

Maternal and Child Health Access



Monthly Virtual Meeting

This Thursday, February 17, 2022 - 10:00 am to 12:00 pm

Where?

This is a virtual meeting
Do Not come to our location!

10:00 AM to 12:00 PM

After you register (at RSVP
below) look for the Zoom link
in your registration
confirmation email



Speaker/Topic:

Susie Baldwin, MD, MPH
Medical Director, Office of
Women's Health

Los Angeles County
Department of Public
Health

Women's Heart Health
and Prevention

Health Coverage Updates

**Notes from Monthly Meeting Jan. 20, 2022 (see [website](#) for
presentation slides)**

Lucy Quacinella, Multiforum Advocacy Solutions

Lucy Quacinella took us through Governor Newsom's state budget and especially the important health provisions it contains.

In the big picture, the state has a huge surplus even when we consider required spending for schools and debt. The "Gann Limit" is a factor as well - and in some way shape or form funding has to come back to taxpayers when there is a surplus. Gas tax reduction? End certain business taxes? Time will tell...

The highlight is full scope Medi-Cal for all - filling the gap of age 26-49 year olds covered now and as of May 1 for the Older Adult Expansion. This "Health for All" would start Jan. 1, 2024. Some advocates have been pushing continued Medi-Cal for 26 year olds NOW

- no "drop off" once the pandemic is over. This fits in well with No Negative Action - keep those young adults on Medi-Cal. The legislative leaders wanted to convert to a Single Payer, but that has not made progress.

Other highlights include reducing premiums in Children's Medi-Cal, MCAP, C-CHIP, and Working Disabled Medi-Cal to 0 - meaning removing premiums, but the possibility of premiums remains in place for future

Funding for last year's SB 65 improved data collection on maternal mortality
Funding to improve abortion access and support women coming in from other states
Recruit and train 25,000 Community Health Workers - the process for which is being debated

Dental Managed Care continues in Los Angeles and Sacramento as an option.
Some great proposals are being made in Income Support and Development, such as college and career pathways of support, phased-in expansion of California's Food Assistance regardless of immigration status and allowing ALL child support paid by non-custodial parents to go to parents and not count against CalWORKs grant. CalWORKS is going up 7.2%, but still only reaches 54% of poverty.

Lucy covered Universal Preschool and Child Care, as well as Homelessness and Housing proposals and when and in which hearings these proposals will be debated and voted on.

See the full presentation on our [website](#)

New since meeting:

Vaccination provides benefits to infants

Vaccinating women against SARS-CoV-2 in mid to late pregnancy could provide their infants at least some protection against COVID-19 through six months of age, suggests a small study funded by the National Institutes of Health. Compared to infants born to mothers who had COVID-19 during pregnancy, infants born to vaccinated mothers were much more likely to have antibodies against the virus.

Read the full Science Update [here](#).

CA Is Now Accepting Applications to Compensate Survivors of Forced Sterilizations

Thanks to California Latinas for Reproductive Justice for this information - note some links not working; we'll send out again

California is now [accepting applications](#) to compensate survivors of state sponsored forced sterilizations. The California Victim Compensation Board (CalVCB) is now accepting applications through December 31st, 2023.

The "[Forced or Involuntary Sterilization Compensation Program](#)" will provide approximately \$25,000 to survivors who were sterilized at a California state hospital, home, or mental institution between 1909-1979; and survivors who were sterilized while under the custody of the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation after 1979.

HOW TO APPLY

Eligible survivors should contact CalVCB by calling toll-free at:

1-800-777-9229 or visit victims.ca.gov/fiscp. Applications are available in [English](#), [Spanish](#), and other languages through the CalVCB website.

For support with the application or to speak to an advocate in regards to eligibility, please send an email to: comp4reprojustice@gmail.com

PLEASE NOTE: Applying for compensation is completely confidential and compensation will NOT impact your Medicaid, Social Security, Food Assistance, or other federal or state benefits. Compensation will NOT be considered for community property, child support, restitution or a money judgement.

Female docs can make a difference for female patients

Adrianna McIntyre, PhD, MPP, MPH

From Research Corner, A health policy research newsletter from Tradeoffs
Multiple [recent papers](#) suggest female patients receive better care from female physicians. But it's difficult to show that this gender match directly leads to better care. What if female patients who sought out female physicians were also more active participants in their own care, and that's why they had better outcomes? A new NBER [working paper](#) moves us closer to untangling the answers to this tricky question. Researchers Marika Cabral and Marcus Dillender looked at what happened when people were randomly assigned to doctors to see if an injury qualified them for disability benefits through workers' compensation. They found that female patients assigned a female doctor were 5% more likely to be evaluated as having a disability and received an extra \$478 in workers' compensation benefits on average — 8.5% more than female patients assigned to male doctors. But they found no such imbalance for male patients — male and female doctors evaluated them consistently. This was strictly a problem for female patients.

The authors tried to see if the difference could be explained by other patient characteristics — like age, pre-injury income or industry risk level — or other doctor characteristics — like age, type of doctor or birthplace. But none of it mattered. As the authors put it, "...there is something fundamental or essential about gender" driving these disparities.

See more [here](#):

[***Ahora en Español* Questions about pregnancy, fertility and the COVID-19 vaccines answered!**](#)

Dr. Yolanda Tinajero, OB/GYN, and Eva Goodfriend-Reaño, Certified Nurse Midwife, address concerns and counter misinformation about pregnancy, fertility and the COVID-19 vaccines in new Spanish-language FAQ videos from [THE CONVERSATION / LA CONVERSACIÓN](#). With COVID-19 infection associated with a higher risk of premature deliveries, stillbirths and even death in childbirth, there is heightened urgency to provide accurate, accessible information about the COVID-19 vaccines among those currently, or planning, to become pregnant. [According to the most recent data from the CDC, approximately one in three people currently pregnant are not fully vaccinated](#), a higher rate than in the general population.

This series, [along with a corresponding English-language set](#), is produced by KFF with funding from the [California Health Care Foundation](#).

Elderly Simplified CalFresh will have no reports due if no changes!

Elderly Simplified Application Project (ESAP) households are households where:

- All members are age 60+ and/or have a disability, AND
- There is no earned income (but there may be unearned income like SSI or social security).

They are certified for three years' eligibility since there are so few changes. But they have had to do reports at the first and second years.

Beginning March 1, 2022, [ESAP households no longer have to complete a SAR 7](#) (Semi-Annual Report) at months 12 and 24 of their 36-month certification period. The counties will continue to mail ESAP households the SAR 2 at 12 and 24 months. So they will keep getting the reports in case their income has changed, but if no change, they don't have to report. This may be confusing to people.

If gross income goes above the Income Reporting Threshold for their household size, the household must still report this change to the county within 10 days. See [ACL 22-15](#) for more information.

ESAP households are certified for 36 months, meaning that at the end of their certification period they will need to recertify in order to keep their CalFresh.

February is National Children's Dental Health Month!

This month-long national health observance brings together thousands of dedicated health care professionals and local health champions like yourself to promote the importance of good oral health habits.

Establishing good oral health habits at an early age, especially scheduling regular dental check-ups, can lead to a lifetime of good oral health. According to the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), despite being preventable, tooth decay is the most common chronic childhood disease. If left untreated, tooth decay can cause pain that may lead to complications with eating, speaking, and learning.

The good news is that tooth decay is preventable! **All children enrolled in Medi-Cal have dental coverage.** Many parents and guardians may not realize their child has

dental benefits or know how to access dental care. By participating in the annual celebration of National Children’s Dental Health Month (NCDHM) and working together, we can help improve the oral health of our State’s Medi-Cal members and help keep children’s smiles healthy for years to come!

New webpage for NCDHM

In celebration, we have developed a new webpage on SmileCalifornia.org and SonrieCalifornia.org that features campaign material tailored for parents of children aged 0 – 18. **The new webpage features materials such as:**

- Coloring activities for children
- Informational Oral Health Flyers and Infographics for Parents and Caregivers
- Presentations for Medi-Cal Dental Members
- Dental Health Education Packet for K – 5th Grade
- Videos
- And more!

RESOURCES

[Where to Get Your Free N95 Masks in Southern California](#)

(see last month’s newsletter for [where/how to get free test kits](#))

Each adult is eligible for three N95 masks, which are considered the most protective type of face covering against COVID-19. The masks are being supplied by the nation’s strategic stockpile. The masks are adult-sized and are not appropriate for use by children. In Southern California, those retail partners include:

- Albertsons
- Costco
- CVS
- Good Neighbor Pharmacy
- Pavilions
- Ralphs
- Rite Aid
- Sam’s Club
- Vons
- Walgreens
- Walmart

Civil Rights During the Pandemic for People with Disabilities – from the Disability Rights Education and Defense Fund (DREDF)

HHS has issued new guidance in the form of Q&As on the civil rights of people with disabilities during the pandemic. There is some benefit to having issues such as hospital visitation, COVID treatment, and crisis standards of care all gathered in one reference document. The press release and link to the Q&A is below. I hope it can be useful to you in your work, along with California’s state-specific guidance on civil rights during the pandemic and visitation in hospitals or other facilities:

<https://www.dfeh.ca.gov/covid-19-resources-and-guidance/>

<https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CHCQ/LCP/Pages/AFL-20-38.aspx>

<https://www.dhcs.ca.gov/Documents/COVID-19/Non-Discrimination-in-Medical-Treatment-for-COVID-19.pdf>

SAVE THE DATE

February 24, 2 PM “Banning Our Babies: Addressing the Suspensions of Black Children throughout Early Childhood Education”. PEACH – Early Childhood Higher Education Collaborative Register for this event at: <https://bit.ly/3KIHdVm>.

March 7 – May 16, 2022 3-4:30 PM every other Monday - Webinar Series, “[Parenting While Black 2022. Reclaiming, Centering and Affirming our Joy in Raising Black Children](#)”. You can attend just one, or more. Brazelton Touchpoints Center This free webinar series offers a safe and welcoming space to hold conversations for and by Black families.

March 8 - Older Adult Expansion! Spanish translation available! Webinar hosted by National Health Law Program and a number of partner advocacy groups. Advocates will discuss the eligibility and enrollment processes, address Medi-Cal benefits and immigrant concerns, and let you know how to get involved in this momentous implementation effort. Register [here](#).

Thu, Mar 24, 2022 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM PT

Empower Hour Series: Five Legal Tips for People with Cancer - The Cancer Legal Resource Center

This webinar will cover legal issues that may stem from a cancer diagnosis, including employment law, insurance options and disability insurance, and laws that protect people affected by cancer. This “[Empower Hour](#)” webinar series is sponsored by a grant from the Tower Cancer Research Foundation.

Job opportunities available!

Please click on the job title you are interested in to view the full job description and the application process. Provide a cover letter and current resume with your application that specifically outlines your employment history experience and educational background for the job for which you're applying.

MCHA is an Equal Opportunity Employer; women and people of color are strongly encouraged to apply.

- [Director of Health Coverage Training](#)
- [CalFresh Administrative Assistant – Bilingual, Spanish](#)
- [Welcome Baby Outreach Specialist](#)
- [IT Support Technician](#)
- [Health Programs and Benefits Trainer](#)

- [Coordinator Oral Health Advocacy for Children and Pregnancy](#)
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