



**PCSW**

**Permanent Commission on the Status of Women**

*The State's leading force for women's equality*

## **CONNECTICUT WOMEN'S HEALTH CAMPAIGN**

### **E-News**

**May 2009**

**In this issue:** Exercise survey; universal health care day; federal action on gender insurance rating, advance directives and more!

### **-CWHC News**

**Save the Date: May 13 - Universal Health Care Day.** May 13 is an important day for supporters of universal health care. Come to the Capitol from 2-6:30 p.m. to participate near the House and Senate. For more information, call Paul Wessell, Field Director, healthcare4every1 campaign, at 203-639-0550, ext. 314, or [pwessell@universalhealthct.org](mailto:pwessell@universalhealthct.org)

- **Take a Quick Survey. Do You Exercise?** The Connecticut Women's Health Campaign wants to know!

Take this short survey

[http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=UhH3bo6i\\_2bxUjutA5tnDdaQ\\_3d\\_3d](http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=UhH3bo6i_2bxUjutA5tnDdaQ_3d_3d)

### **-State Legislative Update**

The CWHC continues to monitor legislation affecting women:

**HB 5018 An Act Concerning Reviews of Health Insurance Benefits Mandated in this State.** This bill would establish a health benefit review program within the Insurance Department to evaluate the impacts of health insurance mandates. Findings would be reported to the Insurance and Real Estate Committees and consumer protections.

**HB 5057 An Act Concerning a Single Point of Entry for Long-Term Care.** This bill would require the Department of Social Services to establish a statewide single-point-of-entry for information, referral, and screening for individuals seeking long-term care. It also requires related changes to the state's long-term care website. The bill would ensure that all of the designated single-point-of-entry agencies followed the same requirements and develop a single, simplified application for related state programs.

**HB 6187 An Act Mandating Employers Provide Paid Sick Leave To Employees.** This bill requires employers with 50 or more employees to provide paid sick leave accruing at a rate of one hour for each 40 hours worked. The leave can be used for an employee's or the employee's child's illness or injury,

treatment of an illness or injury, diagnosis, and preventive medical care, family violence or sexual assault. Currently, there is no law requiring employers to provide any paid sick leave.

**HB 6582 An Act Establishing the Connecticut Healthcare Partnership.** This bill requires the comptroller to convert the state employee health insurance plan, (excluding dental) to a self-insured plan and authorizes her to merge other health plans under her jurisdiction into the state self insured plan on or after January 1, 2010, any health benefit plans she arranges into the self-insured state plan. This bill also makes provisions for the comptroller to open a state self-insured plan to other public employers, non profit organizations, and small employers between 2010 and 2011.

**SB 458 An Act Requiring Communication of Mammographic Breast Density Information to Patients.** Starting October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2009 this bill will require every mammography report given to a patient to include information about breast density based on the American College of Radiology's Breast Imaging Reporting and Data System (BIRADS). This bill has passed both houses.

## **-Federal Update**

**Sen. John Kerry this week introduced S.969,** A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to ensure fairness in the coverage of women in the individual health insurance market. This bill would prohibit insurers from considering gender when setting premium rates. Kerry said the premium disparity is "just plain wrong, and it has to change."

## **-Women's Health Calendar**

**Connecticut Behavioral Health 2009 Spring and Community Meetings Sponsored By Emergency Mobile Psychiatric Care.** May 4<sup>th</sup> 12:30 pm at the Government center-888 Washington Blvd Stamford CT, 06904. May 5<sup>th</sup> 9 am at the Children's Home of Cromwell-60 Hicksville Road Cromwell CT 06416. May 18<sup>th</sup> at 11 am at the Village for Families and Children-1680 Albany Ave. Hartford CT, 06106. May 26<sup>th</sup> at 10 am at The Nehemiah Commission 1600 State Street, Bridgeport CT, 06605. For more information contact Scott Greco-860-263-2010.

**CT Area Health Education Center's Medical Interpreter Training Program.** The Medical Interpreter Certificate establishes the foundation for all community interpreters and provides specialized training in health care interpretation. Classes are held for 5 weeks, the summer session held at 5520 Park Ave in Trumbull convene from June 25<sup>th</sup>-July 23<sup>rd</sup> 8:30 am-4:30 pm. In September classes are held at 2 Holcomb Street, Hartford CT September 2-September 30<sup>th</sup>, 8:30 am to 4:30 pm.

## **-Women's Health Resources**

**Advance Directive Resources.** What exactly is an advanced directive? It is a term that refers to documents that provide instructions concerning health care wishes (living will) or documents that appoint proxies (appointment of health care representative) To download the Connecticut forms visit, <http://www.ct.gov/ag/site/default.asp>

**Resources for Connecticut Older Adults.** For a detailed report of programs that help older adults in Connecticut age in place try "Public Initiatives That Help Elders and Individuals With Disabilities

Remain at Home, by Kate McEvoy of the South Central Area Agency on Aging.

<http://www.cga.ct.gov/coa/PDFs/Reports/Public%20Initiatives%20That%20Help%20Elders%20and%20those%20with%20Disabilities%20to%20Remain%20at%20Home%202009%20update%201-23-09.pdf>

**Impact Of Changes to Medicaid Cost Sharing and Proposed Termination of Legal Immigrant Health Coverage.** According to a report released by Dr. Jack Hoadley of Georgetown University and The Connecticut Health Foundation imposing Medicaid premiums for the 2010-2011 fiscal year could result in 8,000 HUSKY A parents with new costs and 1,600 children in HUSKY B. Additionally with the proposed termination of health coverage for legal immigrants, over 6,000 residents would lose their insurance. For more information including a detailed policy brief visit, [http://www.cthealth.org/matriarch/MultiPiecePage.asp\\_Q\\_PageID\\_E\\_426\\_A\\_PageName\\_E\\_pressrelease43009husky](http://www.cthealth.org/matriarch/MultiPiecePage.asp_Q_PageID_E_426_A_PageName_E_pressrelease43009husky)

**Breastfeeding Resources.** To access websites and various publications with information on breastfeeding for consumers, health professionals, etc. visit the Maternal and Child Health Library at <http://www.mchlibrary.info/guides/breastfeeding.html>

**Literature Review of the Impact of Laws Requiring Parental Involvement for Abortion.** The Alan Guttmacher Institute reviewed 29 studies of the impact of parental Involvement abortion laws in varying states, and compiled a literature review. The result of parental involvement laws is an increase in minors traveling out of state to receive abortions. To access the review, <http://www.guttmacher.org/pubs/ParentalInvolvementLaws.pdf>

## **-Health Fact**

Medicaid dollars fund 71% of family planning services in the United States.

## **-Join Us!**

To see a list of CWHC members, our principles or a sign up sheet, see [http://www.cga.ct.gov/pcsw/cwhc/pages/cwhc\\_membership.asp](http://www.cga.ct.gov/pcsw/cwhc/pages/cwhc_membership.asp) CWHC members will not be asked to sign on each year. If you would like to change your membership status, please contact Lisa.Sementilli@cga.ct.gov

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