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September 17, 2009

TO: MCAH DIRECTORS

SUBJECT: SIDS ALLOCATION AND STATE MANDATES OVERVIEW

This letter is in reference to the annual SIDS allocation you receive from the MCAH Division, California Department of Public Health (CDPH). The SIDS allocation monies that local health jurisdictions (LHJs) receive are from the Title V MCH Block Grant funds and are designated to be used for SIDS activities. This letter provides guidance on how best to utilize the SIDS allocation, and also provides background information on the suspension of State Mandates regarding SIDS.

As you know, GC §17581 excuses local agencies from performing state mandated programs if funding is not provided in the Budget Act. Beginning with Fiscal Year 2003-2004, State Mandates related to the SIDS program as listed below have been suspended by the Legislature in the Budget Act, and as a result, LHJs are no longer required to provide the services and/or duties listed within those State Mandates. For more information on SIDS laws, refer to the following web site: <http://www.californiasids.com/Universal/MainPage.cfm?p=46>.

1. SIDS Training for Firefighters (Stats 1989, c.1111): HSC §1797.193, requiring firefighters to complete a course on SIDS;
2. SIDS Contacts by Local Health Officers (Stats 1991, c.268): HSC §123740, requiring local health officers to contact persons having custody and control of the infant to provide information and support services;
3. SIDS Autopsies (Stats 1989, c.955): GC §27491.41, requiring coroners to follow prescribed SIDS autopsy protocols; and
4. SIDS Notices (Stats 1974, c.453): HSC §102865, requiring coroners to notify the local health officers within 24 hours of a SIDS autopsy.

As a result of the SIDS State Mandates continual suspension, LHJs were allocated Title V MCH Block Grant Funds for local SIDS activities through the SIDS Program Allocation per MCAH Program Policy Alert #2004/05-07 dated May 3, 2005. This allocation to LHJs from Title V funding is to be used to support SIDS services and activities. The MCAH Program Policy Alert letter provides suggested interventions on how to use the local SIDS allocation. With the current budget crisis, we understand the importance of being flexible and prioritizing activities to meet the needs of the MCAH population. MCAH Division has prioritized SIDS objectives as follows:

1. Contact all parents/caregivers who experience a presumed SIDS death to provide grief and bereavement support services

2. At least one public health professional to attend the State SIDS Annual Conference and/or other SIDS training(s)

It is also strongly recommend that a local SIDS objective be developed to promote SIDS risk reduction activities by providing risk reduction education and materials to the community.

While local SIDS State Mandates have been suspended, state level SIDS Mandates are still in effect.

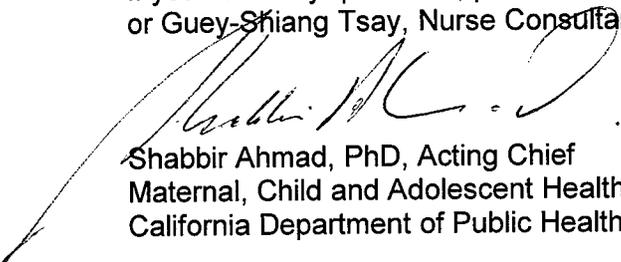
1. MCAH is required by HSC §123745 to monitor compliance by county health officers with HSC §123740, even though MCAH is only monitoring their voluntary compliance. Duties noted under HSC §123740 (currently voluntary) include:
  - Upon being notified by the coroner of a presumed SIDS death, consulting with the infant's physician, when possible; and then
  - Immediately contacting the persons having custody and control of the infant (e.g., family, caregivers, and/or foster parents) to provide information, support, referral, and follow-up services.
2. MCAH is also required by HSC §123730 to keep each county officer advised of the most current knowledge relating to the nature and causes of SIDS.

The MCAH Division, through the California SIDS Program Contractor, provides two SIDS trainings yearly for public health professionals at no cost, except for travel expenses. The California SIDS Program Contractor also provides free consultation and technical assistance to LHJs, as well as free SIDS specific literature, resources, and materials. LHJs can use part of their SIDS allocation to support costs for staff to attend SIDS training(s) and/or the Annual SIDS Conference each year.

It is very important for LHJs to continue to disseminate SIDS risk reduction messages to their local community. Many LHJs have successfully integrated this information into existing programs. You can locate the SIDS materials and resources from California SIDS Program at <http://www.californiasids.com/Universal/MainPage.cfm?p=10>. SIDS risk reduction materials are available at no cost from the Back to Sleep Campaign at: [http://www.nichd.nih.gov/publications/pubs/upload/bts\\_order\\_form\\_2006.pdf](http://www.nichd.nih.gov/publications/pubs/upload/bts_order_form_2006.pdf). Other SIDS materials and training, available at no cost, can also be obtained from the National SIDS Resource Center at: <http://www.sidscenter.org/>.

We acknowledge you and your staff for your hard work during this difficult time. Your efforts help contribute to the continuing decline in SIDS rates.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact your Nurse Consultant, Contract Manager, or Guey-Shiang Tsay, Nurse Consultant for the SIDS Program, at 916-650-0374.



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cc: See next page

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