

Maternal and Child Health Access



Monthly Virtual Meeting

Thursday, January 20, 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:

**Lucy Quacinella, JD, Multiforum
Advocacy Solutions**

“The California State Budget”

**Additional Updates- Health and
Social Service Coverage**

NOTE: Renewal of Determination That A Public Health Emergency Exists

“As a result of the continued consequences of the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic, on this date and after consultation with public health officials as necessary, I, Xavier Becerra, Secretary of Health and Human Services, pursuant to the authority vested in me under section 319 of the Public Health Service Act, do hereby renew, [effective January 16, 2022](#), the January 31, 2020, determination by former Secretary Alex M. Azar II, that he previously renewed on April 21, 2020, July 23, 2020, October 2, 2020, and January 7, 2021, and that I renewed on April 15, 2021, July 20, 2021, and October 18, 2021 that a public health emergency exists and has existed since January 27, 2020, nationwide.”

“Effective Jan. 16” means through April 15, 2022 – and the Medi-Cal budget assumes no Medi-Cal discontinuances until June 30, 2022.

Notes from Monthly Meeting November 21, 2021 (see [website](#) for presentation slides)

November was Prematurity Awareness Month. According to the March of Dimes, every month, 33,000 babies will be born premature. And rates continue to rise... Please note that the posted agenda for this day included links to two new maternal health articles.

Lucy Quacinella, Multiforum Advocacy Solutions

Lucy Quacinella walked us through recent improvements in pregnancy and post-pregnancy coverage for Medi-Cal and the Medi-Cal Access Program (MCAP). Important dates were provided for this year: today/currently, January 1, April 1 and FY 22-23 (July 1)

Currently:

- The state has now sought to clarify that Emergency and Pregnancy-related (“Restricted”) coverage provides full services during pregnancy. Examples of provider (AEVs) messages are in Lucy’s slide show and the [10-8-21 flyer](#) distributed and posted on our meeting web page and our main web page alert section using the phrase, “the full range of medically necessary Medi-Cal services including medical and dental”.
- The continuance of the public health emergency (PHE) means no negative actions in Medi-Cal; no one is cut off since March, 2020. **Note:** that will continue; see above new date for PHE. So full Medi-Cal services continue after the postpartum period, during the PHE.
- The state will resume eligibility determinations; date uncertain. Medi-Cal WILL continue for anyone identified as pregnant or recently pregnant (within last 12 months) – so someone who has an aid code that can ONLY be for pregnancy (not “emergency and pregnancy”) like M7, M8, M9 or OE, or someone who has reported to DPSS. Aid codes such as M2, M4, 44, 48 cover pregnancy, but also cover non-pregnant people so would not automatically continue after the eligibility determinations resume! Full-Scope aid codes should also report pregnancy so that they don’t miss out on the 12 months and Medi-Cal continuation when redeterminations resume.
- Managed care expands to all pregnant applicants except undocumented people 1-1-22 (see separate flyer here)
 - Medical Exemption Requests (MERs) still exist and can be used for anyone applying for Medi-Cal for pregnancy
- April 1 the federal program for Medi-Cal postpartum coverage goes into effect. This will provide coverage designated as full-scope. Immigration status doesn’t matter and also applies to pregnancies ending in miscarriage or abortion.
- MCHA, a broad advocacy community and federal advocates believe CPSP services should continue for the additional 10 months and are working with the state. We are also clarifying the ability to provide CPSP services in the home.
- July 1, 2022, three new Medi-Cal benefits take effect: Community Health Worker services, Dyadic mental health services for mom and baby but including other family members, and Doula services. More to come on those three.

New:

How to report a pregnancy to DPSS in Los Angeles

1. Call the DPSS Customer Service Center line: (866) 613-3777
2. LADPSS no longer has individual case workers for each beneficiary, so calls go through the Customer Service Center. Depending on the issue the worker who takes the call either inputs the information onto the case at the time of the call, or they write it up and it gets input later.
2. Log onto one's Your Benefits Now (YBN) account (either with the pin received when applied - even if application was not on line DPSS mails you a pin number. Or if client doesn't have a pin they can log on with their case number and birthdate and upload their pregnancy verification or a statement.
3. This [website](#) will go away sometime next year when YBN gets replaced by Benefits Cal.

Use an App people can download onto their phones from the YBN website (<https://www.yourbenefits.laclrs.org/ybn/Index.html> lower right hand corner) or App store to upload documents to their case. It 5. will also go away once BenefitsCal is implemented in Los Angeles, and be replaced by an App from BenefitsCal.

6. **Once the baby is born** the best way to notify DPSS and get the baby added to the case is to call the Infant Registration line- they'll add the baby right away: **(833) 735-9359**

Older Adult Expansion in Medi-Cal (undocumented 50+)

Thanks to Alicia Emanuel, NHeLP

OAE is on track for the May 1, 2022 implementation. See this most recent [DHCS timeline](#). Over the last few weeks, advocates have completed a second round of review on the OAE notice #1, FAQs, & notice #3 and have reviewed the OAE Eligibility and Enrollment plan. As documents are finalized, they will be posted on the DHCS [OAE landing page](#).

DHCS has still not committed to doing any consumer-facing outreach efforts, but progress has been made in getting DHCS to develop global outreach language that can be used by DHCS, county staff, sister agencies (like CDSS) and CBOs/non-profits. This will be released in a MEDIL, like these [here](#).

At long last, DHCS has released the first batch of [OAE data](#). The data breaks down [the estimated transition population](#) by county. The transition population are those who are currently enrolled in Restricted Scope Medi-Cal and *should* be automatically transitioned into Full-Scope Medi-Cal as of May 1.

DHCS announced they will do two webinars, one in February 2022 and one in April 2022

New since meeting:

You Can Order Free COVID Tests From the Government This Week; Here's How Else You Can Get Tests

Starting this week, free at-home rapid COVID tests will be available for order through a government website. But how many can you get, when will they arrive and which tests are available?

WHEN CAN YOU ORDER YOUR COVID TESTS AND HOW?

A new federal website to request free test kits launches Wednesday, with the first shipments going out to Americans by the end of the month. Starting Wednesday, Jan. 19, free tests can be ordered at covidtests.gov, according to the website.

"The tests will be completely free—there are no shipping costs and you don't need to enter a credit card number," the website states.

HOW LONG WILL IT TAKE TO RECEIVE THE TESTS?

The White House says "tests will typically ship within 7-12 days of ordering" through the U.S. Postal Service. USPS reports shipping times of 1-3 days for its first-class package service in the continental United States. Shipments to Alaska, Hawaii, Army Post Office (APO), Fleet Post Office (FPO) and Diplomatic Post Office (DPO) addresses will be sent through Priority Mail.

Importantly, given the shipping and process times, Americans will need to request the tests well before they meet federal guidelines for requiring a test.

HOW MANY TESTS CAN I ORDER FROM THE WEBSITE?

The White House says that "to promote broad access," shipments from covidtests.gov will initially be limited to four rapid tests per residential address, no matter the number of occupants.

"We might be learning that the time of incubation might be a little shorter. So maybe you'd be testing at two days," Ezike said. "Obviously if you're symptomatic, you test right away. But you know, if you want to test at two days, but that negative test... the two days should not make you think, 'Oh good, I'm clear,' you know? You might want to test again and of course symptoms you cannot ignore - scratchy throat, headaches, all kinds of symptoms - anything new can be a symptom of this new illness."

IS THERE ANOTHER WAY TO GET A TEST KIT FOR FREE?

Beginning last weekend, private insurers are required to cover the cost of up to eight at-home rapid tests per month per insured person, according to a new Biden administration rule.

People have the option of buying tests at a store or online, then seeking reimbursement from their health insurance provider. Insurers are being incentivized to work with

pharmacies and retailers to develop plans to cover the cost of the tests with no out-of-pocket cost to customers, but those programs will not be immediately widespread. Those with public health insurance through Medicare, or without insurance, will be directed to covidtests.gov to order tests or to community health centers in their area offering free testing.

[COVID-19: LA County At-Home Holiday Testing](#)

New testing program designed to increase and facilitate access to COVID-19 tests for LA County residents unable to obtain appointments. The Pick-Up Testing Kit program allows residents to pick up a PCR test kit, perform the test and return the completed test to designated sites for processing. Residents will be notified of their test results within 24-48 hours.

Note: no testing sites yet in Pico-Union area – MCHA has requested!

[Blood supplies at a critical low – donate now!](#)

The American Red Cross is facing a national blood crisis – it's worse blood shortage in over a decade, posing a concerning risk to patient care. Last week, [Harbor-UCLA had to close its trauma center](#) for the first time in over 30 years – not because of COVID, but due to the blood shortage Doctors have been forced to make difficult decisions about who receives blood transfusions and who will need to wait until more products become available. Blood and platelet donations are critically needed to help prevent further delays in vital medical treatments. [Donate today](#)

- 10% overall blood donation decline since March 2020.
- 62% drop in college and high school blood drives due to the pandemic. Student donors accounted for ~25% of donors in 2019 accounted for just ~10% during the pandemic.
- Ongoing blood drive cancellations due to illness, weather-related closures and staffing limitations.
- Additional factors like a surge of COVID-19 cases and an active flu season may compound the already bad situation.

Give blood by Jan. 31 and automatically be entered to win a trip for 2 to Super Bowl LVI in LA, PLUS a chance at a home theater package & \$500 e-gift card. [Learn more](#)

[L.A. County foster care system to ramp up services in Indigenous languages](#)

After a 4-year-old boy was severely injured while in the care of his foster mother, Los Angeles County officials will strengthen efforts to provide interpreters in Indigenous languages to families in the foster care system. On Tuesday, the L.A. County Board of Supervisors [unanimously passed a motion](#) by Supervisor Hilda Solis directing the Department of Children and Family Services to come up with a plan to improve its

language services for Indigenous families and to strengthen its Asian Pacific and Native American programs

What's happening with Public Charge?

What: On November 17, 2021, the U.S. Department of State 2019 [published a notice in the Federal Register](#) seeking comments on whether the DOS 2019 interim final rule (IFR) that adopted the DHS 2019 public charge rule should be rescinded or revised. Protecting Immigrant Families' sign on comment strongly recommends that DOS issue rulemaking as soon as possible **to remove the text of DOS's October 2019 rule from the Code of Federal Regulations ("C.F.R."); and restore the longstanding regulatory text that appeared prior to DOS's October 2019 rule.** Comments are *officially* due on Tuesday, January 18th 2022.

PIF suggests this approach because: 1) the chilling effect of the 2019 Trump public charge policy persists and the current DOS policy landscape is confusing for immigrants and their family members; 2) the regulations prior to DOS's October 2019 rule set out a clear and fair policy that worked well for decades; and 3) DOS's October 2019 rule mirrors the discriminatory policy that was found unlawful and vacated by a federal court.

The [comment letter](#), which PIF closed out on Friday, provides more details.

HOUSING RIGHTS CENTER FILES TO PROTECT SECTION 8 VOUCHER HOLDERS

1-800-477-5977 (TTY: 1-213-201-0867) or info@housingrightscenter.org.

The Housing Rights Center (HRC) has filed a lawsuit on behalf of an elderly tenant in Los Angeles who suffered illegal discrimination because she receives a Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher. HRC joins plaintiff Rhina Tejada in bringing this action against Vision Property Investment LLC and its CEO, Lea Rosenfield, for source of income discrimination in violation of city and state law.

Ms. Tejada, a 78-year-old senior on a fixed income, has lived in her Los Angeles apartment for 22 years. In fall 2019, after waiting for many years, she finally received a **Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher** to subsidize her rent. This voucher is funded by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development and administered by the City of Los Angeles, which pays all or a portion of the rent directly to the landlord. But, the lawsuit alleges, Ms. Rosenfield—whose company owns and manages multiple other properties throughout Los Angeles—**staunchly refused to accept the monetary assistance for her long-term tenant and began a year-long campaign to blatantly undermine Ms. Tejada's fair housing rights.** HRC's investigation later uncovered Ms. Rosenfield and Vision Property Investment's multiple illegal actions to avoid accepting Ms. Tejada's lawful rental payments and to deny other Section 8 voucher holders their rights to equal housing. Read [online](#).

RESOURCES

The **UCLA Dream Resource Center** is now accepting applications for the 2022 Dream Summer fellowship. [APPLY NOW](#) to become a fellow or host organization for the 2022 Dream Summer fellowship!

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 Parent Coach – Bilingual English & Spanish](#)
- [Welcome Baby Outreach Specialist](#)
- [IT Support Technician](#)
- [Health Programs and Benefits Trainer](#)
- [Coordinator Oral Health Advocacy for Children and Pregnancy](#)
- [Parent Coach / S6 - Welcome Baby Program](#)

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