



## Maternal and Child Health Access

**MCHA Zoom Monthly Meeting is scheduled for this Thursday, 1-21-2021**

### *Where?*

**10:00 AM to 12:00 PM**

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

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

questions?  
213 749 4261  
[info@mchaccess.org](mailto:info@mchaccess.org)

### *Speaker/Topic*

California State Budget Update for Health  
- Lucy Quacinella, Multiforum Advocacy Solutions

Additional maternal health-related updates - CalAIM's effect on prenatal enrollment, access to blood pressure cuffs under the new Medi-Cal Rx

COVID-19 - Uninsured group, broadening of vaccination groups

CLICK HERE TO  
**RSVP**

**Notes from our meeting No., 19, 2020 (see materials on MCHA website):**

**Guest Speaker:** March of Dimes Prematurity Awareness updates - Lynn Kersey for Mashariki Kudumu

Lynn Kersey provided the March of Dimes (MOD) power point for prematurity awareness month and the release of the latest Prematurity Report Card. The MOD has a long history, starting in 1938 with fundraising to end polio in the United States. Groups went door to door actually collecting dimes, as Lynn did as a child. After funding the polio vaccine, the March of Dimes turned to the prevention of birth defects and infant mortality.

Today, the MOD works to end preventable maternal health risks and death and end preventable preterm birth and infant death. They have launched a Mom and Baby Action Network with a National Equity Network Common Agenda, building on acknowledging and dismantling historical racism, increasing access to integrated high-quality care, promoting

environmental justice, reducing the burden of lifelong economic insecurity and building safe, supportive and connected communities. The MOD recognizes structural racism as the primary root cause of racial and ethnic inequalities in birth outcomes.

We reviewed prematurity statistics by race/ethnicity, and now-infamous statistics that show that race overrides level of education for Black birth outcomes. We reviewed the "blanket change" federal bills that would improve obstetric care and improve perinatal care and health outcomes. These are HR 4995, and the MOMS Act, HR 4996, that would extend health coverage through Medicaid or CHIP, which covers our MCAP, for one year postpartum. We talked about the support the MOD provides to families with a baby in the NICU, and how the MOD supports group prenatal care.

Finally, we reviewed the 2020 MOD Report Card. The annual report has grown to include counties and cities and measures of the social determinants of health - poverty among them. However we slice and dice the statistics, the fact is that our statistics continue to worsen, at the state and county level. Los Angeles City is slightly better, but with a C+ grade. Our work, to improve the conditions around women's and pregnant people's health and improve birth outcomes, is cut out for us, especially during this pandemic. Our posted agenda added links and information discussed in the meeting:

- [Hospital policies for birth partners](#):
- [AAIMM CAT-African American Infant and Maternal Mortality, Community Action Team](#)
- Website that helps families get connected to the free [Welcome Baby program available](#) at 13 hospitals in LA County
- [SB 464](#) - Implicit Bias Training and Data - requires perinatal healthcare providers to take implicit bias tests and training to prevent maternity-related deaths among Black women. The bill, which was authored by Senator Holly Mitchell, also requires all health clinics and facilities to publicize data and information on pregnancy-related deaths.

### **SMILE California - videos and materials; new pregnancy and dental care video; Texting sign-up**

SMILE California - SMILE is California's campaign for good oral health and to help remind Medi-Cal members that dental care is included in their Medi-Cal benefits. SMILE CA has amazing materials and have just come out with a pregnancy video and flyers. We showed the pregnancy and "return to dentist" videos, links below (not linked in our November mailing). Their website [www.smilecalifornia.org](http://www.smilecalifornia.org) has a Spanish toggle in upper right hand corner, and a "FIND A DENTIST" link <https://smilecalifornia.org/find-a-dentist/>. Sign up for the SMILE California texting program! - English, or OR text SMILECA to 31996 to subscribe - Spanish, OR text SONRIECA to 31996 to subscribe

English materials:

- [Smile, CaliforniaÂ Pregnancy Video](#)
- [Smile, CaliforniaÂ Pregnancy Brochure](#)
- [Smile, CaliforniaÂ Pregnancy Flyer](#)
- [Returning to the dentist during COVID-19 video](#)

### **Spanish materials:**

- [Smile, CaliforniaÂ Pregnancy Video](#)
  - [Smile, CaliforniaÂ Pregnancy Brochure](#)
  - [Smile, CaliforniaÂ Pregnancy Flyer](#)
-

**MCHA reviewed changes in health coverage for the pandemic** that we will again review in the upcoming meeting - See full descriptions in November mailing posted.

**[Three important Medi-Cal programs to help with COVID-19 testing and treatment \(including in-patient hospitalization\), regardless of immigration status](#)**

Medi-Cal and Medi-Cal Access Program (MCAP) Protections During the Public Health Crisis - [English](#) - [Spanish](#)

**No Negative Action in Medi-Cal**

**COVID Uninsured in Medi-Cal**

**"Waive", or Get Rid Of, Medi-Cal Premiums During the Pandemic**

## New Since Meeting

### **Significant changes in immigration policies proposed!**

Today, President Biden [announced proposals](#) to create a pathway to citizenship for the millions of undocumented community members in this country - nearly 5 million of which live in the Southwest border states of CA, AZ, NM and TX. Biden also announced an immediate end to the fabricated national border emergency declared by the former administration and a halt to border wall construction [through a Day One Executive Action](#). He also called for shifting taxpayer dollars from building more walls to other investments that are more responsive to the needs of the country. In addition, he proposed legislation that includes a section on ways to "manage the border and protect border communities," and calls for the issuance of updated use-of-force policies and to address the root causes of migration. The bill also re-institutes the Central American Minors program to reunite children with U.S. relatives and creates a Central American Family Reunification Parole Program to more quickly unite families with approved family sponsorship petitions.

[FACT SHEET: President-elect Biden's Day One Executive Actions](#)

[FACT SHEET: List of Agency Actions for Review](#)

[FACT SHEET: President Biden Sends Immigration Bill to Congress](#)

**January 19, 2021**

## **[LA County Large-Scale Vaccination Sites Open; Vaccine Eligibility Opens to County Residents Aged 65 Years and Older](#)**

We have found the pharmacy sites do not yet provide appointments - they do not have vaccine. Each set of contracted groups has its own enrollment process. If you are a Kaiser member and a health care worker, they are vaccinating with a business card or pay stub, and appointment. Eligible groups include front-line outreach workers and volunteers in those efforts. They do not have to have a credential degree such as nursing.

or easiest - [VaccinateLACounty.com](#)

In LA County, we are actively vaccinating the following groups:

- **Healthcare workers** (HCWs) at high and moderate risk of exposure to the COVID-19 virus through their work in any role in health care or long-term care settings. High and moderate risk means the HCW has direct or indirect contact with patients or infectious materials ([Phase 1A](#))
- **Long-term care facility residents** ([Phase 1A](#))

- **Persons age 65 and over ([Phase 1B Tier 1](#))**

Note: Low risk healthcare workers such as administrative support staff without routine in-person patient contact will be offered vaccination in Phase 1B Tier 2. Veterinary Medical Personnel will be offered vaccination in Phase 1B.

Vaccine supply is still extremely limited. We urge patience as we work urgently with our federal and state partners to expand capacity and supply in the weeks ahead.

**You can make an appointment to be vaccinated through this website if you are in one of the groups listed above.**

DO NOT REGISTER FOR AN APPOINTMENT IF YOU ARE NOT IN AN ELIGIBLE GROUP. Doing so will take an appointment slot away from those at highest risk and you will be turned away without proper documentation of your eligibility.

### **Childbirth during COVID-19 pandemic associated with anxiety, post-traumatic stress symptoms, NIH-supported study suggests**

Compared to women who gave birth before the pandemic, women who gave birth in communities with a COVID-19 outbreak were more likely to experience traumatic childbirth-symptoms of strong anxiety or post-traumatic stress disorder triggered by childbirth-suggests a study funded by the National Institutes of Health. The increased stress reported by the women-who did not have COVID-19-may hinder a woman's adjustment to motherhood, mother-infant bonding, and successful breastfeeding. The researchers theorized that the women's heightened stress levels likely stem from hospitals drastically limiting visitors to reduce the spread of the virus, leaving patients alone during a critical life event.

[Read the full Science Update](#)

### **Korean American Diabetes Study**

Do you have diabetes or pre-diabetes / borderline diabetes? Or have you had diabetes/pre-diabetes in the past? Are you an adult who lives in Los Angeles or Orange County? We are looking for Korean Americans - immigrant and American-born - to participate in a two-hour focus group study. You could receive a \$70 Target gift card for sharing your experiences. Your participation will take place entirely online via a Zoom video call in the next three weeks. Help your community from the comforts of your home!

The results of this study will help better understand diabetes in the Korean American community, and inform prevention and intervention programs tailored to your community.

If interested, click on [this link](#) to answer questions to see if you're eligible. It should take about 10 - 15 minutes.

### **Resources**

**State Health Information**

CA recently launched an Office of Health Information Integrity - (CalOHII) is happy to provide you with the [first State Health Information Guidance \(SHIG\) bimonthly newsletter](#). This update shows the exciting directions the SHIG is going, what our staff are working on, and to note our sincere gratitude to you for your efforts and input into this important content. Please direct any questions or insights to our SHIG information mailbox ([shiginformation@chhs.ca.gov](mailto:shiginformation@chhs.ca.gov)).

#### [Brief - Lactation Support for Low-Wage Workers](#)

In California, the number of employers providing support for lactating women has increased, but fewer low-wage workers have benefited. This brief describes the challenges faced by low-wage workers and actions needed to ensure that all working mothers in California reach their breastfeeding goals.

#### [Talking to children about violence - tips for parents and teachers](#) -

Tips and infographics in Spanish and English

#### [Early childhood advocates are working to expand developmental screenings statewide](#)

Tens of thousands of California children with developmental delays aren't diagnosed until they hit the school system. Early childhood advocates, with the support of key leaders, are working to expand developmental screenings statewide. The AAP found that black children's diagnosis for autism is typically delayed more than 3 years after parents express concern, read [here](#):

## SAVE THE DATE

**Thurs. January 28, from 2 - 3 PM. The Department of Health Care Services (DHCS)** will hold a webinar to provide an overview of the relaunch of the California Advancing and Innovating Medi-Cal (CalAIM) [initiative](#) . Please register for the webinar [here](#).

CalAIM builds upon prior successes in health care delivery, and proposes to provide more services and supports for patients with complex needs. Key goals of CalAIM include promoting whole person care, reducing program complexity, and modernizing systems.

The webinar will review the individual components of CalAIM, including changes made to the original proposal based on stakeholder feedback. **Attendees will be able to ask questions about the proposal as time allows.** For more information, please visit the [CalAIM webpage](#).

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### Maternal and Child Health Access

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