

June 2011

[SAVE THE DATE!](#)  
[10/13/11](#)

[Medi-Cal Managed  
Care](#)

[Community  
HealthCorps](#)

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Have questions on how the Affordable Care Act will affect you, or family, or your business?

Want to receive regular updates about health care in Mendocino County?

ARCH wants to hear from you.

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## Health Care Reform 2011 Benefits



Children up to age 19 cannot be denied coverage due to preexisting health conditions

Limits on annual medical expenses will be phased out

Free preventive health care services will be offered by in-network providers

Free immunizations and other services will be available for infants and children

## Dear Community Health Advocate,

After the historic passing of health care reform in March 2010, California began taking steps toward the implementation of the legislation. We will continue providing policy updates as California continues moving along that Road to Reform.

In this issue of Pulse, we offer a call to action to engage in a national mobilization campaign led by the National Association of Community Health Centers (NACHC) on **THURSDAY, OCTOBER 13th** to "Save Our Health Centers" and preserve Medicaid program funding to clinics, a health policy brief, details about the new role of managed health care in Mendocino County, an announcement of the new 2011-2012 members of the Community HealthCorps of Northern California, and a notice about the upcoming National Health Service Corps Week.

Thank you for your continued support of health care in your local community.

Best regards,

### Rachel Kradin

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## Save the Date--This Thursday, 10/13!

**THE CAMPAIGN FOR  
AMERICA'S HEALTH CENTERS**  
- A NACHC Project



The next National Mobilization Call-In Day is set for Thursday, October 13, 2011. This is a day for Health Center supporters across the nation to unite with one voice to call upon **Thursday, October 13, 2011** Congress and the White House to Save Our CHCs!

We need EVERY Health Center Advocate to act! The President and Congressional leaders are RIGHT NOW considering proposals to address federal spending, some of which could literally zero out funding for the Health Centers Program or drastically cut critically important programs like Medicaid. Please plan to participate - and encourage others to participate! - on Thursday, October 13, to make sure Congress and the White House get a message they can't ignore!

## What to Do

**1) Call Your Members of Congress:** Use the toll free NACHC Advocacy Hotline at 1-866-456-3949 and tell Your Representative AND BOTH Senators:

"Do not undermine the successful Health Centers program as you negotiate Medicaid changes and cuts to the federal budget. The health and lives of our families and our neighbors should not be negotiated away. I am counting on your support for my Health Center."

a. You only need to call the Advocacy Hotline **ONE TIME** - stay on the line at the end of each conversation to be automatically connected to your next policymaker.

**THEN**

**2) Call the White House Comment Line** at 1-202-456-1111 and leave a message for the President saying:

"Do not undermine the successful Health Centers program as you negotiate Medicaid changes and cuts to the federal budget. The health and lives of our families and our neighbors should not be negotiated away. I am counting on your support for my Health Center."

Lower Drug Costs for Seniors

High-Risk Pool for Adults

Health Care Reform Long Term Benefits



Affordable Health Insurance Available for All Americans

If You Are Sick, You Can Still Get Insurance

No More Gender Rating

Improving Medicare for Seniors

Increasing Access to Community Health Centers and Doctors

No More Annual Caps on Health Benefits

a. When you call the White House Comment line it may take a few moments to be connected to a LIVE OPERATOR, but you WILL be connected and be able to leave a message with a LIVE person. Make sure to call the White House BEFORE the Comment Line CLOSES at 5:00pm EST.

***Be Aware: When you call your Congressional offices and the White House the line might be busy because SO MANY Health Center Advocates are calling - DON'T GIVE UP - keep calling until you get through!***

**We need your help leading up to the National Mobilization Call-In Day to ensure EVERY Health Center supporter across the nation makes phone calls on Thursday, October 13...**

- **Share a link to this webpage by email to all of your Health Center friends, colleagues and supporters:** <http://www.saveourchcs.org/mobilization-day.cfm>
- **Post information about the Call-In Day on Facebook:** Please join me in supporting funding for our Community Health Centers and ensuring access to health care for everyone in our community by calling Congress and the White House on Thursday, October 13! RSVP here: [http://on.fb.me/SaveCHCs\\_RSVP](http://on.fb.me/SaveCHCs_RSVP)
- **Post information about the Call-In Day on Twitter:** I just RSVPd to call Congress and the @whitehouse on Oct 13 to #SaveCHCs! Please join me: [http://on.fb.me/SaveCHCs\\_RSVP](http://on.fb.me/SaveCHCs_RSVP)

For more information visit the Save Our Health Center's website:

<http://www.saveourchcs.org/save-americas-health-centers.cfm>

## Approved Bills

September 9 marked the end of the State's last legislative session. Since then, Governor Brown has signed two bills into law: SB 335, which helps increase funding for Medi-Cal through 2013, and ABX 1 21, which extends a fee on Medi-Cal managed care plans for another year. SB 335 is estimated to generate \$5.2 billion in payments to hospitals for Medi-Cal. ABX1 21 is estimated to raise \$207 million in 2011-2012 to help fund Healthy Families, California's Children's Health Insurance Program



## Bills Pending

Governor Brown has until October 9 to sign or veto many health-related bills, including bills concerning autism coverage (SB 946), Medical Loss Ratios (SB 51), maternity care (SB 222), and creating a standardized form for people on low income to apply for, and obtain, health care insurance (AB 1296).

For a complete list of proposed legislation, visit the Policy & Advocacy page at [www.cpc.org](http://www.cpc.org).

## Mendocino County's Medi-Cal Patients Enrolled into Managed Care

July 1, Mendocino County's 22,000 Medi-Cal patients were enrolled into managed health care.

Prompted by mounting costs and limited patient access to primary care providers, the change from the traditional Fee For Service (FFS) health system was sanctioned in California's Budget Act of 2005, which authorized the gradual expansion of the program into 13 counties across the state.

In the traditional Medi-Cal FFS, beneficiaries with the most severe and expensive health care needs are too often left overwhelmed by inefficient and uncoordinated care from barriers to enrollment and access. The County's switch to managed care was designed to change that.

Partnership Health Plan of California, one of six not-for-profit County Organized Health Systems in California, is providing the Medi-Cal program benefits to Mendocino County. It also serves Napa, Solano, Sonoma, Yolo and Marin Counties.

Starting July 1, Medi-Cal beneficiaries in Mendocino County were each asked to select an in network primary care provider to coordinate their primary care needs. Beneficiaries were able to designate their local community health center, rural health clinic or tribal health center as their primary care provider.

The move to managed care benefits beneficiaries through broadened access to primary care providers, hospitals and specialists.

When designed and implemented well, effective managed care programs encourage care management, care coordination, and improve program accountability for performance, access, and quality of care.

In other words, managed care is more efficient for patients.

The change is also timely.

Health care reform - the Affordable Care Act signed into law in March 2010 - directs states to expand Medi-Cal eligibility rules by 2014, which will increase enrollment in the Medi-Cal program; Medi-Cal managed care will likely garner continued support across the state for its cost effectiveness.

## New AmeriCorps Members Serving with the Community HealthCorps of Northern California



Mendocino County recently welcomed 12 new AmeriCorps Members to the area. They have diverse backgrounds and come from different corners of the country, but they find themselves together, new residents of the local community because of a common interest in health, the health care field and community service. The diverse group will serve alongside one another for the next ten months.

More specifically, they are part of the Community HealthCorps of Northern California, which is primarily a collaboration between community health centers and partner organizations of Mendocino and Sonoma Counties and the federal AmeriCorps program.

HealthCorps members strive to improve access to comprehensive, affordable and culturally appropriate health care for local residents.

Last year, HealthCorps members performed a total of 12,756 health education encounters on topics like reproductive health, self care and nutrition to patients in Mendocino and Sonoma Counties. They also provided 1,692 enrollments into public insurance programs.

Community Health Centers are non-profit clinics located in medically underserved areas throughout the country. They share a mission of making comprehensive primary care accessible to anyone regardless of ability to pay.

Because the health centers in which the participants serve all have their own distinct characteristics, and offer a range of community focused services, HealthCorps members' daily activities differ greatly from one another.

Generally, HealthCorps members may spend their terms performing jobs like signing up children in Healthy Families, Medi-Cal, and Food Stamps, and educating parents on family health care needs; teaching health education to young people in schools, after-school programs and recreation centers; developing and delivering interactive sessions on specific diseases and illnesses, conflict resolution, safety, and healthy lifestyles; and outreach to special populations of migrant workers and homeless residents.

Not only does the community benefit, but the Members gain invaluable work experience and develop a strengthened commitment to community service.

In exchange for their service to the community, Members receive a modest living allowance, an education award, health insurance and child care benefits, and loan repayment forbearance.

In addition, this year all HealthCorps members in Mendocino County will be mentoring high school aged students through

a new Rural Health Scholars program-a program that aims to cultivate the interests of students drawn to careers in the health care field.

## Corps Community Day: United to Increase Access to Health Care

October 13, 2011, marks the first ever Corps Community Day. It occurs during the 13th annual National Primary Care Week, which this year is themed "Innovations in Primary Care."

The National Health Service Corps (NHSC) is celebrating the day in an effort to increase awareness about the importance of access to primary care, and, by extension, the necessity of dedicated health professionals to work in underserved communities in order to ensure that access.

The NHSC is a federal program that improves access to health care for persons living in communities with a shortage of primary care providers by offering loan repayment and other financial and educational resources to health care professionals who want to bring their skills to areas where they are needed most.

Locally, Mendocino County, which has several designated health provider shortage areas, has a long history of participation in NHSC. Many providers currently working in local community health centers, rural health clinics and tribal health centers served through NHSC.

There are more than 9,000 NHSC doctors, dentists, nurse practitioners, physician assistants, mental and behavioral health specialists, and other health providers treating more than nine million people nationally.

To learn more about the NHSC and the instrumental health care professionals in service nationally, visit [NHSC.hrsa.gov](http://NHSC.hrsa.gov).

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