



County of Santa Cruz

0167

HEALTH SERVICES AGENCY

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HEALTH SERVICES AGENCY ADMINISTRATION

April 3, 2002

AGENDA: April 23, 2002

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
Santa Cruz County
701 Ocean Street
Santa Cruz, CA 95060

Re:, Adopt Resolution Supporting the Utilization of the Child Health and Disability Prevention Program as a Gateway to Comprehensive Medical Care for all Children

Dear Members of the Board:

An initial proposal in the Governor's 2002-03 budget eliminated state funding for the Child Health and Disability Prevention (CHDP) Program and directed the State Department of Health Services (DHS) to convene stakeholder hearings to solicit input on the impacts of this proposal. Stakeholders gave many recommendations for needs and improvements in our current system of health care for children. Subsequently, Governor Gray Davis directed DHS to consider these recommendations in the development of an improved gateway to health care services and insurance coverage for children throughout the state. The Health Services Agency (HSA) is recommending that your Board adopt the attached resolution supporting stakeholder recommendations to utilize CHDP as a gateway to a comprehensive, integrated services system of health care for children (Attachment A). In a related matter, HSA is requesting authorization to submit grant proposals to the State Department of Health Services for a Healthy Eating and Childhood Overweight Prevention Grant and a Nutrition Network Incentive Award. The grant applications are due to the State on April 29, 2002.

Child Health and Disability Prevention Program Funding. The initial proposal by the Governor to eliminate CHDP sought to shift eligible children into the Healthy Families and Medi-Cal Programs and to augment the Expanded Access to Primary Care (EAPC) Program. In Santa Cruz County, the elimination of the CHDP Program would have cut almost 11,000 visits for approximately 8,500 children each year. A report on the CHDP Program Benefits and Services in Santa Cruz County is included as Attachment B. Statistics outlining the importance of CHDP for California teens are included as Attachment C.

HSA recognizes the need for a comprehensive, integrated health care system for children in the State of California and the County of Santa Cruz that would serve all

children, regardless of immigration status and/or national origin. Such a system would preserve and strengthen the medical home relationship between children and providers; maintain the quantity, quality and consistency of standardized preventive care; ensure access to mandated pre-school, child care, and school entrance examinations; strengthen the CHDP network of providers and resources; be a “gateway” to services and insurance coverage; and improve access to immunization services.

The County Directors of Maternal, Child and Adolescent Health are advocating for interim continued funding for the CHDP Program to allow time for the creation of a system for children’s health care that is coordinated, cost-effective and user-friendly. Their proposal seeks to create an integrated system that contains the best elements from the current three programs: CHDP – easy entry; Healthy Families – comprehensive services; and Medi-Cal – a single-payer system. The attached summary (Attachment D) from DHS proposes to utilize CHDP as the gateway to Medi-Cal and Healthy Families enrollment thereby enabling 760,000 children to receive full health care coverage. The DHS proposal and the attached resolution both support the creation of a new integrated system that will ensure that all children in California receive preventive services, dental care, and medical treatment and follow-up.

CHDP Grant Applications. The HSA CHDP Program has taken the lead in forming a local coalition, Children’s Food and Fitness Coalition, to address the issue of childhood obesity in our community. Community partners involved in the Coalition include the Women Infants and Children (WIC) Program, Salud Para La Gente, Central Coast Alliance for Health, Pajaro Valley Unified School District, Watsonville Community Hospital, California Alliance for Family Farmers and the Monterey County Health Department. The Children’s Food and Fitness Coalition is committed to improving the nutrition, fitness and health of children and families through education, advocacy, policy development and collaboration with community partners. The Coalition has determined that the services of a nutritionist/project coordinator is necessary to help with the planning, development and implementation of activities and interventions to achieve the goal of improving children’s health. To this end, HSA is requesting authorization to submit proposals to DHS for a competitive Healthy Eating and Childhood Overweight Prevention Grant in the amount of \$100,000 and a non-competitive Nutrition Network Incentive Award in the amount of \$200,000. The development of these new projects in response to the Requests for Proposal as issued by DHS entails a community-based, collaborative grant application process that involves many agencies in Santa Cruz County. Should these proposals are funded, they will provide the necessary framework to achieve the Coalition’s long-term goal of providing nutrition education to students, improving the nutritional quality of food consumed by students, and providing opportunities for students to participate in regular physical activity.

At this time, comprehensive efforts to complete the necessary development process for the collaborative grant applications are underway; but have not been finalized. HSA requests authorization to submit the grant application and return a final copy of the application to your Board once it has been submitted to the State. No additional County funds will be needed or requested if the grant applications are funded.

Conclusion. Preventive health care for our children is a basic tenet of public health. Access to standardized preventive care for our children provides them with well child care, dental and mental health services, immunization services, screening for lead and hearing loss, obesity prevention and early identification of disease. The continuation of

these Child Health and Disability Prevention Program services is essential for the health of children in Santa Cruz County. The Health Services Agency recommends joining other California counties in urging Governor Gray Davis to continue State funding for the Child Health and Disability Prevention Program and to create an integrated system of health care so that all children in California receive preventative services, dental care, and medical treatment and follow-up.

It is, therefore, RECOMMENDED that your Board:

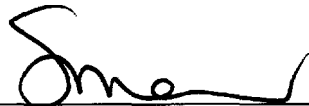
1. Accept and file report on the Child Health and Disability Prevention Program; and
2. Adopt the attached resolution supporting the utilization of the Child Health and Disability Prevention Program as a gateway to comprehensive medical care for all children and direct the Chairperson of the Board to convey that support to the Honorable Gray Davis, Governor of California; and
3. Authorize the Health Services Agency to submit collaborative grant applications to the State Department of Health Services for a Healthy Eating and Childhood Overweight Prevention Grant in the amount of \$100,000 and a Nutrition Network Incentive Award in the amount of \$200,000.

Sincerely,



Rama Khalsa, Ph.D.
Health Services Administrator

RECOMMENDED:



Susan A. Mauriello
County Administrative Officer

Attachments: Resolution
CHDP Impact Report
CHDP for California Teens
State Department of Health Services Summary

cc: County Administrative Office
County Counsel
Auditor-Controller
HSA Administration
Public Health Administration

**BEFORE THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
OF THE COUNTY OF SANTA CRUZ, STATE OF CALIFORNIA**

0170

RESOLUTION NO. _____

On the motion of Supervisor
duly seconded by Supervisor
the following resolution is adopted.

**RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE UTILIZATION OF THE CHILD HEALTH AND DISABILITY PREVENTION PROGRAM AS A
GATEWAY TO COMPREHENSIVE MEDICAL CARE FOR ALL CHILDREN**

WHEREAS, County Child Health and Disability Prevention programs provide vital community services to improve the health of children and their families; and

WHEREAS, the Child Health and Disability Prevention Program provides services to approximately 1.1 million children in the State of California; and

WHEREAS, 760,000 children covered by the Child Health and Disability Prevention Program are eligible for comprehensive coverage under Healthy Families or Medi-Cal; and

WHEREAS, the creation of a comprehensive system of health care for children that integrates the Child Health and Disability Prevention, Healthy Families and Medi-Cal Programs is in the best interests for all children in the State of California; and

WHEREAS, the State Department of Health Services proposal would utilize the Child Health and Disability Prevention Program as a gateway to Medi-Cal and Healthy Families enrollment by integrating the services of and continuing and enhancing the funding for all three programs.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED AND ORDERED, that the Board of Supervisors of the County of Santa Cruz, hereby supports utilizing the Child Health and Disability Prevention Program as a gateway to comprehensive medical care for all children and urges the Honorable Gray Davis, Governor of California, to continue funding for the Child Health and Disability Prevention Program.

PASSED AND ADOPTED, by the Board of Supervisors of the County of Santa Cruz, State of California, this twenty-third day of April, 2002 by the following vote:

AYES:	SUPERVISORS
NOES:	SUPERVISORS
ABSTAIN:	SUPERVISORS

Chairman of the Board

ATTEST:

CLERK OF THE BOARD

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Larry A. Oberhelman III
Assistant County Counsel

Distribution:
County Administrative Officer
Auditor-Controller
County Counsel
Health Services Agency Administration
Public Health Administration

ATTACHMENT B

COUNTY OF SANTA CRUZ
CHILD HEALTH AND DISABILITY PREVENTION PROGRAM
BENEFITS AND SERVICES

CHDP BENEFITS. The Child Health and Disability Prevention (CHDP) Program provides over one million health screening visits annually to low income children throughout the State of California. CHDP acts as a health care safety net for vulnerable children and maintains a pediatric public health infrastructure developed by the CHDP Program. CHDP exams provide a referral network to the Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) Program and Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program. CHDP acts as one of the primary information and referral gateways to children's health insurance programs such as Medi Cal and Healthy Families. In Santa Cruz County, CHDP provides almost 31,000 visits for approximately 24,000 children each year.

CHDP SERVICES: The Child Health and Disability Prevention (CHDP) Program provides many services that positively impact the health of children residing in Santa Cruz County:

- 9 CHDP provides preventive health screening to approximately 24,000 children each year. Out of this figure, a total of approximately 8,500 children is representative of those children who are not enrolled in the Medi-Cal or Healthy Families Programs, those children who have private insurance which does not cover well child care, homeless children, youth in detention, children enrolled in Head Start and State Preschool Programs, and those children who do not have legal immigration status. It is estimated that 70 percent of these children in Santa Cruz County might be eligible for either Medi-Cal or Healthy Families. The CHDP Program is essential to these children since the enrollment process for the other programs is so complicated and lengthy. CHDP acts as a gateway for enrollment into Medi-Cal and Healthy Families.
- 9 CHDP exams provide standardized assessments for dental conditions, nutritional status, mental health, developmental delays, lead poisoning, hearing and vision deficits, and anemia, as well as early identification of diseases that can lead to disabilities and poor health later in life. The exam requirements result in the provision of health education and anticipatory guidance to parents medical providers. Of all the exams completed, 25 percent require follow up for further evaluation and treatment.
- CHDP provides children with increased access to immunization services throughout the county. Administrative fees and office charges related to immunization services are reimbursed by CHDP to many families without the ability to pay for such fees. Even though it is a county policy not to turn away families due to the inability to pay for immunizations, many families will be intimidated by the request to pay these fees. This increased access to immunization services helps to avert the spread of preventable communicable diseases in the entire community.

CHDP Benefits and Services Page 2

- 9 CHDP enables **36** medical providers to furnish medical homes to low-income children and thereby develops a relationship between the children, their families and the medical providers. The provision of early, preventive screening and medical care leads to decreased medical care costs later on in life because simple problems are detected before they become major disabilities.
- 9 CHDP provides the gateway necessary for 2,400 children under the age of 5 to obtain eligibility for WIC nutrition services through CHDP health exams and hemoglobin screening.
- 9 CHDP provides the funding for a nurse case manager to monitor the health conditions of non-Medi-Cal children. This very important function of the CHDP Program has enabled families to obtain necessary treatment, intervention and follow up for their children.

SANTA CRUZ COUNTY STATISTICS **FOR** NON-MEDI-CAL CHILDREN IN 2001:

- 9 **391** children had dental problems
- 9 **343** children identified with obesity
- 9 **168** children had diagnosed eye problems
- 9 **161** children were diagnosed with anemia
- 9 **137** children identified with asthma
- 9 **63** children had reactive tuberculosis tests which required chest x-rays
- **43** children had heart murmurs
- 9 **30** children had elevated blood lead levels

The Children's Treatment Program (CTP) is monitored by the CHDP Program staff and administered by the Medi-Cruz Program. It provides treatment for children who have identified health conditions discovered on the CHDP exam and who are not eligible for Medi-Cal or Healthy Families and who do not have private health insurance coverage. Last year the CTP provided dental treatment to **192** children and medical treatment for **174** children. Treatment included medications, eye exams and glasses, surgery, x-rays and other therapies related to the above listed conditions.

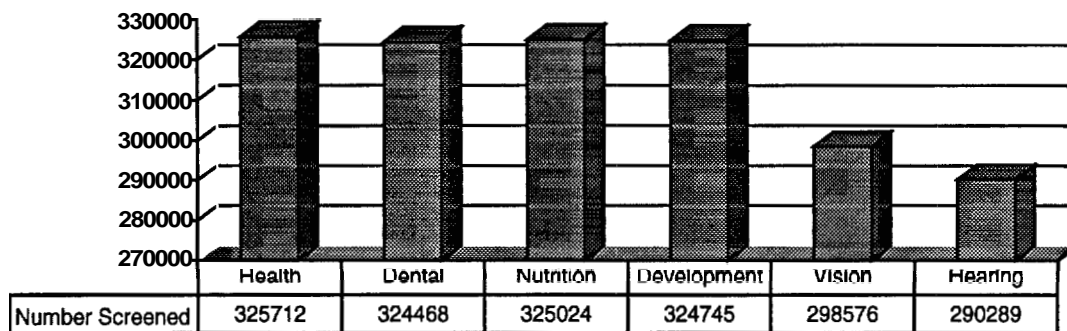
The Expanded Access to Primary Care (EAPC) Program also provides treatment services to medically indigent children and adults, without distinction between the two. This program has the same eligibility requirements as the CTP. Providers are able to bill for services that they render in their own practices. In Santa Cruz County, there are four medical providers and one dental provider. Last year, over 4,000 EAPC visits were provided in south county alone.

The Importance of the Child Health and Disability Prevention (CHDP) Program to California Teens

CHDP provides screening and risk reduction to California teens.

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- One fifth of all the children served through CHDP are teens.
- Between July 1, 1998 and June 30, 1999, **447,171** adolescents ages 10-20 received CHDP services.
- CHDP provides basic health assessments for hundreds of thousands of teens each year. For tens of thousands, these screenings result in the identification and referral for problems that **reduces teens' risk** of future health problems.



CHDP increases access to care.

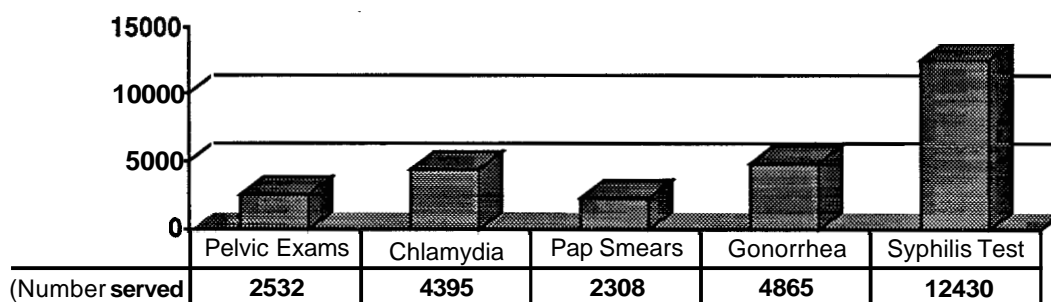
- CHDP provides funding to **88%** of California's school-based health centers which increase teens' access to care.*
- CHDP enables approximately 4000 providers across California to deliver covered preventive medical services to teens.

CHDP allows teens to receive medical care "on the spot" without having to wait months to be accepted into other programs.

This is critically important for teens because as a group, they use medical services less than any other age group.

CHDP is an important *preventive* health program for California teens.

- 641,991 teens receive immunizations through CHDP each year. This represents 16% of all the immunizations delivered through the program.
- CHDP supplements other public health program to prevent the spread of sexually transmitted infections and reduces teens' risk of cervical cancer.

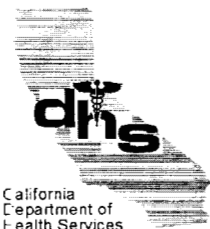


Prepared by the Public Health Institute and UCSF's National Adolescent Health Information Center for the California Adolescent Health Collaborative

*Source: California Assembly on School-based Health Care.

All other figures from the Department of Health Services, Children's Medical Services Branch. CHDP Health Assessment Data for Fiscal Year 1988-1999.

State of California—Health and Human Services Agency
Department of Health Services



DIANA M. BONTA, R.N., Dr. P.H.
 Director

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GRAY DAVIS
 Governor

Utilizing the Children's Health and Disability Prevention Program (CHDP) to Provide a Gateway to Medi-Cal and Healthy Families Enrollment

Summary

- The Governor's 2002-03 Budget directed the Department of Health Services (DHS) to convene a stakeholder workgroup to solicit input on a comprehensive plan to maximize the number of CHDP children who enroll in Medi-Cal or Healthy Families Program's (HFP). After meeting with 100 stakeholders, DHS has been directed by Governor Gray Davis to utilize the existing CHDP program to develop an Internet based enrollment system that will make CHDP an effective gateway to Medi-Cal and HFP. This system will be available in spring 2003.
- Currently the CHDP program provides services to approximately 1 million children. The benefit package under CHDP is limited to providing a physical examination, lab tests and immunizations. CHDP does not provide services to treat the conditions found in the examination. 760,000 children covered by CHDP are eligible for comprehensive coverage under HFP or Medi-Cal.
- Building upon existing technology, an Internet system can be developed by the State to allow an application for CHDP to also serve as the application for HFP and Medi-Cal. In addition to providing CHDP services, this system could be used to pre-enroll eligible children into HFP and Medi-Cal for 60 days and start the application process for HFP and Medi-Cal.
- Instead of CHDP services now being fully paid by the State, federal matching funds would be available using this system.
- Using CHDP as a gateway to HFP and Medi-Cal would enable 760,000 children to receive full health care coverage. In order to continue to have their children covered, a parent would have to provide the additional information requested by HFP or Medi-Cal. Children who are not eligible for HFP or Medi-Cal would receive comprehensive coverage during the 60 days, after which they would continue to receive CHDP and limited scope benefits under Medi-Cal.



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Address (Number, Street), P.O. Box Number, City, CA, ZIP code
 Telephone Number
 Internet Address: www.dhs.ca.gov

Detailed Description

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Currently the CHDP program provides services to approximately 1.1 million children. The vast majority of these children are eligible for some coverage under HFP or Medi-Cal. It is estimated that approximately 760,000 of these children are eligible for ongoing full scope coverage in HFP or Medi-Cal. While the physical examinations and immunizations are vital to these children, the limited scope of coverage of the CHDP program means that many children go without necessary and comprehensive preventive and treatment services. For example, CHDP does not cover dental or vision care. More than forty percent of the children who receive a CHDP screen are detected to have dental problems, yet the CHDP program does not provide coverage for correction of these problems.

As CHDP provides health care screens to these uninsured children, it can serve as an exceptional entry point for these children to enroll in the health care coverage. Furthermore, the CHDP can be turned into a program that takes advantage of available federal money to provide these children with a larger scope of benefits than currently available to them. This would make existing State funds go further, it would take an increased investment in State funds to pay for this comprehensive health care coverage for these children.

The major barrier to enrolling CHDP children in HFP or Medi-Cal are manual systems that treat each program independently. A family that applies to CHDP for services must also separately apply to HFP or Medi-Cal for coverage. An Internet system can be developed by the State to allow an application for CHDP to also serve as the application for HFP and Medi-Cal.

This program would work as follows:

- The family would seek service for the child at the CHDP provider and the provider would enter the child's eligibility information into the State system via the Internet. These children would be pre-enrolled into the HFP and Medi-Cal.
- These pre-enrolled children would be immediately eligible for the CHDP physical examination, lab tests and immunizations, as well as follow-up care that is now provided through enrollment into HFP or Medi-Cal.
- Instead of CHDP services now being fully paid by the State, this system would allow the State to use its current funding to obtain 65% federal funding for children eligible under HFP income levels and 50% for children eligible under Medi-Cal for this care.
- The system would automatically create an application that would be sent to either HFP or Medi-Cal for processing and determination of whether the child is eligible for continuing coverage in these programs.
- This would put 760,000 children well on their way to comprehensive health care coverage, including dental and vision care, through HFP or Medi-Cal.