



California Department of Health Care Services Ordered To Make Timely Decisions on Medi-Cal Coverage



Ebony & her baby

In a decision announced January 20, a Superior Court Judge determined that the state must adhere to the law and ensure that Medi-Cal applications are decided within 45 days. The State Department of Health Services had argued that due to special circumstances, i.e. a new state computer with lots of issues and a surge in applications under Obamacare, the law should not apply. In March 2014, the backlog of unprocessed claims peaked at more than 900,000 applications. Although the state worked to reduce this number, the suit was brought to ensure that no one would be left in the backlog from 2014 without benefits or notice and that another backlog would not emerge with an influx of new applications during Open Enrollment in November 2015.

MCHA is an organizational plaintiff in the lawsuit, and one of MCHA's clients, Ebony, gave a strong declaration about her experience waiting for her Medi-Cal during her pregnancy, two emergency hospitalizations for which she was billed thousands of dollars, and after she gave birth prematurely. Upon hearing about the ruling, she said, "I'm so happy for this outcome that will help so many others."

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See links to media coverage below:

- [Kaiser Health News](#)
- [California Healthline](#)
- [Los Angeles Times](#)
- [LA Daily News](#)
- [Fresno Bee](#)
- [RH Reality Check](#)
- [San Francisco Chronicle](#)
- [Sacramento Business Journal](#)
- [Lake Elsinore-Wildomar, CA Patch](#)

Maternal and Child Health Access - in the news!

Vice-President Biden discusses healthcare during L.A. visit

What would you do if you got an e-mail indicating you'd been tapped to meet with Vice-President Joe Biden to discuss health care and to please send full name, date of birth and social security number? Most of us thought the e-mail to Liz Ramirez, Director of Training at MCHA was spam, but then she got a call explaining the need for security and the process to be part of the meeting. The meeting took place

at Homegirl Café on the outskirts of downtown Los Angeles last Friday to highlight Open Enrollment and discuss health care enrollment for Latinos with the Vice-President Joe Biden and Peter Lee, Executive Director of Covered California.

Others who joined were from Vision y Compromiso, Community Health Councils, Neighborhood Legal Services, as well as Congressmembers Xavier Becerra and Karen Bass, and Dr. Robert Ross from the California Endowment.

The hour-long discussion centered on enrollment barriers, the need to re-authorize CHIP at the federal level ("talk to the Republicans!"), Joe Biden's role in initiating VAWA, the Violence Against Women Act, and the need to continue providing federal funding to California so we don't lose enrollment momentum.



Liz Ramirez, MCHA with Vice-President Joe Biden

[*Biden touts community college proposal, healthcare during L.A. visit*](#)

- By JASON SONG, L.A. Times

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