

July 2, 2009

Budget Today:

Focus on the Budget- Yesterday, Schwarzenegger declared a fiscal emergency for California and called a special legislative session under Proposition 58. Proposition 58 gives legislators 45 days to send a budget plan to the governor's desk. If lawmakers fail to reach an agreement within 45 days, legislators would be prohibited from taking up any other measures until they resolve the deficit. Schwarzenegger said that until lawmakers present a plan to cover the entire deficit, he will not sign any bills except those that are urgent and absolutely necessary. Additionally, Senate President Pro Tempore Darrell Steinberg also canceled all committee hearings on any bills unrelated to the budget.

New Budget Proposal- As mentioned before, the Governor has released new proposals to solve the budget deficit. CPCA has obtained more detailed information on the three proposals related to Medi-Cal which include: 1) Centralizing the states eligibility processing, 2) Restructuring the Medi-Cal program for better care coordination and long-term cost containment, and 3) Instituting hospital provider fees to support the Medi-Cal program and to reduce hidden taxes. Please review the attached factsheets and prepare to share your thoughts with CPCA, as we begin our analysis on the impact this will potentially have on CCHCs.

Budget Conference Committee Updates:

The Budget Conference Committee heard all health issues on June 15, 2009. There is talk that certain health issues *may* be reopened and face additional cuts in the coming days. As of now, we are hearing that Conference Committee will not reconvene until after a vote on the budget is taken, likely sometime next week. CPCA will update membership on any developments

CPCA has created a grid tracking the proposed reductions to CCHC priority healthcare programs and will continually update to reflect the actions taken by the Committee. You can access this document at any time by clicking the link below or going to the CPCA website.

[Budget Conference Committee Update:](#) Grid tracking action on CPCA budget priorities.

Capitol Rumbings:

- Democrats and Republicans have their work cut out for them as they try to bridge the state's \$26.3 billion budget gap (*approximately \$2 billion more than even in recent days*). Both Governor Schwarzenegger and Senate President Pro Tem Steinberg have expressed optimism that a budget deal could be reached within a matter of days. The tone of their comments differed greatly from previous weeks. With the Governor shifting his message from a promise to veto any budget containing tax revenues to a promise to veto any budget that does not receive bi-partisan support. And Steinberg saying, "I'm going to be here and I know that some of my colleagues are going to be here around-the-clock today, tomorrow and over the weekend with the hope and expectation that over the next several days we will complete this and complete it successfully." Democrats appear to have backed off their efforts for a 9.9 percent tax on oil extraction and tobacco tax increase. A controversial proposal to borrow \$2 billion from cities and counties remains under discussion. Key issues remaining involve how best to preserve the state's safety net while altering government operations in a way that improves efficiency or reduces long-term costs.

Advocacy Around the State:

CPCA would like to thank the following participants of our current Postcard Campaign targeting the Governor, Speaker Bass, Pro-Tem Steinberg and Budget Conference Committee Chair Evans.

Tri-City Health Center
Shingleton Med Center
Sonoma Valley Community Health Center
Redwood Community Health Coalition
Council of Community Clinics – SD
San Ysidro Main Clinic- Including Dental
National City Family Clinic
Otay Family Health Center
Chula Vista Family Clinic
CHC- Oceanview
CHC-Euclid
CHC- Downtown
WIC (all sites)
CASA

This may be one of our last opportunities to communicate in mass to the Governor and Leadership the need to hold the line on our Traditional Clinic Programs - ***Please continue to send signed postcards to CPCA attention Aracely Navarro.***

CPCA now has a [Facebook](#) page and a [Twitter](#) account. Please join our networks and forward it to others who may be interested in clinic advocacy.

Again, for additional information on other efforts around the state please click [here](#) under “BUDGET ALERT AND ACTION REQUIRED.”

Action Required:

As stated in previous Budget Alerts, ***our Traditional Clinic Programs remain vulnerable*** until the absolute last signing of a budget by the Governor. There are two ways in which our Traditional Clinic Programs continue to face the threat of further reductions or even elimination:

- 1) **Conference Committee Reopening the Budget** – Should leaders continue to fail at reaching a compromise, Conference Committee could reconvene to seek additional solutions, likely resulting in deeper cuts.
- 2) **Governor’s Blue Pencil Authority** – Once a compromise is made by the Legislature, the Governor still holds his blue pencil authority, at which time he can make additional reductions and even program eliminations.

If you have not done so already....

Please Make Calls to Your Legislators and Begin to Prepare to Activate Governor Relationships:

- **Protection of Traditional Clinic Programs in Conference Committee** - Contact your Legislators *directly* (or the highest level staff possible) and ask them to *directly* contact the Conferees, informing them of the impact the 30% reduction to clinic programs will have, *especially* when unemployment rates are rising and the number of uninsured in CCHCs is increasing. ***Urge your representatives to directly call Conferees and pressure them to not make any further reductions to the clinic safety-net. CCHCs cannot afford a reduction***

beyond the already proposed 30% and some will fail to survive with this reduction.

Protection of Traditional Clinic Programs from the Blue Pencil - In preparation for a budget package reaching the Governor's desk, which *may* happen in days, please visit the Secretary of State's website (<http://cal-access.sos.ca.gov/Campaign/Candidates>) to determine if your CCHC has relationships with any of the Governor's major donors. We will need those relationships to protect Traditional Clinic Programs from the blue pencil authority. ***Now is the time to seek out any contacts you have that have relationships with the Governor's office, in preparation of a budget compromise. Though it is NOT yet time to make calls to the Governor – clinics should be prepared to activate contacts to call the Governor's office once a budget is sent to his desk.***

To locate your State Senator and Assemblymember, please go to <http://www.leginfo.ca.gov/yourleg.html> and simply enter in your zip code, then find their phone and fax number in the [attached roster](#).

July 1, 2009

Budget Today:

*****Please remember to participate in the “jam the line efforts” scheduled for tomorrow. See below “Action Required” for additional details.**

Registered Warrants-IOWs- Clinics receiving funding from EAPC/ RHSD/ SAMW/ IHP, Every Woman Counts, State-only CHDP, and Children’s Treatment Program will be receiving IOUs (or “registered warrants”) for services billed to these programs beginning July 2.

CPCA confirmed with the Primary and Rural Health Division (PRHD) today that even if a budget is passed and the traditional clinic programs are funded (likely at a reduced amount) clinics that receive awards from these programs will not be paid by the state until after October 1, 2009. The lag time will be a result of the state needing to accrue the resources to pay for the budgeted programs. CPCA is confirming with PRHD whether or not there will be interest paid on these IOUs. The staff at PRHD have noted that this information is subject to change. CPCA is in constant contact with PRHD and will inform members if there are any changes or updates. For questions or more information please contact Andie Martinez: amartinez@cpc.org.

According to the State Controller’s website, a registered warrant is a “promise to pay,” or an IOU, that is issued by the State when there are not enough funds to pay all of its General Fund obligations. Registered warrants bear interest and are redeemable by the State Treasury only when the General Fund has sufficient money. If the Legislature and Governor fail to enact budgetary solutions that provide enough cash for the State to pay all of its bills by July 2, the Controller will begin issuing registered warrants. Assuming there is adequate cash in the Treasury, those warrants may be redeemed on October 1, 2009. Registered warrants are negotiable instruments, but they will not be redeemed by the State Treasurer until the warrant matures on October 1, 2009, and the State has enough cash to cover the amount of the warrants. For more information about registered warrants please visit: <http://www.sco.ca.gov/5935.html>.

Protecting Clinic Programs from the Blue Pencil- In preparation for a budget package reaching the Governor’s desk please visit the Secretary of State’s website (<http://cal-access.sos.ca.gov/Campaign/Candidates/list.aspx?view=incumbent>) to determine if your CCHC has relationships with any of the Governor’s major donors. We will need those relationships to protect Traditional Clinic Programs from the blue pencil authority.

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Capitol Rumbblings:

- The July Revise

The three new solutions proposed in the July Revision to restore balance to the Budget are as follows:

- Increase \$425 million proposed in Control Section 3.90 for reductions to various items of appropriations for employee compensation to capture the additional savings that will result from a third day of furloughs pursuant to Executive Order S-13-09.
- Suspend Proposition 98 and fund at \$3.0 billion below the new minimum guarantee, for a total General Fund appropriation of \$34.6 billion, which is \$1.4 billion below the level proposed in the May Revision.
- Request that UC and CSU recognize the \$1.4 billion (\$717.5 million each) in intended reductions for the 2008-09 fiscal year. The segments will revert these 2008-09 funds to the General Fund upon passage of legislation that reduces the appropriations accordingly. Legislation must be enacted in July, well before UC and CSU are legally required to close their books.

In addition, the July Revision acknowledges a \$3 billion reduction in revenue based on cash receipts for May and June. The May Revision anticipated the possibility of this revenue reduction and accounted for it by proposing a larger reserve, \$4.5 billion. With the revenue reduction now explicitly scheduled in the July Revision, the reserve can be reduced to \$1.1 billion.

Advocacy Around the State:

CPCA would like to thank the additional participants at the Optional Benefits rally:

West county Health Centers, CommuniCare, Redwood Community Health Coalition and Lake County Health Services.

Below please find a portion of the media related to yesterday's rally:

New American Media - SF

<http://news.newamericamedia.org/>

Daily Breez – SoCal

<http://www.dailybreeze.com/lifeandculture>

CA Progress Report

http://www.californiaprogessreport.com/7-09/patient_protest.html

Santa Rosa Press Democrat

<http://www.pressdemocrat.com/6-30-09/Medi-Cal-dental-coverage-curtailed>

Ventura County Star

<http://www.venturacountystar.com/7-1-09/health-agencies-planning-for-undetermined-cuts/>

San Francisco Business Times

<http://www.bizjournals.com/sanfrancisco/6-29-09.html>

Additionally, CPCA members are meeting with their legislators:

- **Capitol Community Health Network** met with President Pro-Tem Steinberg's office
- **Coalition of Orange County** met with Conference Committee member Mimi Walters' office

- **Shasta Consortium of Community Health Centers** and its member clinics met with Nielson and Aanestad's office

CCALAC also participated on the NPR Show: Warren Olney's daily evening show, Which Way, LA and addressed http://www.kcrw.com/090629state_budget_impasse

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Again, for additional information on other efforts around the state please click [here](#) under "BUDGET ALERT AND ACTION REQUIRED."

Action Required:

As Democratic Legislators are pushing passage of the current budget, the Governor and Republicans continue to threaten and prevent passing a solution that shares the sacrifice in balancing California's budget. We need to apply pressure on our Republican members to pass a balanced budget that includes revenue generations, and to pressure the Governor to sign a responsible budget.

- Ø **JAM THE LINE – Thursday – July 2: Call your Legislative representative (if you are in a Republican district) or the Governor's office this Thursday, July 2 between 10am – 12pm**
 - o If you are in a Republican district, please call your Legislator(s) and share with them the impact the proposed reductions to health care programs will have on your CCHC, as well as reinforce that the clinic safety-net cannot take additional reductions to resources at the very time demand for services continues to increase. ***An all cuts budget does not share the sacrifice of these desperate economic times. A fair and balanced budget must include revenue generations.***
 - o For everyone else not in a Republican district, please call the Governor's office urging him to sign a responsible budget that includes sacrifice from all Californians. ***An all cuts budget does not share the sacrifice of these desperate economic times. A fair and balanced budget must include revenue generations.***
Governor Schwarzenegger: 916-445-2841

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June 30, 2009

Budget Today:

IOUs and Clinics

Last week, the State Controller announced that if a budget was not signed by today – June 30 2009, the state would have to start issuing IOUs. CPCA has confirmed that the Medi-Cal and the Healthy Families programs will not be impacted by the IOUs. Members should continue billing for services and will be reimbursed while the state is experiencing a budget impasse after June 30, according to DHCS.

Clinics should note that they will be receiving IOUs (or “registered warrants”) for services under the clinic programs EAPC/RHSD/SAMW/IH because a budget was passed in February covering the 09-10 fiscal year. This existing budget is currently being reduced in the ongoing budget negotiations and because this dialog has not been finalized, programs such as these are being subject to IOUs.

According to the State Controller’s website, a registered warrant is a “promise to pay,” or an IOU, that is issued by the State when there are not enough funds to pay all of its General Fund obligations. Registered warrants bear interest and are redeemable by the State Treasury only when the General Fund has sufficient money. If the Legislature and Governor fail to enact budgetary solutions that provide enough cash for the State to pay all of its bills by July 2, the Controller will begin issuing registered warrants. Assuming there is adequate cash in the Treasury, those warrants may be redeemed on October 1, 2009. Registered warrants are negotiable instruments, but they will not be redeemed by the State Treasurer until the warrant matures on October 1, 2009, and the State has enough cash to cover the amount of the warrants. For questions or more information please contact Andie Martinez: amartinez@cpca.org.

Billing for Services during a Budget Impasse

As July 1 approaches, CPCA has received a number of questions related to reimbursement for services provided during a budget impasse. This is especially relevant to services provided under those programs likely to face significant reductions in a final budget packet. In order to help clinics better understand the reimbursement implications for services provided during an impasse, CPCA has compiled the attached guide with information on the various programs eligible for reductions. For questions or more information on billing for services after July 1, please contact Molly Brassil at mbrassil@cpca.org.

Contingency Planning for Optional Benefit Elimination

To access the most recent contingency planning information, including CPCA’s planning tool and revised draft Q&A, go to:

<http://www.cpc.org/govaffairs/hottopics/membersonly/ContingencyPlanningfortheEliminationofMedi-CalOptionalBenefits.cfm>.

You will need to have a CPCA member account with password to access this page. If you encounter problems, please contact Glenna Davido, our Member Services Representative, at gdavido@cpca.org or (916) 440-8170. For questions or more information regarding planning for the implementation of the optional benefit elimination, please contact Molly Brassil at mbrassil@cpca.org.

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Capitol Rumblings:

□ **Commission Slashes Lawmakers' Cars, Per Diem, Health Insurance-** The California [Citizens Compensation Commission](#) voted unanimously Tuesday to cut state legislators' monthly car allowances, [fringe benefits](#) and their per diem allowance by 18 percent. The cuts will begin as of Dec. 1 -- a year earlier than pay cuts the panel recently imposed. The Department of Personnel Administration's Chief Counsel [Bill Curtis](#) warned the five-member commission that they did not have the authority to regulate members' per diem allowances, which are about \$173 each day the Senate or [Assembly](#) meets. The 18 percent cuts in benefits, per diem and cars also apply to constitutional officers of the state. The action follows an earlier vote to cut lawmakers' and state elected officials pay by 18 percent effective Dec. 1, 2010. Legally, it's unclear whether cars are a benefit that the commission can regulate. Curtis' staff opinion doesn't make that clear, but Commission Chairman Charles Murray said it's been suggested that only "insured benefits" -- which does not include cars -- are within the purview of the commission. The cut of 18 percent in such benefits is not meant to be a "punitive measure," he said. He said it's to save the state money, maybe about \$475,000 a year.

Advocacy Around the State:

Medi-Cal Optional Benefits Rally – Sacramento

Over 100 clinic and consortia staff and patients, as well as fellow health care advocates, gathered at the State Capitol on Tuesday, June 30 to protest the elimination of Medi-Cal optional benefits. The rally featured providers and patients who will all be impacted by the elimination, and garnered quite a bit of print and television media attention. Speakers and protesters urged the state to reconsider this elimination, given the widespread devastation it will have to the 3 million Medi-Cal patients set to lose benefits on July 1.

CPCA wants to acknowledge the following members who traveled to Sacramento to attend the Medi-Cal Optional Benefits rally to make their presence heard:

San Francisco Community Clinic Consortium, LifeLong Medical Care, Community Medical Centers, Northern Valley Indian Health, La Clinica de la Raza, National Health Services, Native American Health Center, Community Health Partnership, Tri City Health Center, Asian Health Services, Hill Country Community Clinic, Ravenswood Family Health Center, Alameda Health Consortium, Tiburcio Vasquez Health Center, Southern Trinity Health Center, Indian Health Center of Santa Clara Valley, Arroyo Vista Family Health Center, Capitol Community Health Network

Thank you!!!

Media for today's rally included: Television: KTVU (Channel 2 FOX SF), KCRA (Channel 3 NBC Sacramento), Univision (Channel 14 Sacramento), KOVR (Channel 13 CBS), Print: Sacramento Bee, CA Progress Report, Ventura County Star, Vida en Valle, La Opinion, Gannette News Services.

Radio: KQED

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Date: 6/29/09

Budget Today:

Contingency Planning for Optional Benefit Elimination, Effective July 1

CPCA continues to work on gathering as much information as possible to assist members in the implementation of the July 1 optional benefit elimination. Due to the lawsuit it has been difficult up until now to get much information from the Department of Health Care Services (DHCS). However, CPCA has now contracted with Stan Rosenstein, former Chief Deputy Director of DHCS, to seek additional clarification on a number of outstanding billing questions. CPCA has also engaged both the National Association of Community Health Centers and staff from within the Health Resources Services Administration to seek clarity on those issues with federal implications. Finally, we are working with our legal counsel to clarify the parameters of those federally required services to remain eligible for reimbursement. ***CPCA has been told that an FQHC-specific bulletin will be coming out of the Department in the next couple weeks.*** CPCA will be sharing this information with the membership as it comes to fruition and will continue to update the contingency planning page of the website as we learn more. To access the most recent contingency planning information, including CPCA's planning tool and draft Q&A, go to:

<http://www.cPCA.org/govaffairs/hottopics/membersonly/ContingencyPlanningfortheEliminationofMedi-CalOptionalBenefits.cfm>. You will need to have a CPCA member account with password to access this page. If you encounter problems, please contact Glenna Davido, our Member Services Representative, at gdavido@cPCA.org or (916) 440-8170. We will be discussing these efforts in more detail at next week's CPCA board meetings. With guidance from the membership we hope to set up future calls and/or trainings to best support our member clinics and health centers in navigating this policy change.

For questions or more information, please contact Molly Brassil at mbrassil@cPCA.org.

MRMIB Meeting On Healthy Families

The Managed Risk Medical Insurance Board (MRMIB) which operates the Healthy Families program convened today to discuss the proposed budget cut to the Healthy Families program. The Healthy Families program is in need of \$90 million in order to continue operating the program at its current levels. After significant public testimony, MRMIB indicated it had no choice but to institute a wait list for the program effective July 15, 2009. This will give staff and other stakeholders a few weeks to attempt to secure funding, at which time the wait list order would be removed.

MRMIB also formally supported the recommendation that the implementation of PPS in Healthy Families use the existing Medi-Cal structure for managed care.

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Capitol Rumbblings:

- In a rare Sunday evening session, Democratic legislators opted to work around their Republican counterparts with a Budget package that required a simple majority vote. The bills would not take effect until 90 days after Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger signs them – and he has made clear he opposes any deal that includes taxes and fees. Sunday night's package included a 9.9 percent tax on oil production, a \$1.50-per-package tax on cigarettes and a \$15 per vehicle registration fee. While tax hikes normally require two-thirds approval, Democrats argued that by eliminating an 18-cent per-gallon excise tax on gasoline, the net revenue to the state becomes zero and thus doesn't represent a tax hike. Sunday's bills then would replace the excise tax with an equivalent fee, which Democrats argue does not require a two-thirds vote.

Advocacy Around the State:

As the gloom of the budget continues, CCHCs remain in a vulnerable position that is encouraging statewide mobilization to save clinic programs. Attached please find postcards addressed to the Governor, Pro Tem Steinberg, Speaker Bass and Conference Committee Chair, Evans. We have translated them into Spanish, 2 versions of Chinese and Vietnamese. Please have your clinics staff, patients and CCHC advocates sign them and send them back to CPCA by **Thursday, July 2. As budget negotiations continue CPCA will determine if postcards should be accepted beyond this week.** If you have questions, please contact Aracely Navarro at anavarro@cpc.org.

Additionally, we'd like to thank **Eisner Pediatric & Family Medical Center** for their contribution of hundreds of postcards delivered to their legislators and the Governor.

Below are the highlights of advocacy efforts around the state today:

- **The Coalition of Orange County** and its member clinics joined over 1200 local advocates in a "Jam the Line" effort targeting Senator Correa and Senator Walters.
- **Mendocino Community Health Clinic, Inc.** jointly collected over 700 letters for a total of 1700 in the last month by clinics in **Alliance for Rural Community Health**, addressed to the Governor protesting the elimination of optional benefits.
- **Salud Para La Gente** sent a letter to Assemblymember Maldonado requesting his support for health care funding in the state budget. It was then sent to the editors of various publications and was published in both the Santa Cruz Sentinel and the Watsonville Register-Pajaronian on Saturday June 27.

For the Sentinel: <http://www.santacruzsentinel.com/letters>

and the Pajaronian: <http://www.register-pajaronian.com/06-27-2009>

- **Euclid Clinic of Comprehensive Health Care and Vale Terrace clinic of Vista Community Clinic** coordinated by the **Council of Community Clinics- SD**, held concurrent press events today in coalition with religious groups leading prayers for wisdom for our elected officials to pass a Moral Budget balancing new revenue and strategic cuts. Between the two sites, there were 7 television cameras and KPBS radio covering the events. We will provide the links on our Advocacy section of the CPCA website.

Additionally, press on the outcome of CPCA's Lawsuit continues:

<http://www.pressdemocrat.com/6-28-09/Health-clinics-lose-funding-battle>

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Action Required:

Make Calls THIS WEEK to Your Legislators on Critical Clinic Issues:

With the DENIAL of our petition for writ of mandate, it is more critical than ever to preserve the clinic programs that are still available. With the loss of Medi-Cal Optional Benefits there is yet another increase in the number of uninsured patients served by community clinics and health centers. Adult Medi-Cal beneficiaries will be uninsured for dental, optometry, podiatry and chiropractic services. With clinics already experiencing a growth in the number of uninsured and with this adverse court decision, clinics and health centers will need to reduce or eliminate dental services for all their patients, not just Medi-Cal adult beneficiaries. Every possible dollar available for caring for uninsured/uncompensated patients needs to be preserved because these funds will be the difference between reduction in services and the complete elimination of access to services.

There is a need to work every and any relationship clinics have with Legislators and those in decision making positions to put pressure on Budget Conferees to ensure the following: 1 - To hold the line at the 30% reduction to Traditional Clinic Programs, as CCHCs cannot endure a greater hit and 2 – With the devastating loss of our legal efforts around adult dental, podiatry, chiropractic and optometry, Conferees need to do everything they can to protect what is left of the clinic safety-net.

- **Protection of Traditional Clinic Programs and Clinic Sustainability**– Contact your Legislators *directly* (or the highest level staff possible) and ask them to *directly* contact the Conferees, informing them of the impact the 30% reduction to clinic programs will have, *especially* when unemployment rates are rising and the number of uninsured in CCHCs is increasing. Discuss the critical need for these resources in light of the loss of critical Medi-Cal services for adult Medi-Cal beneficiaries. ***Urge your representatives to directly call Conferees and pressure them to not make any further reductions to the clinic safety-net. CCHCs cannot afford a reduction beyond the already proposed 30% and some will fail to survive with this reduction because it is being compounded by the loss of Medi-Cal optional benefits.***

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