committee of AAPD, and initiating and responding to opportunities for collaboration among partners in the MCH community and the dental community. The position is located in Washington, DC. For more details and application instructions, go to <http://www.cdhp.org/Projects/PPMCH.asp>.

Sources:

<http://www.marchofdimes.com>

<http://jcem.endojournals.org>

<http://www.cdc.gov>

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

<http://christopherreeve.org>

<http://www.grassroots.org>

<http://www.cdhp.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>

## Other Public Health News

### September is.....

America On the Move's September Campaign  
[www.americaonthemove.org](http://www.americaonthemove.org)

Childhood Cancer Month  
Candlelighters Childhood Cancer Foundation

Fruit and Vegetable Month  
Fruit and Vegetable Program Office  
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention/Produce  
for Better Health Foundation  
[www.fruitsandveggiesmatter.gov](http://www.fruitsandveggiesmatter.gov)

Healthy Aging® Month  
Educational Television Network, Inc.  
[www.healthyaging.net](http://www.healthyaging.net)

Leukemia & Lymphoma Awareness Month  
The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society  
[www.lls.org](http://www.lls.org)

Whole Grains Month  
The Whole Grains Council  
[www.wholegrainscouncil.org/WGmonth.html](http://www.wholegrainscouncil.org/WGmonth.html)

National Acceptance Month  
Children's Craniofacial Association  
[www.ccakids.org](http://www.ccakids.org)

16<sup>th</sup> - 22<sup>nd</sup>  
National Farm Safety & Health Week  
National Education Center for Agricultural Safety  
[www.nsc.org/necas](http://www.nsc.org/necas)

National Alcohol and Drug Addiction Recovery Month  
Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services  
Administration  
Center for Substance Abuse Treatment  
[www.recoverymonth.gov](http://www.recoverymonth.gov)

16<sup>th</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup>  
National Rehabilitation Awareness Celebration  
National Rehabilitation Awareness Foundation  
[www.nraf-rehabnet.org](http://www.nraf-rehabnet.org)

National Cholesterol Education Month National Heart,  
Lung, and Blood Institute Health Information Center  
[www.hin.nhlbi.nih.gov/cholmonth](http://www.hin.nhlbi.nih.gov/cholmonth)

18<sup>th</sup>  
Take a Loved One for a Check-up Day  
Office of Minority Health  
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services  
[www.healthgap.omhrc.gov](http://www.healthgap.omhrc.gov)

National Sickle Cell Month  
Sickle Cell Disease Association of America, Inc.  
[www.sicklecelldisease.org](http://www.sicklecelldisease.org)

21<sup>st</sup>  
World Alzheimer's Day  
Alzheimer's Disease International  
[www.alz.co.uk/adi/wad/](http://www.alz.co.uk/adi/wad/)

Ovarian Cancer Awareness Month  
National Ovarian Cancer Coalition  
[www.ovarian.org](http://www.ovarian.org)

26<sup>th</sup>  
National Mesothelioma Awareness Day  
Mesothelioma Applied Research Foundation  
[www.marf.org](http://www.marf.org)

Prostate Cancer Awareness Month  
National Prostate Cancer Coalition  
[www.fightprostatecancer.org](http://www.fightprostatecancer.org)

## Public Health Conferences and Events

### September

#### **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>

#### **September 29-October 2**

Title: American Dietetic Association: The Food & Nutrition Conference & Expo

Location: Philadelphia, PA.

See: [http://www.eatright.org/cps/rde/xchg/ada/hs.xsl/7539\\_ENU\\_HTML.htm](http://www.eatright.org/cps/rde/xchg/ada/hs.xsl/7539_ENU_HTML.htm)

**October 3<sup>rd</sup>**

Title: Healthy Mothers, Healthy Babies Coalition of Georgia Annual Meeting and Conference

Location: Georgia Freight Depot

City: Atlanta, GA.

See: [www.hmhbga.org](http://www.hmhbga.org)

**October 24-26**

Title: Family Connection Partnership, 9<sup>th</sup> Biennial Conference, "Community Improvement: Tools of the trade"

Location: The Classic Center

City: Athens, GA.

See: <http://www.gafcp.org/news/conference/index.html>

**October 26 - 28, 2007**

Title: 19th Annual NASW-GA Conference [Health, Hope and Community: Holistic Practice of Mind, Body and Spirit](#)

Location: Marietta Conference Center & Resort

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

**October 27-29**

Title: The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP)2007 National Conference & Exhibition (NCE)

Location: San Francisco, CA

See: <http://www.aap.org/nce/>

**November 3-7**

Title: American Public Health Association 2007 Annual Meeting & Exposition

Location: Washington, D.C.

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

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.

*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>.*

*Healthy Mothers Healthy Babies Coalition of Georgia  
2300 Henderson Mill Rd., Ste 410 \* Atlanta, Georgia 30345  
Phone: 770-451-0020 \* Powerline 770-451-5501/800-822-2539 \* Fax:770-451-2466  
[www.hmhbga.org](http://www.hmhbga.org) \* [thecoalition@hmhbga.org](mailto:thecoalition@hmhbga.org)*