Web-based Application Speeds through Bureaucracy

Enrolling in an L.A. County public health care program can be a complex and overwhelming process for parents. Determining a family's eligibility for the distinct range of programs the county offers can entail multiple applications and can often take weeks.

But in February of this year, that process got a little easier. The "One-e-App," a customized Web-based system, was implemented by L.A. County to streamline the process. The system allows a single point of entry for multiple program applications, which saves time and also raises awareness about programs a family might not know about. Through One-e-App, users in L.A. County can now submit applications for Healthy Kids, Medi-Cal, Healthy Families, and the Child Health and Disability Prevention Program.

The application was developed and is maintained by the Center to Promote Healthcare Access, a non-profit organization based in Oakland. Other counties using One-e-App are San Mateo, Santa Clara, and Santa Cruz. The system's implementation in L.A. County received funds from First 5 LA.

To learn more about One-e-App go to www.oneeapp.org, or contact project manager Reuben Bernal at rbernal@lacare.org.

Overuse of Antibiotics Contributing to Child Asthma

Overuse of antibiotics in early childhood could be partially responsible for the alarming rise in asthma and allergies. Although regular use of antibiotics and improved sanitation has significantly reduced some routine childhood infections, it has also wiped out a possible health-saving stomach bacterium called helicobacter pylori, a bacterium that infects various areas of the stomach and the first part of the small intestine.

A recently released New York University School of Medicine study emphasizes the hygiene hypothesis, an idea stating that young children need to be exposed to lots of microbes for the healthy and normal development of their immune systems.
August 25, 10am-8pm: Back to School Fair and Community Celebration, sponsored by the Office of L.A. County Supervisor Don Knabe, at Adventure Park in South Whittier. Call Joseph Matthews at (562) 807-7350.

August 26-28: 17th Annual CityMatCH Maternal and Child Health Leadership Conference "Building the Best Environments for Families and Children" sponsored by CityMatCH at the Denver Marriott Tech Center, 4900 S. Syracuse, Denver, CO 80237. For registration fees and information call (402) 561-7500 or visit http://citymatch.org/apps/conf_index.php

September 7-8, all day: "Los Angeles Universal Preschool Conference and Education Expo" at Los Angeles Convention Center, West Wing - Petree Hall, Exhibit Hall C & D - 1201 S. Figueroa St., Los Angeles 90015. For information visit www.laup.net or call (866) 581-LAUP (5287).

EVIE’S DESK
Summer Fun

- Recreation centers at local parks often have special summer activities for kids. They offer swim classes, arts and crafts, soccer games and more.
- Reading a book in a nice cool library can be the highlight of a child's summer. Check out your local library's summer reading activities. And remember, it's never too early to engage a child in reading.
- The LA County Zoo has several interactive children's programs to educate kids about animals and the environment. Other great metro area destination points include the Science Center and Natural History Museum at Exposition Park.

Access contact information for these attractions at www.healthy.city.org or call (888) FIRST5LA. Have fun!

Researchers found that people who carry a particularly virulent strain of helicobacter pylori were 40 percent less likely to have asthma at an early age than those who didn't carry the strain. The finding suggests that exposure to microbial infections in early childhood prevents or diminishes the development of asthma and allergies. While those conditions may decrease, earlier studies have shown that helicobacter pylori can also trigger stomach cancer and peptic ulcers in adults.

GRANTEE PROFILE
Fourth in a series highlighting the Best Babies Collaboratives - four grantees part of the Healthy Births Initiative.

Faith and the Antelope Valley Best Babies Collaborative

In Antelope Valley, going to church and learning about breastfeeding can happen all in the same place. Thanks to the Faith Based Coalition, which is part of the Antelope Valley Best Babies Collaborative, pregnant and parenting parishioners from five of the community's largest African American churches can receive up-to-date pregnancy-related information and access to resources free of cost.

The Coalition is made up of "health ministers" from each cooperating church. It was originally formed to prevent preterm births by administering Healthy Babies: Healthy Futures, a grant-based health education curriculum for women of childbearing age. After reaching more than 2,000 women in the community, the Coalition was invited to join the BBC and now offers the curriculum to all BBC enrollees.

"Church is where many of our female parishioners feel safe. They may be more open to information from a health minister than from a doctor," said McKinley Kemp, program director at Black Infant Health, the Coalition's lead agency. "Through the collaborative, we are able to get cutting-edge information out to a population who may not get it any other way." And because African American women are two-to-three times more likely to have a baby prematurely, partnerships like these can have a significant benefit.

With 13 collaborative partners, the AVBBC has reached more than 3,000 local residents since it began in 2005. To learn more about the Antelope Valley Best Babies Collaborative go to www.labestbabies.org.

CHAMPION PROFILE
In Remembrance of Her Son Maxine Jackson Gives Back to the Community

Founder and director of the Cameron Eugene Jackson Children's Library Maxine Jackson has dedicated her life to helping children explore their talents.
Recently honored by L.A. City Councilmember Bernard Parks as a champion for children, Jackson founded the library in 1994 in memory of her son, who died at the age of six from a rare form of brain cancer. Since then, enhancing the library’s programs and services through partnerships has been her focus.

Jackson has received awards from Congresswomen Maxine Waters and Juanita Millender-McDonald, Supervisor Yvonne E. Burke, and Councilwoman Wendy Gruel. She currently serves as co-chairperson for the Literacy Awareness Committee for the 2008 Community Day hosted by Sheriff Lee Baca and Bishop Edward Turner.

Jackson holds a BA in Mass Communications from UCLA, and is a proud grandmother of two.

**Which book has most influenced your life?**
"Secrets of the Ages," by Robert Collier

**What makes you happy? Angry?**
Seeing a child reading a book makes me happy. Not being able to help someone makes me angry.

**What is your favorite way to spend time with an important child or children in your life?**
I love to take my 7-year-old nephew on nature walks.

**What is your idea of a perfect world?**
A perfect world for me is one that is disease free.

**Which living person do you most admire and why?**
I admire Hillary R. Clinton because she is intelligent, persistent, concerned for others and may very well be the first woman president of the United States.