



Maternal and Child Health Access

Our next Monthly Meeting is scheduled for this Thursday, 2-20-2020

Where?

10:00 AM to 12:00 PM

Maternal and Child Health Access
Patricia Phillips Community Room
1111 W. 6th St., 3rd Floor
Los Angeles, CA 90017
213 749 4261

info@mchaccess.org

Speaker/Topic

Gabrielle Lessard
Senior Policy Attorney
National Immigration Law Center
Update on Public Charge

Health Care/Social Service updates

Black History Month

Oral Health/Children's Dental Health
Month

CLICK HERE TO
RSVP

Public Charge Rule

Update (01/31/20): The U.S. Supreme Court allowed the DHS public charge rule to take effect nationwide while lawsuits continue (except for Illinois, where the rule remains blocked by a statewide injunction). Per USCIS, the final rule will only apply to applications **submitted** on or after February 24, 2020. Medicaid, SNAP ("Food Stamps"), HUD public housing, and "Section 8" housing benefits **received before February 24, 2020 will not be considered in the public charge determination.**

See www.protectingimmigrantfamilies.org for Know Your Rights materials, Research and Action items. Help the immigrants with whom you work understand the distinctions in the rule - whose use of benefits "count" and don't count, and what it means to "count".

Help immigrants who need and should stay on health benefits, especially children and pregnant women, stay on those benefits.

From our meeting Jan. 16, 2020 (see materials on [MCHA website](#)):

**Guest Speaker: Sharon Rapport, California State Policy Director,
Corporation for Supportive Housing**

Ms. Rapport introduced us to what the Corporation for Supportive Housing (CSH), a non-profit, is and does. Supportive housing combines affordable housing with services that help people who face complex challenges live with stability, autonomy and dignity. Supportive housing improves housing stability and has proven to be successful. It is cost-effective and benefits the entire community by improving the safety of neighborhoods and beautifying city blocks with new or rehabbed properties. It is permanent housing that most importantly, has no time limit on residency assigned to it. See their [Fact Sheet](#) on our website. Ms. Rapport also brought materials on interventions to solve homelessness and funding for services - which funding sources exist now and which will expire and the types of services people experiencing homelessness need.

Homelessness definitely impacts other systems, such as health care. Almost 1000 people experiencing homelessness died in Los Angeles in 2018, a sobering statistic. Health care costs for this population are much higher. We know that homelessness is a result of insufficient income for what housing costs. Only one-third of the population have serious mental illnesses or a substance use disorder. CSH sees the solution as housing without a length of stay while services are provided to help people get stable.

Addressing homelessness is a top issue in California, according to surveys, with visible and statistical increases in homelessness. Thankfully, Governor Newsom has made addressing homelessness a top priority, even treating it as an emergency. The last two years have seen funding to local jurisdictions to use with a great deal of flexibility. However, Governor Newsom's plan will have more guidance and required expenditures.

Governor's homeless proposals: The sum of \$750 million will go to the "California Access to Housing & Services Fund - to non-profit regional administrators to pay for board and care rent, to other rental assistance, and to services. The Department of Social Services will administer the fund. Board and Care homes have been a source of low-income housing for those with medical need, but they are closing down rapidly, unable to exist on what they are paid for residents. The Governor also has initiated use of state-owned travel trailers and created a Task Force. Earlier in the week, the task force proposed a statewide constitutional mandate that would legally require local and state governments to create housing and increase services to reduce the number of residents experiencing homelessness. This would require a ballot measure before the voters this November. The task force also delivered 40 [recommendations](#) including creation of a state homelessness team led by a high-level official that would coordinate housing, health and human services and funding.

Addressing homelessness is also a part of the (formerly) CalAIM, now Medi-Cal Healthier California for All waiver renewal planning. One of the workgroups finishing up business is the Enhanced Case Management/"In Lieu Of" Services workgroup. The ECM benefit would replace Health Homes and Whole Person Care and draw on positive outcomes from these programs. However, there is not a 1:1 match in the services provided by the two expiring programs and ECM. The "In Lieu of" services are described as: flexible wrap-around services that the MCP would integrate into its population health strategy. These services are provided as a substitute, or to avoid, other Medi-Cal covered services such as ER utilization, a hospital or skilled nursing facility admission, or a discharge delay. ILOS would be integrated with Case or Care Management for members at medium-to-high levels of risk and may fill gaps in State Plan benefits to address medical or social determinants of health

needs.

Examples of ILOS include but are not limited to: 1) housing transition and sustaining services; 2) recuperative care; 3) short-term non-medical respite; 4) home and community-based wrap around services for beneficiaries to transition or reside safely in their home or community; and 5) sobering centers. There are concerns that these benefits would not be standardized county to county, so recipients might feel they have to move to get what they needed.

Los Angeles County moves to identify funding streams for doula pilot program!

The [January 28 motion](#) from Supervisor Solis, co-authored by Supervisor Ridley Thomas, directs the Department of Public Health, along with other Departments, to produce a 90-day report back outlining funding streams that could expand doula services for middle-income black women, individuals who are incarcerated, and populations not eligible for Medi-Cal, i.e. who may not be income-eligible. The report back must also include suggestions for a Medicaid waiver that would allow expanded doula services for Black women and other at-risk Medi-Cal enrollees. The Department of Public Health will work with the Department of Health Services, the Department of Mental Health and the AAIMM Initiative, including their Community Action Teams, Countywide Steering Committee and Doula Advisory Committee. The report must include the following:

1. Options for framing a Medicaid waiver to allow for the expansion of doula services to Black women and other at-risk Medi-Cal enrollees. As outlined in Section 1115 in the Social Security Act, the United States Secretary of Health and Human Services has the authority to waive specific provisions of health and welfare programs such as Medicaid, including eligibility and funding provisions, which may be waived "in the case of any experimental, pilot, or demonstration project which, in the judgement of the Secretary, is likely to assist in promoting objectives of the program"; and
2. Other federal, state, local and private funding opportunities to ensure the expansion and ongoing funding of doula services, including for:
 - a. Black women who are middle income;
 - b. Incarcerated persons; and
 - c. At-risk populations that are not eligible for Medi-Cal.

Dental Managed Care to go Fee-for-Service in Los Angeles and Sacramento

As part of Governor Newsom's budget, Denti-Cal in Los Angeles and Sacramento will no longer have a managed care option (Los Angeles) nor be mandatory (Sacramento). Instead, one of the [trailer bills](#) states (on page 3) that as of next January:

"Commencing no sooner than January 1, 2021, and subject to Section 14149.81, the department shall ensure that dental services provided as part of dental managed care in the Counties of Los Angeles and Sacramento are exclusively rendered under a fee-for-service delivery system."

NEW SPECIAL ENROLLMENT PERIOD (SEP) GOES LIVE TODAY!

[View the press release here.](#)



Community Partner Alert

BREAKING NEWS FROM COVERED CALIFORNIA

To help consumers who didn't know about the tax penalty or the availability of state subsidies to help pay for health coverage, Covered California has added a Special Enrollment Period (SEP) with new Qualifying Life Events (QLEs)-view the [new Quick Guide!](#)

New QLEs are now available until April 30, 2020, for this distinct Special Enrollment Period:

1. Learned of new PENALTY/FINANCIAL HELP
2. Covered, seeking subsidy

This SEP allows for consumers **currently insured off-exchange (directly through an insurer)** to switch to Covered California in order to receive the new state subsidy and existing federal subsidies if they are eligible. Covered California estimates that **280,000 off-exchange insured Californians** are likely eligible for new state or existing federal subsidies but are leaving that financial help on the table by remaining insured off-exchange. Most of these individuals earn under 400% FPL and would be eligible for both the state and federal subsidy, while about 40,000 would be eligible to receive the new state subsidies for middle-income Californians.

Any consumers insured off-exchange who are seeking on-exchange coverage should work with a Certified Insurance Agent by using our [Help On-Demand feature.](#)

New SEP Coverage Effective Dates and Penalty

Please Note: Regardless of when consumers plan select, they must still effectuate their plan by paying their binder payment timely, per their selected carrier's rules.

RESOURCES

California Substance Use Line

Beginning in December 2019, the California Substance Use Line (CSUL), a collaboration between the California Poison Control System and the Clinical Consultation Center of UCSF, has been offering round-the-clock tele-consultation services for substance use evaluation and management for all California clinicians in any health care setting.

A team of expert physicians, clinical pharmacists and advanced practice nurses are standing by to provide evidence-based guidance and clinical decision support on evaluation and management of opioid, alcohol and other substance abuse.

Please click on the link below to find out more about this exciting and timely program!

<http://www.californiamat.org/2019/12/09/california-substance-use-line/>

More PE, More Nutrition - Apply for a School Grant!

Do your kids or students get at least 60 minutes of physical activity daily? Are they learning about and eating nutritious foods at school? Do they have time to take breaks, practice mindfulness, and explore their imaginations?

If your school could use more opportunities to engage kids in healthy behaviors, then **check out our 2020-2021 school grants!**

Between now and April 3, parents and school staff can apply for a school grant to improve kids' health and well-being, which helps them learn, succeed, and thrive. Read more about the grants, including Parents for Healthy Kids grants and Game On grants for physical activity and/or nutrition initiatives, and download resources to help you with your application. Check back throughout the month of February for additional grant opportunities to be added.

Center for the Study of Immigrant Integration (CSII) Research - [State of Immigrants in Los Angeles County](#)

CSII and the California Community Foundation (CCF) Council on Immigrant Integration- a body that pushes for a society fully inclusive of immigrant communities - released the State of Immigrants in Los Angeles (SOILA) report at CCF's Immigration Summit 2020 on January 9th. SOILA documents how immigrants are faring economically, how they are connected to and engaging in civic life and how LA County creates a welcoming environment. It attempts to cover many facets of immigrant life and provides a base for further inquiry, action, and work for LA County immigrant-serving institutions.

Read the [Executive Summary](#) Or download the [full report HERE](#)

SAVE THE DATE

Feb. 25-26: Essential Access Health's Women's Health Update 2020. California Endowment 8:15 - 4:30. Register today to attend [Women's Health Update 2020](#), a national conference designed for busy health care professionals seeking to enhance their capacity to provide quality sexual and reproductive health services in diverse settings. Conference participants can earn up to 13.5 Continuing Education Credits! [Register now!](#)

Maternal and Child Health Access

1111 W. 6th St., Ste. 400
Los Angeles, CA 90017

213 749 4261 phone
213 745 1040 fax
www.mchaccess.org
info@mchaccess.org

STAY CONNECTED:

