

# Stone Soup Gazette

Orange County Health Needs Assessment Volume 14, September 1999

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*Stone Soup Gazette*

## OCHNA PROJECT UPDATE: FORMATION OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE IN THE WORKS

By: Heather Dale, Project Coordinator

Over the last several months, the Orange County Health Needs Assessment (OCHNA) Steering Committee held several discussions centered over the strategies necessary to move the OCHNA project forward. Reoccurring themes were the importance of broadening the array of stakeholders at the table and expanding the involvement of the Advisory Committee, which currently houses a number of well-respected decision makers in the community.



Spawned from these meetings was the creation of an Executive Committee, a larger more inclusive group that will phase out and replace the Advisory Committee. The proposed members of this new Executive Committee include nearly all of the original Advisory Committee members and will additionally include a number of other community stakeholders at the Executive level. The decision to create this committee was based on the need to bring some movers and shakers in the community to the table for to address health issues indentified by the OCHNA survey and to problem solve as a community.

It is estimated that the Executive Committee will be meeting quarterly to set goals and priorities and review suggestions and information provided by the Steering Committee and other community action groups in order to move forward. We are currently in the midst of extending formal invitations to the proposed Executive Committee members and anticipate a first meeting to take place in the month of October.

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Keep an eye out for the next issue of the Stone Soup Gazette where we will have an update on Orange County's site visit for the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation health systems planning grant, taking place on September 10, 1999. The collaborative applying for the grant is headed by CalOPTIMA and joined by such organizations as the Healthcare Association of Southern California, Orange County Medical Association, Coalition of Orange County Community Clinics, OCHNA, Health Care Council of Orange County and the Orange County Health Care Agency.

## ACCESS FOR INFANTS AND MOTHERS (AIM) IN ORANGE COUNTY

By Judy Via, AIM Representative, OC

Orange County's enrollment figures for the AIM Program (Access for Infants & Mothers) have shown a significant increase during the past few months. The program provides affordable health care for pregnant uninsured women with moderate incomes. The National Health Foundation, working under a grant from the State, conducts outreach activities in six Southern California counties, including Orange. Health care professionals and community organizations are encouraged to share information about AIM with clients. More than 36,000 women throughout the State have been served by the program since its inception in 1992. Many of many of the women have been referred for services by health care personnel and community organizations.



### What is covered?

- Complete health care services for the AIM client for 60 days after the birth,
- Comprehensive health care coverage for the AIM baby until 2 years of age,
- Health care services are provided by major health plans according to county of residence.

### Who is eligible for AIM?

Pregnant women who:

- are no more than 30 weeks pregnant
- have lived in California for at least six months
- do not have maternity insurance benefits or have a separate maternity deductible of over \$500
- have a family income for this year or last year that is too high to qualify for no-cost Medi-Cal and meet income requirements for family size

### What are the income requirements?

Income eligibility is 200% to 300% of Federal Income Guidelines. For example, a couple expecting their first child needs to show a family income of between \$27,751 and \$41,640.

### What is the cost?

- 2% of gross family income for AIM participant's coverage and AIM baby's first year. For example, the total contribution for a family earning \$30,000 is \$600, payable in 12 monthly installments.
- \$50 for baby's second year of coverage (\$100 if immunizations are not up to date).

AIM is funded by state tobacco tax revenues. Qualified medical, governmental, child care and insurance entities may receive \$50 assistance fee for applicants who are enrolled.

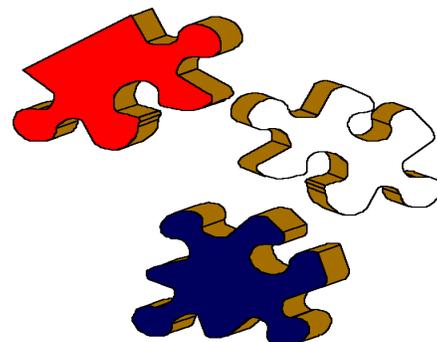
### How to find out more about the program.

**Call 714-564-0778** to talk with the Orange County AIM Representative. In addition to application assistance, staff is available for presentations and application assistance training. Materials are available for display and distribution in a variety of languages.



[WWW.OC.CA.GOV/OCHNA/](http://WWW.OC.CA.GOV/OCHNA/)

Visit our web page and check out what is new and exciting, as we venture forth on our quest for a healthier community. If you have questions, suggestions or wish to get involved, please contact Pamela Austin, Director, at (714) 547-3631, or e-mail her directly at [paustin@hasc.org](mailto:paustin@hasc.org)



## Stone Soup Gazette

The Stone Soup Gazette is the official Newsletter of the Orange County Health Needs Assessment Project. This is a monthly publication. We welcome your comments, concerns or suggestion. Deadline for articles is the 10th of the month.

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## FREE DEPRESSION SCREENING OFFERED TO EVERY ORANGE COUNTY RESIDENT

By: Holly Applebaum, Executive Director, Orange County Psychiatric Society

Depression is a serious medical illness that negatively affects how you feel, the way you think, and how you act. People with depression may feel tired, listless, hopeless, helpless, and generally overwhelmed by life. A free anonymous screening for depression will be offered via a toll-free telephone number, (800) 820- 7003, beginning October 3. The service will continue through December 31, 1999, 24 hours a day.



Underwritten by the non-profit education and mental health advocacy group, the Orange County Psychiatric Society, in conjunction with the National Mental Illness Screening Project, Orange County will be the first county in the nation to be screened in this way.

Mental Illness Awareness Week, October 3 – 10 will be kicked off by the start of this free anonymous screening.

Callers will be led through a series of questions taking 4 minutes or less to complete. The electronic voice will tell the caller if their symptoms suggest depression or not. By entering their zip code, the caller will be referred to a free screening site near them to meet with a psychiatrist or other mental health worker face-to-face. Resource lists will be available for people to find a treatment center that accounts for different insurance coverage and abilities to pay.

Orange County Health Needs Assessment survey results indicated that five percent of all survey respondents report having a mental disorder, which translates to over 100,000 adults in Orange County. In addition, according to data provided by the Orange County Health Care Agency, between 1994 and 1996 more female deaths were attributed to mental disorders than AIDS.

Under the leadership of William E. Callahan, Jr., M.D., a coalition of mental health organizations and hospitals are working together this year to bring Orange County residents up to the minute information on mental illness. The coalition consists of the following organizations who are working together to educate as many people as possible: Alliance for the Mentally Ill Orange County, College Hospital Costa Mesa, La Palma Intercommunity Hospital, Mental Health Association of Orange County, Orange County Psychiatric Society, St. Joseph Hospital, St. Jude Medical Center, and South Coast Medical Center.

Dr. Callahan and the coalition wish to thank Mr. Bruce Edziak, formerly of St. Jude Medical Center, whose idea it was to organize a screening accessible to every Orange County resident.

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## SALSA FOR HEALTH AND HOPE

If you like to network, dance and support the community, you will want to learn more about the Salsa Fiesta. The Salsa Fiesta is a FUNdraiser for Latino Health Access, a non-profit organization dedicated to improving health care access and opportunities for health promotion in Orange County. The evening of fun, food, and dance will also include the honoring of a physician and a corporate friend who have made outstanding contributions to the community this year. Event sponsors will be honored.

The Salsa Fiesta celebrates another year of successful programs and collaborations. Latino Health Access is raising funds to provide more services. Their award-winning programs focus on helping the under-served become self-sufficient through health education, leadership training and active linking to health care and social services.

Latino Health Access programs are facilitated by adult and youth community health workers. These workers are highly trained experts at leading their communities toward health. All Latino Health Access programs and services focus on

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## OCHNA Steering Committee

Len Foster, Co-chair.....Orange County HCA  
 Dr. Gwyn Parry, Co-chair...Hoag Memorial Hosp.  
 Pamela Austin, Project Director.....HASC  
 Anaheim General Hospital  
 Anaheim Memorial Med. Ctr.  
 CalOPTIMA  
 Children's Hospital of OC  
 Coalition of OC Community Clinics  
 Coastal Communities Hospital  
 Chapman Medical Center  
 Fountain Valley Regional Hospital  
 Garden Grove Hospital  
 Healthcare Assoc. of So. Calif.  
 Healthcare Council of OC  
 Hoag Memorial Hosp. Presbyterian  
 Huntington Beach Hospital  
 Irvine Medical Center  
 Kaiser Permanente  
 La Palma Intercommunity Hospital  
 Los Alamitos Medical Center  
 March of Dimes  
 Martin Luther Hospital  
 Mental Health Association of OC  
 Mission Hospital Regional MC  
 Orange County Medical Assoc.  
 Orange Coast Memorial MC  
 Placentia Linda Hospital  
 Saddleback Memorial MC  
 St. Joseph Health System  
 St. Joseph Hospital  
 St. Jude Medical Center  
 Santa Ana Hospital  
 South Coast Medical Center  
 Tustin Rehabilitation Hospital  
 UCI Medical Center  
 West Anaheim Med. Cntr.  
 Western Medical Center/SA/Anaheim

## Advisory Committee

Rimal Bera, M.D. ....Mental Health Assoc.  
 America Bracho, M.D...Latino Health Access  
 Jo Caines .....KOCE TV, Channel 50  
 Mai Cong.....Vietnamese Community OC  
 John F. Dean, Ed. D.....OC Dept. of Educ.  
 Mary Dewane.....CalOPTIMA  
 Ron DiLuigi.....St. Joseph Hospital  
 Len Foster.....OC Health Care Agency  
 Mark Horton, M.D.....OC HCA  
 Gene Howard.. Oranewood Children's Fnd  
 Pat Klotz.....California State PTA  
 Jim Levy.....Senior Citizens Council  
 Stanley C. Lowenberg, M.D. ....OCMA  
 Glenda Mourer.....Family Preserv. & Supp.  
 Martin E. Ogle, M.D.....Emergency Medical  
 Care Committee  
 Gwyn Parry, M.D.....Hoag Memorial  
 Hosp. Presbyterian  
 Juliette Poulson.....Orange County HCA  
 Julie Puentes.....OC Business Council  
 Felix Schwarz.....Human Relations  
 Commission, OC  
 William Shane.....The National Conference  
 The Honorable Charles V. Smith.....  
 OC Board of Supervisors  
 Jim Spriene.....Laguna Beach Police  
 Dept., Rep., Sheriffs and Police Chiefs Assoc.  
 Ron Wright, DDS.....100 Black Men of OC

Grant Administration by the  
 Orange County Community Foundation

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people's "assets," rather than their deficits. "We engage the people whose health is at stake in developing their own health agendas. We support them in these agendas. This process energizes the community and provides an entrance for hope," says Dr. America Bracho, CEO and founder of Latino Health Access.

In addition to health education programs such as HIV, domestic violence and alcohol prevention programs, Latino Health Access is famous for their work with diabetes. According to Dr. Bracho, "Diabetes is devastating our communities and it doesn't have to. We don't have to have amputations on people who are 42. We don't have to have people going blind at 34." Their award-winning twelve session diabetes self-management program has graduated over 3,000 patients. Patients in the program are linked to low cost medical care and participate in a very practical group and individualized instruction sessions. Testimony to the programs success are emotional tear filled program graduations and controlled blood sugar for patients, sometimes for the first time since the development of the disease.



Funds raised from the event will support eye exams and eye surgeries for people with diabetes who might otherwise go blind, as well as other critical medical and informational services – services that often make the difference between being disabled and being able to continue working to support their families.

The Salsa Fiesta will be held on October 15th at 5:30 at the Turnip Rose in Santa Ana. Tickets are available for a \$50 donation. Corporate and business sponsorships are also needed. For more information, please call Ginger Hahn at (714) 542-7792.

## OCHNA

c/o HASC  
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