

Our next monthly meeting is scheduled for this Thursday, January. 18, 2018 - RSVP today!



Maternal and Child Health Access

January 18, 2018: Monthly Meeting

Where?

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

Speaker/Topic

Cheri Todoroff, Housing for Health Deputy Director
Los Angeles County Department of Health Services
Housing for Health - 4000 people housed!
Updates -
State Budget Update
Federal issues looming
Presumptive Eligibility for Pregnant Women,
Newborn and other issues

Please note: Covered California will be open for enrollment until January 31. Deadline for February 1 Coverage Extended to January 19. The plan selection deadline for a February 1, 2018 coverage start date has been extended to **Friday, January 19**. Changes made after January 19 to applications in a **Pending** enrollment status with a February 1 coverage start date will push the applicant's coverage start date forward to 3-1-18. **Remember Medi-Cal and MCAP enroll year-round.**

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 Nov. 16, 2017 see handouts [HERE](#)

**Guest Speaker: Marta Bills, MPH, MCH Program Director,
March of Dimes Prematurity Awareness Month "Preterm
Birth: Helping Moms Reduce Risk"**

Ms. Bills gave a fantastic presentation on prematurity statistics and risk factors and the March of Dimes Prematurity Prevention campaign. The March of Dimes (MOD) funds research, helps mothers with support, education and materials and supports families - from pregnancy, through the NICU and beyond. "Preterm Birth" is more complex a term than you might think. According to ACOG, from 20 weeks of pregnancy through 36 weeks is "preterm", with

34-36 weeks "late preterm". 37-38 weeks is "early term", 39-40 weeks "full-term" and 41 weeks "late term". Anything 42 weeks and beyond is considered "post-term".

MOD considers prematurity an urgent issue - it is the #1 cause of infant death; in 2013, 36.3% of infant mortality was prematurity-related. Of the approximately four million babies born each year in the US, 380,000 are premature - that's one in 10 babies. It is a huge cause of long-term problems such as cerebral palsy, chronic lung disease, blindness and hearing loss, as well as intellectual disabilities.

Healthy People 2020 calls for a reduction in prematurity nationally to a rate of 8.1 percent, but as of 2016, with only four years left to meet that goal, we were at 9.8 and trending upward. In California we were even higher, 8.6, and in all areas, African American women do worse. In California, the preterm birth rate among black women is 46% higher than the rate among all other women.

The causes of prematurity are unknown - a woman can do everything "right" and still have a premature baby. The biggest single predictor/cause of a premature birth is a prior premature birth. Thus, MOD has thus launched an aggressive campaign to help identify prior premature births and support women to avoid another, as well as helping to identify signs and symptoms: Optimize evidence-based interventions; target areas and populations with high preterm rates and improve health equity. They are working with eight evidence-based prematurity interventions:

1. Optimize birth spacing and pregnancy intentionality
2. Eliminate non-medically indicated early elective deliveries (inductions and c-sections)
3. Group prenatal care
4. Smoking cessation
5. Low-dose aspirin to prevent preeclampsia
6. Access to progesterone shots for women with a previous preterm birth
7. Vaginal progesterone and cerclage for short cervix
8. Reduce multiple births conceived through Assisted Reproductive Technology

Ms. Bills provided exciting background and research on each of these interventions and ended with posting of resources for parents and community - see the [slide deck](#) posted on MCHA's website.

New since last meeting:

***DACA renewals court-ordered to continue!
Jan. 13, 2018, Update: Due to a federal court order, USCIS
has resumed accepting requests to renew a grant of deferred
action under DACA.***

Until further notice, and unless otherwise provided in this guidance, the DACA policy will be operated on the terms in place before it was rescinded on Sept. 5, 2017. The immigration groups are encouraging renewals! See the explanation below if one's DACA status expired and what to do.

From National Immigration Law Center:

USCIS and DACA Renewal Applications - WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

By Ignacia Rodriguez, NILC, and Sanaa Abrar and Greisa Martinez, United We Dream - Last revised JANUARY 14, 2018

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) has [announced](#) that it would resume accepting DACA (Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals) renewal applications beginning January 13, 2018. This policy change is in response to the January 9 [injunction by a U.S. district court in San Francisco](#) requiring the federal government to resume accepting DACA renewal applications. This policy reversal is the result of several lawsuits challenging the Trump administration's September 5, 2017, [decision to terminate](#) the wildly successful DACA program. This is another victory on the path to winning a permanent solution for immigrant youth, which is the Dream Act, optimally by January 19. We will be providing updates as more information becomes available, but here are the top five things we think you should know:

1. **USCIS is now accepting certain DACA renewal applications.** If your DACA expired on or after September 5, 2016, you may send USCIS a DACA renewal application. This means you must fill out the latest versions of [Form I-821D](#), Consideration of Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals; Form I-765, Application for Employment Authorization; and Form I-765WS Worksheet. If your DACA expired before September 5, 2016, you must reapply by filing your application as a first-time one rather than as a renewal. All applicants, whether filing as first-timers or as renewing, must include the date their DACA expired or will expire on Part 1 of the [Form I-821D](#).
2. **USCIS will not accept new DACA applications from people who haven't applied previously.** No actually first-time DACA applications will be accepted by USCIS. If you are eligible for DACA now but have not applied for it in the past, this announcement does not apply to you.
3. **Requests for advance parole from DACA recipients will not be accepted.** USCIS will not accept or approve any advance parole requests from DACA recipients.
4. **We do not know how long USCIS will continue to accept DACA renewal applications.** The Trump administration stated that it plans to "vigorously" challenge the district court's decision. This means that the window of time available for submitting your DACA renewal application is uncertain. If you fulfill the requirements mentioned above, you should assess whether to apply immediately.
5. **Our fight to get the Dream Act passed by January 19 continues!**

This is a testament to the work that undocumented youth have led to fight back against Trump's decision to end DACA, which was announced on Sept. 5, 2017. However, we can't keep living our lives in monthly - or daily - limbo. Our goal is clear: win the Dream Act by January 19. Not all of us are protected by DACA, so our community remains at risk of detention and deportation until we win a permanent legislative solution. [Text DreamActNow to 877877 to learn how you can join us in pressuring Congress to stand on the right side of history and pass the Dream Act by January 19!](#)

State DHCS retracts misleading grid on dental coverage, prints GREAT new chart for [December, 2017](#) and [January, 2018](#) Denti-Cal bulletins!
Adult Denti-Cal full benefits restored for January 1, 2018!

Denti-Cal has replaced the misleading chart in their November bulletin that concerned MCHA and has included a very effective chart addressing benefits for pregnant women for the restoration of adult dental benefits in January, 2018.

Please note: Although the text of the bulletin notes that "There are no changes to the scope of benefits for the following adult beneficiaries: Pregnant women" - this is because DHCS has

maintained it has always provided these full benefits to pregnant women if medically necessary and documented. Providers may not know or remember that pregnant women in any aid code are entitled to the full range of preventive services, including cleanings. We are thrilled that the chart included on pp. 3-4 of the Dec. and Jan. bulletins shows so clearly that pregnancy-related is just like full-scope! The list is NOT the full list of procedures available of course.

Please contact Monica Ochoa for more information on bi-monthly Stakeholder meetings with Denti-Cal state representatives, or our work in oral health for pregnant women.

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. MCHA and other organizations have sought 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.

Los Angeles twins hunger with homelessness to become the capital of both

As it is with homelessness, Los Angeles is also the hunger capital of the country: More households, some 561,000 of 3,263,069 households in Los Angeles, are hungry or eating too little food or bad food, than anywhere else in the country. A recent [Los Angeles County Public Health Brief](#) explains the data by area, race, age, employment, and education. In an effort to increase the participation rates among LA households, the Board of Supervisors approved a [motion](#) in May, authored by LA County Supervisors Kuehl and Hahn, to identify opportunities to boost enrollment, retention, and reporting, and to adopt a goal of increasing CalFresh participation by at least 20% over two years. An oversight Board for the motion was appointed, and MCHA is proud to have been selected to serve. Of particular concern to us is the loss of many more thousands of CalFresh participants per month than are enrolling. That must change.

A new [white paper](#) from FRAC reviews the latest research on the harmful impacts of poverty, food insecurity, and poor nutrition on the health and well-being of children, adults, and older adults. Two other accompanying white papers describe the critical role of the [Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program \(SNAP\)](#) and [federal Child Nutrition Programs](#) in alleviating poverty, reducing food insecurity, and improving nutrition, health, and well-being.

Folic acid, multivitamins before and during pregnancy may reduce autism risk, suggests NIH-funded study

Folic acid, multivitamins before and during pregnancy may reduce autism risk, suggests NIH-funded study

Children born to women who took either folic acid or a daily multivitamin before or during pregnancy were less likely to have a child diagnosed with an autism spectrum disorder, compared to children whose mothers did not take any prenatal vitamins, according to researchers funded in part by the National Institutes of Health.

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

Parents of newborns don't always follow Safe Sleep recommendations

In a [study released last week](#) in the journal Pediatrics, researchers videotaped parents and babies in their homes at night, as part of a study on how parenting affects infant sleep routines. The parents knew they were being videotaped - they agreed to the study - and yet lots of them broke the Safe Sleep Rules. Read more [here](#). See also: [Vital Signs: Trends and Disparities in Infant Safe Sleep Practices - United States, 2009-2015](#) Noting that in an analysis of 2009-2015 Pregnancy Risk Assessment Monitoring System (PRAMS) data to describe infant sleep practices, among all mothers responding, 21.6% reported placing their infant to sleep in a nonsupine position, 61.4% shared their bed with their infant, and 38.5% reported using soft bedding.

RESOURCES

Mental Health Advocacy Services provides [Fair Housing tips](#) in English, Spanish, Korean - such as Reasonable Accommodation in housing for mentally ill and three-day notices to quit, Reasonable Accommodation and Emotional Support Animals - see their list of topics and join their mail list or just visit their library of topics.

SAVE THE DATE

Monday, January 22, 2018 - ANNUAL UPDATE ON CALIFORNIA EARLY START AND EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION SERVICES 8:30 am (includes coffee/tea and light morning refreshments) 9:00 am - 12:00 pm Panel, Group Discussion and Action Steps Braille Institute 741 North Vermont Avenue, Los Angeles, CA 90029 \$40 IDA Member \$45 Non-IDA Members. [Register here](#)

Feb. 6, 2018 (and April 3, July 10): Jenesse Center, Inc. and Levit Quinn Family aw Center are sponsoring "United for Families Pro Bono Law Project." Free family law clinic event and legal assistance from trained professionals. Call for appointment: 323-299-9496ext. 222.

(by) Tuesday, February 13, 2017 Women's Policy Institute WPI-Local is now accepting team applications! Applications are now open for WPI-Local Class of 2018-19 Learn more by [signing up for one of our January 2018 informational webinars](#). Team applications are due Tuesday, February 13, 2017 at 12 noon PST. Please spread the word and [apply now!](#)

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 here](#)

SAVE THE DATE - Details coming soon - June 19, 2018: Vivian Weinstein Leadership Day at The California Endowment, Los Angeles