



PEDIATRICS INTEREST GROUP UPDATE

August 30, 2002

Issue 7

Welcome to the Pediatrics Interest Group free e-mail update geared specifically to those working with homeless children and adolescents. Each issue will feature announcements, resources, news and events, and is brought to you by the Health Care for the Homeless Clinicians' Network.

We invite you to share your opinion on issues of concern to the pediatrics community. We welcome your feedback. If you have comments or suggestions for improvements to the newsletter, please send them to the Pediatrics Interest Group newsletter editor, Brenda Proffitt, at bproffitt@nhchc.org.

We're happy to have you as a member of our online community of clinicians working in health care for the homeless. We think that you'll look forward to each issue. If, however, you do not want to receive the Pediatrics Interest Group update, please send a blank e-mail to network@nhchc.org, and put Leave Pediatric Interest Group in the Subject line of your message.

Warmest regards,
Brenda Proffitt

IN THIS ISSUE:

- **Bilingual Effort to Expand Health Insurance for Hispanic Children**
- **Web site centralizes trends on key indicators of child & youth well-being**
- **National Health Policy Forum Publication on Federal Child Care Funding**
- **Needs Assessment of Health Practitioners' Treatment of Childhood Obesity**
- **Briefing Held on Education Vouchers for Youth Leaving Foster Care**
- **New data: Nearly 5 million children needlessly uninsured**
- **Clinical Care Strategies for Children & Youth with HIV Infection**
- **A Short Letter Can Help Thousands of Children**

HHS BILINGUAL EFFORT TO EXPAND HEALTH INSURANCE FOR HISPANIC CHILDREN

HHS Secretary Tommy G. Thompson released a new bilingual booklet, "Protect Your Family's Health... With Confidence" ("Proteja la Salud de Su Familia... con Confianza") to provide information to Spanish-speaking parents whose children may be eligible for health insurance benefits through the State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP) and Medicaid. The booklet is intended to help state agencies and others involved in SCHIP and Medicaid programs to assist Spanish-speaking residents and others in learning about the availability of free and low-cost health insurance for children in low-income families through their state's SCHIP program. According to the press release, HHS will work with states that want to add information about their programs to the booklet. In addition, HHS will provide

booklets to community health centers and other organizations. The press release is available at <http://www.hhs.gov/news/press/2002pres/20020723.html>. Consumer information about each state's SCHIP program is available in English and Spanish at <http://www.insurekidsnow.gov> or by calling 1-877-KIDS-NOW.

SOURCE: The Association of State and Territorial Health Officials, Primary Care Network News, Volume 6; Number 16, August 2, 2002

WEB SITE CENTRALIZES NATIONAL TRENDS AND RESEARCH ON OVER 70 KEY INDICATORS OF CHILD AND YOUTH WELL-BEING

Child Trends has recently launched a new, "one-stop-shop" web site for the latest national trends and research on over 70 key indicators of child and youth well-being. The site features continuously updated trend data with the latest national estimates for all indicators, with links to state and local estimates where available. New indicators are added each month. Child Trends is a nonprofit, nonpartisan research organization dedicated to improving the lives of children and families by providing research and data to inform decision-making that affects children. Visit the site at <http://www.childtrendsdatbank.org>.

SOURCE: The Association of State and Territorial Health Officials, Primary Care Network News, Volume 6; Number 16, August 2, 2002

NATIONAL HEALTH POLICY FORUM PUBLICATION ON FEDERAL CHILD CARE FUNDING

The National Health Policy Forum announces the availability of "Federal Child Care Funding for Low-Income Families: How Much Is Needed?" an issue brief that provides background on current child care use, arrangements, and cost, as well as research findings on the measurement of quality in child care programs. According to the issue brief, two components in pending proposals for Welfare Reauthorization involve the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families block grant and the Child Care and Development Fund, which together provide the bulk of government child care funding for low-income working families. The issue brief is available at [http://www.nhpf.org/pdfs/8-780+\(web\).pdf](http://www.nhpf.org/pdfs/8-780+(web).pdf)

SOURCE: The Association of State and Territorial Health Officials, Primary Care Network News, Volume 6; Number 16, August 2, 2002

NEEDS ASSESSMENT OF HEALTH PRACTITIONERS' TREATMENT OF CHILDHOOD OBESITY

Recognizing the importance of childhood obesity as a critical public health issue, the Maternal and Child Health Bureau, the National Center for Education in Maternal and Child Health, and the International Life Sciences Institute Center for Health Promotion conducted a needs assessment that documents the attitudes and current assessment and treatment practices of physicians, nutritionists and nurse practitioners regarding childhood obesity. The results of the needs assessment were published in July 2002 as a supplement to Pediatrics entitled "Treatment of Overweight Children and Adolescents: A Needs Assessment of Health Practitioners." This baseline assessment also served to identify the barriers perceived by practitioners that affect their efforts to improve the management of obesity, and ways in which those barriers might be addressed. For a free copy of the supplement,

see <http://www.ilsa.org/publications/pubslst.cfm?pubentityid=14&publicationid=388>.

SOURCE: The Association of State and Territorial Health Officials, Primary Care Network News, Volume 6; Number 16, August 2, 2002

BRIEFING HELD ON EDUCATION VOUCHERS FOR YOUTH LEAVING FOSTER CARE

On July 25, Rep. Kay Granger (R-TX) held a briefing for her colleagues in the House to raise support for appropriating \$60 million to fund educational and training vouchers for youth aging out of foster care. The education and training vouchers were added to the John H. Chafee Foster Care Independence Program in 2002 through the Promoting Safe and Stable Families Amendments of 2001. Although no money was appropriated for the vouchers in FY 2002, the President requested the full, authorized amount of \$60 million in his FY 2003 budget proposal, and the same amount was recently approved for the program by the Senate Appropriations Committee. The next hurdle for the program will be the mark-up decisions to be made by House appropriators in the Labor, HHS, and Education Subcommittee in September.

Last week's House briefing was led by representatives of the Child Welfare League of America and the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges, and featured a panel which included youth who had been in foster care and faced difficult challenges transitioning out of the system. The following points were among those highlighted in the briefing:

- More than 25,000 youth leave foster care each year at age 18
- 25 percent will be homeless for one or more nights
- Only about a dozen states currently provide education and training assistance for college or vocational training to youth leaving foster care
- An appropriation of \$60 million for educational and training opportunities could assist an additional 16,000 youth nationwide

For more information on the education and training vouchers or the John H. Chafee Foster Care Independence Program, see <http://www.cwla.org>.

SOURCE: National Alliance to End Homelessness, Online Newsletter, August 1, 2002

NEW DATA: NEARLY 5 MILLION CHILDREN IN AMERICA ARE NEEDLESSLY UNINSURED

Secretary Thompson Helps Kick Off Enrollment Drive * Senators Hatch and Kennedy Honored on 5th Anniversary of SCHIP

WASHINGTON, D.C. - Nearly 5 million children in the United States who currently lack health insurance are eligible for low-cost and free health care coverage through the State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP) and Medicaid, but they are not enrolled. Covering Kids released new state-by-state data, compiled by the Urban Institute, that quantify the number of children who are needlessly uninsured. Using these data to illustrate the need to reach families immediately, Covering Kids launched the Back-to-School 2002 enrollment drive today with the help of Secretary of Health and Human Services Tommy Thompson.

"It is shocking to think that nearly 5 million children are uninsured when they do not have to be," said Dr. Steven A. Schroeder, President and CEO of The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF). "Nationally, there are 8 million uninsured children. If we can enroll all children who are currently eligible for SCHIP and Medicaid, we would cut the number of uninsured kids to less than half of what it is today."

"In a country as generous and compassionate as ours, every child should have good health coverage," said Health and Human Services Secretary Tommy Thompson. "We in the Bush Administration are doing all we can to achieve that goal, since every life is precious and no child should be left behind. That's why I'm proud to partner with Covering Kids in its effort to enroll every eligible child in these programs."

The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation honored Senators Orrin Hatch, (R-UT) and Edward Kennedy, (D-MA) for their leadership roles in creating SCHIP.

"We commend Senators Hatch and Kennedy for safeguarding the health of our nation's children and creating this landmark children's health care coverage program," said Dr. Risa Lavizzo-Mourey, Senior Vice President and President Designate, RWJF. "There is still work to be done. The real tragedy is that even with great programs in place, too many children are still uninsured."

"Every child in America deserves an opportunity for a healthy start in life, and these programs help provide that healthy start," said Senator Kennedy. "No family should have to fear that the loss of a job or an increase in their insurance premium will leave their child without health care. I am pleased that millions of America's children benefit from these programs. It's now time to get the others who are eligible enrolled."

"For working families around the country, the CHIP and Medicaid programs have given parents peace of mind," said Senator Hatch. "CHIP is a legislative success story; we saw the need to provide health insurance for the poorest of the poor working families who weren't eligible for Medicaid, and the Congress passed legislation in record time to fill the need. Today, parents with children enrolled in these health care coverage programs are no longer deciding whether to pay their electric bill or take their child to the doctor."

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, eight out of 10 uninsured children are in working families. Three-quarters of these families do not have access to an employer-provided health plan that covers children.

Covering Kids, a national program of The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF), works to connect uninsured children to low-cost and free health care coverage programs available in every state and the District of Columbia. During the third annual Back-to-School enrollment drive, Covering Kids coalitions, along with national and local organizations, will hold more than 1,000 outreach events coast to coast to reach families as they prepare their children for a successful school year.

"As a pediatrician, I know that health care coverage from day one is critical to a child's long-term health," said Dr. T. Berry Brazelton, pediatrician and nationally known parenting expert. "If we want our children to be successful, we have a chance to start by giving them the health care coverage they need and deserve."

According to the most recent Current Population Survey conducted by the U.S. Census Bureau, 25 percent of Latino children and more than 13 percent of African-American children are uninsured. Most of these children are eligible for SCHIP and Medicaid. As part of

the Back-to-School effort, Covering Kids will launch an intensified outreach effort to reach Latino and African-American parents with information about low-cost and free health care coverage for their children. The effort includes national and regional television, radio and print advertising in Spanish-language and African-American media, as well as enrollment drives in Latino and African-American communities. Coordinated regional launches of Back-to-School 2002 are planned for Los Angeles, CA, and Houston, TX.

"The number of uninsured children in the Latino and African-American communities is shocking," said Dr. Elmer E. Huerta, Founder and President of Prevención, Inc. "Our work here is clear. We must reach out to parents in these communities and inform them about SCHIP and Medicaid. Parents want their children to be healthy, and these programs are there to help."

A team of corporate partners will assist Covering Kids in this effort to reach parents of eligible uninsured kids. For example, in select states, CVS/pharmacy will provide SCHIP and Medicaid enrollment information with new and refilled prescriptions for all children through age 18 during the back to school period. More than 3,000 stores in 21 states and the District of Columbia will participate. Giant Food, Inc., will include information about SCHIP and Medicaid enrollment on 380,000 milk cartons reaching families in four states and the District of Columbia this fall.

"Covering Kids is working hand-in-hand with the business community to reach out to families," said Sarah Shuptrine, Director of the Covering Kids National Program Office. "Through these partnerships we can reach potentially eligible families where they shop, pick up prescriptions, and go out to eat."

More than 100 national organizations are joining Covering Kids in this campaign. The What to Expect Foundation (WTEF), a non-profit group that takes its name from the best-selling What to Expect pregnancy and parenting guidebook series, announced a plan to disseminate fliers with information about low-cost and free health care coverage to thousands of health care providers and pregnant women. They will distribute these fliers with 100,000 copies of Baby Basics, a free book developed by the WTEF for low-income pregnant women.

"As important as counting their little fingers and toes, is accounting for your newborn's health insurance coverage," says Heidi Murkoff, author of the best-selling What To Expect pregnancy and parenting series and president of WTEF. "Enrolling a child for health care coverage is easy with the SCHIP and Medicaid programs. I hope this campaign will help us count on a future generation of healthy children."

Families can learn more about low-cost and free health care coverage for children by calling toll-free 1 877 KIDS-NOW. Callers will be connected to their appropriate state programs.

The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, based in Princeton, NJ, is the nation's largest philanthropy devoted exclusively to improving health and health care of all Americans.

SOURCE: August 1 press release about Covering Kids' Back-to-School 2002 campaign launch; contacts: Karen Kirchgasser or Aimée Colker, 202 338-8700 or cell: 202 329-5282. For more information, see the attached pdf file and <http://www.coveringkids.org>

**CLINICAL CARE STRATEGIES FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH WITH HIV INFECTION
October 9 - 11, 2002 * Crowne Plaza Hotel-Clark, New Jersey**

Clinical Care Strategies for Children and Youth with HIV Infection is designed for

pediatricians, pediatric advanced practice nurses, and physician assistants who are managing children with HIV infection in their community. The goal is to provide a seminar on current issues and trends in the management of HIV disease in children and youth and to improve provider knowledge of antiretroviral therapy, nutrition, adherence, clinical trials as well as adolescent adherence and HIV management while allowing clinicians the opportunity to discuss clinical cases drawn from participants' own areas of practice.

To obtain the program agenda and registration form, e-mail NPHRC (ortegaes@umdnj.edu) and they will forward the registration form. There are three ways to register:

- COMPLETE & MAIL the registration form to Hakimah Shariff, UMDNJ-François-Xavier Bagnoud Center, P.O. Box 1709, Newark, NJ 07101-1709
- PHONE to register at 973 972-0400 ext. 245.
- FAX a completed copy of the form to 973 972-0399

Fees: Registrations must be accompanied by a perinatal, pediatric, or adolescent case study to discuss during one of the three days. E-mail case studies to Hakimah Shariff at sharifha@umdnj.edu. The fee for this program is \$145.00. Credit Cards are an acceptable form of payment. Checks can be made out to UMDNJ-Center for Continuing and Outreach Education (CCOE).

Do not delay. Space is limited. This meeting is sponsored National Pediatric & Family HIV Resource Center, François-Xavier Bagnoud Center, New Jersey AIDS Education & Training Center, Center for Continuing and Outreach Education at the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey, and supported with an unrestricted educational grant from our colleagues at Agouron Pharmaceuticals, Inc., A Pfizer Company. NPHRC at the François-Xavier Bagnoud Center, UMDNJ is supported, in part, by the HIV/AIDS Bureau, HRSA, DHHS. Please visit our family of Web sites:

- **National Pediatric & Family HIV Resource Center.** For providers at <http://www.pedhivaids.org>
- **Francois-Xavier Bagnoud Center.** For families and caregivers at <http://www.fxbcenter.org>
- **FXB - International Training Program.** For providers and caregivers internationally at <http://www.fxbcenter.org/fxbitp.html>
- **Kids Connect.** For kids and teens at <http://www.kidsconnect.org>
- **New Jersey Statewide Family Centered HIV Network.** For providers and families in New Jersey at <http://www.njfamilyhivaids.org>

A SHORT LETTER CAN HELP THOUSANDS OF CHILDREN: PLEASE HELP

Date: Mon, 26 Aug 2002

From: Michael Alan Morton <mary@vitaminrelief.org>

Please help us gain funding for Vitamin Relief USA programs! You can make a big difference in the lives of disadvantaged children just by faxing a short letter!

In May 2002, Congressman Frank Pallone formally requested an appropriation from Congress of six million dollars to expand the Vitamin Relief USA programs for children. With these funds, we will be able to serve an additional 30,000 disadvantaged children every day for three years. Imagine the difference this will make!

Congress will be deliberating on this appropriation sometime between now and the end of September. Your important letters of support will communicate to Congress that the

American public supports our mission to eliminate micronutrient malnutrition and provide a more promising future for the homeless, poor and needy children of this great nation.

We know your time is valuable so we have created a fast and easy way for you to fax your support for Vitamin Relief USA programs. Here's how to help:

Step 1: Open the attached letter (Letter to Congress for THF).

Step 2: Cut and paste this letter or something similar on to your organization's letterhead. Your letters will be more valued by members of Congress if your personal opinions and observations are included citing, for example, the need for nutritional supplements for malnourished children. If you work at a site that currently distributes our vitamins, your comments regarding any changes you have witnessed in the children taking our vitamins would be very valuable.

Step 3: Address a letter to each of the five Congressional Representatives listed below and fax it to the number listed next to their name.

- The Honorable Senator Tom Harkin: FAX (202) 224-9369
- The Honorable Senator Arlen Specter: FAX (202) 228-1229
- The Honorable Congressman Ralph Regula: FAX (202) 225-3059
- The Honorable Congressman Dave R. Obey: FAX (909) 696-0702
- The Honorable Congressman Frank Pallone Jr.: FAX (202) 225-9665

Step 4: Please fax copies of your letters to our office at FAX (909) 696-0702. This will enable us to keep track of the support these congressional representatives are receiving on our behalf.

Many children will receive substantial health benefits because of your time and effort. Please accept our heartfelt thanks for taking the time to fax your letters of support for Vitamin Relief USA.

Sincerely,
Michael Morton, Executive Director