

Our next monthly meeting is scheduled for this Thursday, February 15, 2018 - RSVP today!



Maternal and Child Health Access

February 15, 2018: Monthly Meeting

Where?	Speaker/Topic
<p>10:00 AM to 12:00 pm Maternal and Child Health Access c/o Patricia Phillips Community Room 1111 W. 6th St., 3rd Floor Los Angeles, CA 90017 213 749 4261 info@mchaccess.org</p>	<p>Nourbese Flint, Black Women for Wellness: Health Issues for Black Women</p> <p>Federal, State and Local Updates</p> <p>Paid Family Leave Update</p>

While we don't require reservations to attend our monthly meetings we do recommend to RSVP so we know you're coming...

[Click here to RSVP!](#)

From the meeting Jan. 18, 2018 (see materials on our website): [HERE](#)

***Guest Speaker:
Cheri Todoroff, Deputy Director, Housing for Health, Los Angeles County Department of Health Services "Housing For Health"***

Housing for Health is a program of the Los Angeles County Department of Health Services (LACDPH) offering a continuum of services to homeless individuals with complex medical and behavioral issues. Seventy "Street-Based Engagement" teams operate countywide by SPA/geography, or where there is a high concentration of homeless individuals: Venice, South LA, Skid Row, Metrorail and hospital campuses are examples. They are coordinated with the LA Homeless Services Authority (LAHSA). Interim Housing exists for individuals recovering from an acute illness who are referred from hospitals and street outreach.

Over a thousand individuals have been helped; these are the most complex patients/clients. Permanent Supportive Housing is offered with no time limit - individuals hold their own lease and clients pay up to 30% of their income, or perhaps nothing at all. More limited rental assistance and targeted supportive services is provided via "rapid re-housing" for recently homeless individuals to help get them back on their feet. "Sobering Centers",

currently only in Skid Row (opened in January, 2017), provide safe, short-term monitoring and management of people under the influence of drugs or alcohol.

The county departments work together: DHS, DMH and DPH SAPC for substance use disorder services. The case management is about 1:20 with peer case managers as well as social workers in on-site or mobile teams. Ms. Todoroff addressed the issue of the federal definition of homelessness and that the ability to be more flexible existed with the addition of local dollars.

To see reports to the County Board of Supervisors on the impact of Measure H (services for homeless people from the sales tax increase initiative), get on the newsletter mailing list and read inspiring stories from people helped, see the county's website [HERE](#). An [excellent article](#) published by the Center for Health Journalism at a few days after our meeting describing more about the impact of housing on use of services and costs to the county.

New since last meeting:

Leaked "Public Charge" Rule: Resources and Next Steps for Advocates

We are horrified at the leaked regulations that would change the rules of the game for immigrants. Advocates have not advertised these proposed rules to clients, but the media and the "grapevine" have gotten the word out and families are seeking reassurance and even giving up benefits for citizen children in some instances. PLEASE read the following points and messages from NILC and CLASP developed as of 2/8/2018 for those immigrants expressing such fear. But please do not introduce fear. Please plan on weighing in on the proposed rules - NILC and other groups will tell us how when the time comes.

Dear Advocates,

We have new information to share on the upcoming proposed regulation (NPRM) on public charge:

* [Linked here](#) is a leaked **DRAFT of the NPRM on public charge**. [Reuters](#) broke the story Thursday (Feb. 8) afternoon. We have developed [top-line messages](#) and will host a briefing soon. In the meantime, this is not a final or even officially proposed rule yet, so we do *not* recommend broadly advising immigrant families about the possibility of future changes, because we do not want to create unnecessary fear and confusion.

* The draft broadly expands the types of benefits to be considered, BUT noncash benefits used **before a public charge rule is finalized** are not likely to be used as a factor in a public charge determination for an individual or family member. In addition, the rule would not affect the types of immigrants who are by law exempt from a public charge determination, including refugees and asylees.

* **The NPRM is still being drafted by U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services**. We have not heard anything new about timing and don't know when it will be sent to the Office of Management and Budget for review prior to being published in the Federal Register for public comment. This is not a final draft and may change before it is published.

* Once the NPRM is published, **there will be an opportunity to weigh in**, and we need a strong pushback.

We have also developed new resources:

- * [Fact sheet](#) on proposed changes to public charge (we'll be updating this soon based on the leaked NPRM draft)
- * [Fact sheet](#) on changes to the Foreign Affairs Manual (FAM)
- * Updated guide on "[Things to Keep in Mind When Talking with Immigrant Families](#)" in light of the leaked NPRM and the changes to the FAM

What can you do to fight back?

As part of a broad and active response to the anticipated regulatory change, state and local advocates can play an important role in educating and organizing within their communities. At the same time, there is a danger in generating panic for immigrant families that advocates must balance. **Below is a list of recommended activities for advocates prior to release of the NPRM.**

* **Recruit networks to join the Protecting Immigrant Families Campaign listserv** at <http://bit.ly/PIFCampaign>. It is essential that we grow this coalition to include health, nutrition, children's, housing, immigration, and anti-poverty groups of all shapes and sizes. We will use the listserv to share information and coordinate a response as soon as the NPRM is released.

* **Become involved in the Protecting Immigrant Families Campaign as an Active Member** and participant of one or more of the working groups on Federal Advocacy, Policy, Field Education/Mobilization, Research, and/or Communications. To learn more about the working groups and requirements to join as an active member, please visit <http://bit.ly/PIFActiveMember>. You can also contact mhardee@clasp.org with any questions.

* **Educate policymakers and local leaders** about the contributions immigrant families make to your economy and culture, and about the critical role of nutrition and health care. Provide information about the current public charge policy, anticipated changes, and sweeping consequences of additional restrictions.

* **Document the chilling effect of the administration's anti-immigrant agenda on your local community.** We want to know about people who are avoiding needed services because of fears related to the leaked Executive Order, FAM guidance, and/or pending public charge regulation. Share stories at publiccharge@nilc.org.

* **Share information with networks of advocates and providers in your community.** Let others know that a regulation implementing changes to the public charge determination is in the works (although not officially filed) and their support will be critical to fight back. Develop a rapid-response plan to identify which organizations will lead local efforts to fight back and drive public comments.

If you receive media inquiries, or for guidance on talking with immigrant families, please use [this updated resource](#) and from the National Immigration Law Center, these [talking points](#), or contact Ed Walz at ed@springboard.partners, who is leading our media response.

Over the coming weeks and months, we will be fighting back through all our campaign tools - policy, legal, field, communications - and we are so glad you are here to fight this with us!

In solidarity,

Protecting Immigrant Families Co-Chairs, Jenny & Jackie (NILC) and Madison, Elizabeth and Wendy (CLASP)

American Medical Association adopts new policies

As reported by Maternal Mental Health NOW, the American Medical Association issued a [press release](#) last November outlining policies adopted by its House of Delegates. Among the health issues addressed is maternal depression and maternal mortality. MCHA looks forward to learning more about how routine depression screening protocols will be encouraged and adopted by individual physicians and/or health plans. Remember that the Comprehensive Perinatal Services Program addresses depression screening in its protocols as well.

Reducing Health Issues Associated with Births

With at least one in seven women experiencing anxiety or depression during pregnancy or in the first year after childbirth and 65,000 U.S. women having serious health complications from pregnancy-related causes, the American Medical Association adopted new policies to encourage a routine protocol that would include depression screening in pregnant and postpartum women. The AMA also will advocate for state and federal legislation that would establish Maternal Mortality Review Committees to analyze the circumstances surrounding deaths that occur during pregnancy or within the first year after childbirth.

"As attention is turned toward the newborn, the health and wellbeing of the mother can, unfortunately, take a back seat, even as preventable physical and mental issues pose dangers. We need to recognize that dangers of post-partum depression and recognize that pregnancy-related deaths have been increasing," said Albert J. Osbahr III, MD, a member of the AMA Board of Trustees.

[Revised Flyer: Medi-Cal recipients can access "non-medical transportation" to visits](#)

Maternal and Child Health Access has worked since 2013 to inform the community of this benefit and to clarify and improve access to all Medi-Cal transport, but especially "non-medical" transportation - to and from a doctor's visit, a pharmacy, or medical supplier to pick up prescriptions or medical equipment or devices, to attend to a sick baby in the NICU, or to receive any other Medi-Cal-covered service, including mental health and dental for beneficiaries who do not have and cannot get transportation on their own. This is a benefit for all Medi-Cal recipients, whether in fee-for-service (regular) or managed care Medi-Cal. **Pregnant women in any aid code should be able to access this transportation.**

Please see our [information sheet](#) and assist your clients as much as possible with this benefit. The ultimate goal, of course, is to need no advocate or provider to claim services, and we hope to get there soon, with your help, patience and documentation of the process to the state contacts provided.

Paid Family and Medical Leave

The Family and Medical Leave Act is 25 years old and has been used by millions, but it is UNPAID leave. California is home to the first paid family leave insurance program in the United States. Since 2004, California's working people have been able to take paid family leave to care for new children or seriously ill loved ones for up to six weeks with some pay. The state's paid leave program builds on its decades-old disability insurance plan, which has guaranteed paid medical leave to people who need to be out of work for serious health issues. See [information here](#).

The National Partnership for Women and Families is working to spread Paid Family Leave nationally - see their work [here](#).

Kentuckians Sue Trump Over Radical Changes to Medicaid

Washington - Fifteen Kentuckians enrolled in Medicaid today filed a class action lawsuit against the Trump administration challenging its approval of sweeping changes to Medicaid law that will endanger the health care of tens of thousands of low-income individuals and families in the state. The plaintiffs are represented by the [National Health Law Program](#) (NHeLP), [Kentucky Equal Justice Center](#) (KEJC), and the [Southern Poverty Law Center](#) (SPLC). Jenner & Block is counsel to NHeLP in this case.

Filed in the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia, the lawsuit charges that Kentucky's recently approved Medicaid waivers violate the Secretary of HHS's authority under the Social Security Act, because they are not an experimental project that is consistent with the objectives of the Medicaid Act. It is the first lawsuit brought to challenge a Trump administration Medicaid waiver approval.

"Through imposition of premiums and cost sharing, 'lockouts,' benefits cuts, and a work requirement, the waiver will radically reshape Medicaid in a manner that, by the State's own admission, will result in substantial reductions in coverage," the lawsuit states.

NHeLP Legal Director [Jane Perkins](#) said the Secretary far exceeded his authority in granting Kentucky's waiver.

"These waiver approvals raise a host of legal issues -- not just the work requirements and premiums but eliminating health care services, such as transportation to health care facilities or providers. This amounts to a project demonstrating how to destroy a strong health care program," Perkins said. "Allowing the State to ignore fundamental Medicaid protections will result in large numbers of low-income individuals and families losing health care coverage. We are calling on the federal court to step in and stop the Trump administration from re-writing the Medicaid Act and stripping Kentuckians of vital health care."

KEJC Senior Attorney Anne Marie Regan said, "The Cabinet's own estimate is that around 95,000 Kentuckians will lose Medicaid coverage. The purpose of Medicaid is to provide medical insurance to people who cannot afford it, not to create barriers to coverage. Demonstration waivers are supposed to make access to health care easier. This approval does the opposite. It is not only in violation of Medicaid law but is immoral."

After HHS announced approval of Kentucky's waiver, the state's Republican Governor Matt Bevin promptly signed an executive order in an attempt to intimidate those at risk from seeking relief in the courts. Bevin's executive order calls for the end of the state's Medicaid expansion if his approved waiver is found to be illegal.

SPLC Deputy Legal Director Samuel Brooke said, "The governor's threat - to punish the 400,000 residents who have received Medicaid under the expansion if a court rules against the Kentucky HEALTH project - is shameless. We will not be intimidated. We will defend the rights of individuals to enroll in Kentucky's Medicaid program."

The lawsuit's plaintiffs represent Kentuckians from all walks of life who rely on Medicaid for their health care. They reside in all parts of the state and are active in various ways in their communities. They include a minister, who is also a mortician, a mechanic, a musician, a retired health care worker, a church administrator, a bank teller, students, caregivers, house cleaners, and housekeepers for a health care center and a university. The plaintiffs have a variety of health care concerns, from high blood pressure, diabetes, and mental health problems to poor vision and dental problems.

Under the approved waiver, they are all in danger of losing Medicaid coverage.

For all of the plaintiffs' stories, see the complaint [here](#). A summary of the lawsuit can be found [here](#)

SAVE THE DATE

Friday, Feb. 16, 10 Am - 12:30 PM:Dental Stakeholder meeting with Denti-Cal state representatives. Meetings held at MCHA, 1111 W. 6th St. Third floor. No parking validation at this meeting (less expensive parking at Good Samaritan Hospital entering on Lucas between Wilshire Blvd and Sixth St.). For past meetings and materials, see [here](#).

Please direct any questions or concerns to: dental@dhcs.ca.gov or ask Monica Ochoa at MCHA.

MARCH 23-24, 2018 INTERVENTION AND BEYOND: BUILDING FOUNDATIONS FOR THE FUTURE - Westin, Pasadena The IDA Southern California Regional Conference along with CalAIMH (California Association for Infant Mental Health) project Keynote Speaker, March 23, 2018 Graciela Tiscareño-Sato, Mother, Author, Bilingual Keynote Speaker, Military Veteran Walk with Me: The Early Intervention Advice & Experiences that Mattered to our Family. Register online [here](#).

SAVE THE DATE - Details coming soon

June 19, 2018: Vivian Weinstein Leadership Day at The California Endowment, Los Angeles

STAY CONNECTED:

