

Maternal and Child Health Access



Monthly Virtual Meeting
Thursday, January 19, 2023 - 10:00 am to 12:00 pm

Where?

This is a virtual meeting



10:00 AM to 12:00 PM

After you register, look for
the Zoom link in your
registration confirmation
email

Speaker/Topic:

Guest Speaker: Lucy Quacinella,
Multiforum Advocacy Solutions
State of the State - the
Governor's Proposed State
Budget and Maternal and Child
Health

Health and Social Services
Updates

Health Coverage Updates

Notes from Monthly Meeting November 17, 2022 ([website](#))

Speaker: Guest Speaker Nov. 17, 2022: David Pisani, Director, Advocacy
and Government Affairs, March of Dimes (see reports and slides posted)

David spoke eloquently on two recent reports released by the March of Dimes (MOD), on Maternity Care Deserts and the Prematurity Report Card that MOD releases each November for Prematurity Prevention month and day, Nov. 17 annually. Unfortunately, the rate of prematurity has worsened slightly in CA although we are better than the nation as a whole. And the rate of prematurity overall is 43% worse for Black people giving birth than all other births. Los Angeles as a city is worse still, at a C+ (9.6 per 1000 births) vs. a B- for the rest of the state, at 9.1 per 1000 births. And that rate has worsened.

The maternity care desert report may be surprising, knowing there are areas with NO maternity care in CA and more with minimal maternity care, perhaps one facility. It makes transportation and the ability to access it and food and lodging for long stays more important. This is a timely issue, with the Journal of the American Medical Association release this month of an article, "[Maternity Care Deserts in the US](#)".

“DeCoupling” of Medi-Cal and the PHE

Updates to the Medi-Cal COVID-19 Public Health Emergency (PHE) and Continuous Coverage Unwinding Operational Plan

On January 13, DHCS updated the [Medi-Cal COVID-19 PHE and Continuous Coverage Unwinding Operational Plan](#) to incorporate policy changes as a result of the federal [Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2023](#) enacted on December 29, 2022, and corresponding guidance released from the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) in the form of a [CMCS Informational Bulletin on January 5, 2023](#). The updated plan reflects the delinking of the continuous coverage requirement from the PHE as of April 1, 2023, setting the stage for the resumption of Medi-Cal redeterminations.

From MCHA – this means the first redeterminations will be processed in April . Redeterminations due then and ongoing – not prior – will be subject to “negative action” – or termination of Medi-Cal. The first month people can be cut off Medi-Cal will be July, 2023.

“Family Glitch” – new rule took effect Dec. 12

A new federal rule to address the “family glitch” takes effect Dec. 12, opening the door for nearly 400,000 people to enroll in affordable coverage through Covered California. **The change means families who have been ineligible for financial help because one member is insured through an employer may now be eligible for subsidies to lower the cost of their premiums if they enroll in a Covered California health plan. Starting today, when families apply for 2023 coverage during the current open-enrollment period through Covered California, their eligibility for financial help will be determined by whether the cost of coverage is considered affordable for the employee’s spouse and dependents.**

In October, the U.S. Treasury Department and the Internal Revenue Service [released the final rule](#) to address the “family glitch”. Previously, if a family member had employee-only health coverage that was considered affordable, the employee and their family members were ineligible for federal financial help, even if the cost of family coverage exceeded the affordability threshold and was considered unaffordable.

The [UCLA Center for Health Policy Research](#) estimates that 615,000 Californians are caught in the “family glitch.” Of those, 391,000 people — who previously were not eligible for federal subsidies because a family member had an offer of employer-sponsored coverage — will now be eligible for financial help through Covered California.

According to the study, the 391,000 people who would benefit include:

- 319,000 people who would be able to save money by switching from their employer-sponsored coverage, or coverage through the individual market, to Covered California.
- 72,000 uninsured people who would be newly eligible for financial help through Covered California.

In order to determine whether Californians can benefit from the new rule, Covered California is unveiling a [new affordability tool](#) and [worksheet](#), which can help people estimate whether they or their family members qualify for federal financial help.

In addition to the tool, consumers can also contact an [agent or certified enroller](#), [visit our support page](#) or use Covered California’s [Help on Demand service](#) to have an enroller contact them within 15 minutes.

For more details about this release, please click on the following [LINK](#)

We’ve Got Flyers – Keep using Medi-Cal after a pregnancy!

Thanks to our superstar Melissa and her graphics expertise! Please let us know of any questions or issues you have with providers not accepting the Medi-Cal. After the PHE ends MCHA will change the flyer, so be on the lookout! Access the flyers on our webpage [HERE](#)

What does Mayor Karen Bass’ emergency homeless order mean for LA?

The new mayor's rare use of emergency powers hearkens to Richard Riordan's dramatic rebuilding after 1994 quake

by LINH TAT - Monday, December 12, 2022 – Daily News, Los Angeles

As her first act as mayor of Los Angeles, Karen Bass on Monday, Dec. 12, declared a state of emergency on homelessness, **delivering on a promise** she made on the campaign trail to treat the city's homeless situation – which she called a “humanitarian crisis” – with urgency starting Day One of her administration.

By declaring a state of emergency, Bass and her administration can more aggressively confront roadblocks that have hampered or delayed efforts to address homelessness, fast-track the process for getting more housing built, and allow Bass, as director of the city's Emergency Operations Organization, to coordinate a citywide response to homelessness.

Continue [here](#)

LA City Council Votes to End COVID State of Emergency

The Los Angeles City Council voted on Dec. 7 to end the COVID State of Emergency on Feb. 1, 2023 on the request of Mayor Eric Garcetti, with no prior notice to the public. This when COVID cases are rising at a level not seen in some time.

Los Angeles County is currently facing a surge in COVID-19 cases. The seven-day average daily rate of people testing positive for the virus was 13.5% as of Tuesday, up from 12.6% a week ago, and the number of new infections reported daily has been rising in recent weeks.

The county has already moved into the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's medium virus activity level, after weeks in the low category. The county could move into the high category as early as this week, if the weekly rate of new infections reaches 200 per 100,000 residents.

On a 9-3 vote with Councilmember Mike Bonin, [Marqueece](#) Harris-Dawson and Nithya Raman opposing it, the Council approved an amendment to the item extending the State of Emergency with now end it in February.

Mayor Garcetti issued the following directive:

NOW THEREFORE, I hereby recommend that the City Council terminate the local emergency of March 4, 2020, effective on FEBRUARY 1, 2023.

I FURTHER DIRECT, that a copy of this Notice of Status of Local Emergency be forwarded to the President of the City Council; and hereby request, pursuant to Los Angeles Administrative Code Section 8.31, that the City Council declare and publicize the termination of Local Emergency at the earliest possible date; and

I FURTHER ADVISE, that pursuant to Los Angeles Administrative Code Section 8.31, upon the announcement by the City Council of the termination of the existence of the local emergency effective February 1, 2023, by operation of law, such rules, regulations,

orders and directives shall terminate on February 1, 2023 and be of no further force or effect; and

I FURTHER DIRECT, that all City Departments that have functions related to the City of Los Angeles Renter Protections, including the Los Angeles Housing Department, continue to advise all property owners and tenants of the fact that tenants will have up to 12 months following the expiration of the local emergency to repay any back rent due. On March 30, 2020, the City Council extended the repayment period from 6 to 12 months.

The City Council action, on the last Council meeting day of the year, essentially adopts this directive.

What Does This Mean for LA renters?

The emergency protections covered a number of things: it stopped owner-occupancy related evictions and Ellis Act evictions;

it stopped owners from evicting tenants if they added people or pets to their unit; it pretty much covered everything. After January 31, these various kinds of those no-fault evictions will be allowed again.

In regard to rents that tenants may owe, Tenants continue to have eviction protections for unpaid COVID-19 rental debt and must pay their debt as follows in order to avoid eviction:

- Rent owed from March 1, 2020 to September 30, 2021, tenants must pay by August 1, 2023.
- Rent owed from October 1, 2021 to January 31, 2023, tenants must pay by February 1, 2024.

State Law Non-Payment of Rent Eviction Protections

Tenants who provided their landlord with a COVID-19 Related Declaration of Financial Distress Form by the 15-Day deadline for rent owed from March 1, 2020 through August 31, 2020, cannot be evicted for nonpayment of rent. A landlord must pursue a court action in small claims court for this rent.

Tenants who provided their landlord with a COVID-19 Related Declaration of Financial Distress Form by the 15-Day deadline AND paid 25% of their rent to the landlord for rent owed from September 1, 2020 through September 30, 2021, cannot be evicted for nonpayment of rent. A landlord must pursue a court action in small claims court for this rent.

New Tenant Protections Promised Now in Jeopardy

Ending the State of Emergency in this manner could undermine an agreement to put new tenant protections in place prior to the expiration of the COVID protections due to expire on January 31, 2023,

The City Council had previously adopted the following which is still has not been acted on:

- Extending Just Cause Eviction protections and relocation assistance to all non RSO units.
- A report back on recommendations regarding potential changes to require landlords and building managers to make an exception of any pets in violation of a lease that predates the emergency order and treat the pet as an Emotional Support Animal (ESA) companion animal or therapy animal using the guidelines such as those predicated by the Federal Fair Housing Act for the rest of their natural lives, the duration of the tenancy of the tenants lease, or until such time the tenant voluntarily relocates the pet or themselves.
- Require written notification by landlords to inform tenants of their rights at the onset of a tenancy and the posting of a Tenant Protections Notification in a common area of the rental property in the format prescribed by LAHD.
- Conduct a study on staffing resources needed for enforcement of expanded eviction protections and tenant anti-harassment programs, enhanced relocation assistance, and implementation of an eviction filing system.
- Conduct an expedited economic study of the formula for setting the RSO annual allowable rent increase.
- LAHD to provide a report back in 30 days on a comprehensive outreach campaign to inform tenants, landlords and other interested parties about the Los Angeles City and County COVID-19 Tenant Protections applicable to Los Angeles City residents, with consideration for language access, and particular efforts targeted to tenants in areas identified as having high vulnerability.
- Among additional protections tenant groups are seeking include: protections against evictions for tenants who are struggling to pay rent, a right to counsel for tenants in eviction proceedings, a cap on rent increase for rent- stabilized units and relocation assistance for displacement due to large rent increases.

CalFresh Emergency Allotments are ending in March, 2023

The temporary CalFresh Emergency Allotments which provided a minimum of \$95 for CalFresh households is ending in March, 2023. Beginning in April, 2023, CalFresh benefits will return to the regular benefit amount. Recipients can view the regular benefit amount by signing onto their BenefitsCal account to view the most recent CalFresh Approval/Change Notice of Action.

Tax Filing Extended to May 15

The Governor's office has announced that California will conform to the filing extensions granted by the IRS for California storm victims. This means the Franchise Tax Board (FTB) has extended filing and payment deadlines for many individuals and businesses in California until May 15, 2023.

This relief applies to the following deadlines falling on or after January 8, 2023, and before May 15, 2023:

- **Individual income tax returns;**
- Business return filings normally due between March 15 and April 18, 2023;
- Third and fourth quarter estimated tax payments due on January 17, 2023, and April 18, 2023. Individual taxpayers can skip making the fourth quarter estimated tax payment and instead include it with the 2022 return as long as the return is filed on or before May 15, 2023;
- IRA and health savings account (HSA) contributions; and
- Quarterly payroll and excise tax returns, normally due on January 31, 2023, and April 30, 2023.

In addition, the FTB will suspend the mailing of collection notices to affected taxpayers for the next 30 days, beginning January 13, 2023.

The relief is automatically available to taxpayers who reside or have a business in the following counties:

Alameda	Madera, Marin	Sacramento	Santa Cruz
Colusa	Mariposa	San Benito	Solano
Contra Costa	Mendocino	San Bernardino	Sonoma
El Dorado	Merced	San Diego	Stanislaus
Fresno	Mono	San Francisco	Sutter
Glenn	Monterey	San Joaquin	Tehama
Humboldt	Napa	San Luis Obispo	Tulare
Kings	Orange	San Mateo	Ventura
Lake	Placer	San Santa Barbara	Yolo
Los Angeles	Riverside	Santa Clara	Yuba

The Governor's news release is available [here](#):

Resources

Executive Fellowship

If you or someone you know are an experienced professional looking for a challenge that engages your personal story and values, and that tangibly improves lives in a community or a social realm, apply to be a FUSE Executive Fellow! (I cannot find what FUSE stands for but website is impressive...)

Executive Fellows are FUSE employees and receive an annual base salary of \$80,000 plus benefits.

More information, including the application, is available [here](#):

M-Pox Vaccine as a Family PACT Pharmacy Benefit:

A new alert, [Monkeypox Vaccine as a Family PACT Pharmacy Benefit](#), has been posted to the Medi-Cal Rx Web Portal on 12/21/2022.

If the above link does not take you to this document, simply copy and paste the following link into your browser to access the [Bulletins and News page](#):

**Coalition for Economic Survival Tenants' Rights Clinic
Every Saturday at 10 AM PT**

Via Zoom

- Individual, one-on-one counseling
- Registration required no later than 5 PM on Friday
- Serving renters in the entire Southern California area
- Accommodations for Spanish and Russian speakers provided
- **Request a registration link via email at helpinglarenters@gmail.com**

SAVE THE DATE

National Substance Use Disorder Summit – Families in Recovery: The First 1000 Days Pregnancy, newborns, the first years

Join the Brazelton Touchpoints Center (BTC) for its second **National Substance Use Disorder (SUD) Summit, [Families in Recovery: The First 1,000 Days – Pregnancy, Newborns, and the First Years](#)** on Wednesday, February 1.

Families in recovery are the experts on their families and their children — and on the unique challenges and opportunities of their first 1,000 days. This year, BTC is inviting family members with lived experience with SUD, including those who now devote their lives to supporting other families in recovery, to share with us their expertise.

Date: Wednesday, February 1, 11 AM – 5:30 PM ET / 8 AM – 2:30 PM PT

Where: Virtual – online via Zoom

Registration Fee:

Regular Fee: \$85_

BTC Learning Network members can save \$10! ([Click here](#)) to learn about joining the BTC Learning Network.)

Need to register a group? Group registration can now be done online!

Questions? [Contact us here](#)

Register now for free RHEP Conference on Foster Youth on 2/16/23

Thinking Outside of the Systems: Reimagining healthy sexual development for youth in foster care Feb 16, 2023 9 AM – 5 PM

At this year's Reproductive Health Equity Project for Foster Youth Conference, we are "thinking outside of the systems" we exist within. Conference sessions will discuss the current landscape of sexual and reproductive health, and reimagine what our systems would look like if they were truly made to serve all youth in foster care. Dr Khira Bridges headlines as keynote speaker. Conference sessions include: The state of abortion, alternative birthing experiences, culturally specific programming and models of care, young parenthood and more!

Learn more about the conference [HERE](#):

Register for conference [HERE](#):

Maternal and Child Health Access

1111 W. 6th St., Ste. 400

Los Angeles, CA 90017

213 749 4261 phone

213 745 1040 fax

www.mchaccess.org

info@mchaccess.org

