

Maternal and Child Health Access



Where?

ONLINE!



**Thursday, January 15, 2026
10:00 am to 12:00 pm**

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

Speaker/Topic:

**David Pisana
Advocacy and Government
Affairs, March of Dimes**

**March of Dimes Annual Report
Card, which was released last
November in recognition of
Prematurity Awareness Day**

Plus, MCHA Program Updates!

March of Dimes Report Card

The 2025 March of Dimes Report Card highlights the many factors contributing to maternal and infant mortality and morbidity. Since 2008, March of Dimes has released this report to educate and advocate for better mom and baby outcomes across the US, Washington, D.C., and Puerto Rico. For the fourth consecutive year, the United States earned a D+ grade for preterm birth, marking the longest stretch of the lowest grade in Report Card history. Behind that static letter grade lies a troubling truth: our nation remains stuck in a maternal and infant health crisis. In 2024, nearly 380,000 babies were born preterm—1 in 10 births—placing the US among the highest rates in developed nations. Progress is not reaching the families who need it most

A photograph of a woman with long, dark hair with blonde highlights, wearing a black top, kissing a baby on the cheek. The baby is wearing a white diaper. The background is a plain, light-colored wall.

**HEALTHY MOMS.
STRONG BABIES.**

**From our October 16, 2025 meeting:
www.mchaccess.org/meetings.htm**

**Guest Speakers: Jasmine Gaytan, Victim Services
LA County District Attorney's Bureau of Victim Services-Family Violence
Division
AND MCHA Program Updates**

Domestic Violence and Community Resources The MCHA Monthly Meeting focused on updates and presentations related to domestic violence awareness, health services, and community resources. Celia highlighted the importance of Domestic Violence Awareness Month and introduced Jasmine Gaytan from the LA County District Attorney's Office to discuss victim services. The meeting also covered updates on Covered California, medical debt prevention, and a nutritional study for pregnant women. Additionally, Celia shared information on recent legislative developments, including insulin cost caps and patient debt prevention laws. The

conversation ended with Jasmine's presentation on the services provided by the Bureau of Victim Services, which included assistance for victims of family violence.

Crime Victim Services Overview The Bureau of Victim Services in Los Angeles County has three divisions: direct services, claims verification, and restitution enhancement. The direct services division, where the speaker works, provides assistance to crime victims at courthouses and law enforcement stations, including crisis intervention, emergency assistance, and orientation to the criminal justice system. They also help with the California Victim Compensation Application, court escorts, and the return of property. The speaker explained their role in assisting victims with the initial stages of the restitution process and forwarding information to the District Attorney's Office.

California Victims' Rights Overview The discussion focused on victims' rights in California, particularly those outlined in Marcy's Law (Article 1, Section 28B) and the Penal Code. The speaker explained various rights including the right to respect, safety, case updates, and the right to refuse interviews or discovery requests by the defense. They emphasized the importance of victims completing and returning Marcy's Law packets to inform the district attorney's office of their rights preferences, and discussed the role of victim service representatives in assisting victims with local resources, referrals, and navigating the criminal justice system.

Victim Support and Compensation Procedures The discussion covered rights and support for victims of sexual assault, domestic violence, and other violent crimes, including the availability of support persons during interviews and court testimony. Special procedures for child victims were outlined, such as extra breaks, courtroom modifications, and limited testimony hours. The conversation also addressed compensation options for victims through the California Victim Compensation Program and restitution from convicted defendants, detailing eligibility requirements and available services.

Victim Services and Compensation Overview Jasmine presented on victim services, explaining that the state program provides up to \$70,000 in assistance for funeral, burial, relocation, and income loss expenses following a violent crime. She discussed their holiday giving drive and emphasized the importance of supporting domestic violence victims through victim-centered approaches. The discussion covered how victims can apply for assistance, the need for police reports, and the types of crimes eligible for compensation. Participants asked questions about the application process, timelines for filing reports, and assistance for specific cases, which Jasmine addressed. [Please visit our website to obtain a copy of Jasmine's PowerPoint presentation](#)

MCHA Program Updates

MCHA Program Updates

Covered California Plan Cost Considerations Liz discussed Covered California's metal tiers and emphasized the importance of considering total costs beyond monthly premiums. She highlighted that bronze plans are not favorable due to high deductibles, while silver plans offer better value, especially the Enhanced Silver Plan. Liz also mentioned that the Inflation Reduction Act provided additional assistance, but these benefits will expire at the end of the year, potentially leading to higher premiums. She noted that Covered California is removing a special enrollment reason for low-income individuals and emphasized the importance of accurately reporting income changes to avoid overpayment of premium tax credits.

Medi-Cal Immigration Benefits Restructuring Liz presented updates on changes to Medi-Cal and Kaiser Community Health Care Program. She explained that people without satisfactory immigration status over 19 will have their full-scope benefits frozen, and new

restrictions on asset tests for those over 65 were introduced. Liz also discussed upcoming changes to Medicare eligibility for certain immigrants and highlighted the importance of retaining benefits due to reduced federal flexibilities in renewals.

Materials This Month

There are current and **upcoming changes coming to CalFresh and Medi-Cal**. To keep up-to-date on these changes, visit the [Keep Your Benefits](#) page on the Department of Public Social Services (DPSS) [website](#) for more information and resources, including a [digital media toolkit](#) that is available to download.

As of November 1, 2025, new CalFresh households that do not have a household member over age 60 or with a disability must report heating or cooling utility expenses separately from their shelter costs to remain eligible for the **Standard Utility Allowance deduction**. For more information, please visit: <https://dpss.lacounty.gov/en/food.html>

In addition, Non-Magi Medi-Cal beneficiaries can learn more about asset limit changes here:

- [Medi-Cal Help Center](#)
- [Asset Limit Frequently Asked Questions](#)
- [What Medi-Cal Members Need to Know](#)
- [Changes are coming to Medi-Cal in 2026 - 2027. Find out what's new and why it matters!](#)

LA County Dept. of Consumer and Business Affairs Emergency Rent Relief Program (DCBA)

DCBA launched the Emergency Rent Relief Program for landlords and tenants that were affected by the fires, storms, or other hardships. Click here for a digital toolkit with information and sharable resources in all translated languages: [LA County Emergency Rent Relief Marketing Toolkit - Google Drive](#)

A series of virtual webinars and in-person sessions will be held in the next few weeks. To register for one, click here: [Webinars & Events | LA County Rent Relief](#)

For more information about the Emergency Rent Relief Program, including how to apply, check out www.LACountyRentRelief.com The deadline to submit an application is Friday, January 23, 2026 at 4:59 PM PST.

Governor's Budget Summary 2026-2027

[Governor's Budget Summary 2026-2027](#)

We will have Lucy Quacinella at our meeting next month to present/discuss this in more detail.

The Future of Medi-Cal Commission

The Future of Medi-Cal Commission brings together a distinguished group of leaders from across California's health care landscape to develop a bold, 10-year vision and actionable

roadmap for a more effective and sustainable Medi-Cal program. The Commission's work will culminate in concrete recommendations in early 2027.

Our very own, Liz Ramirez, was nominated and now sits on the Advisory Board!
Register to receive their updates and newsletters here:

[Stay Informed - The Future of Medi-Cal Commission](#)

New CA Laws

New CA laws for 2026, from cellphone limits in schools to a ban on cat declawing. These new laws have gone into effect, including a ban on law enforcement officers wearing masks, cuts to the cost of insulin and a requirement for landlords to provide refrigerators. Click [here](#) to read LA Times piece.

Job opportunities available!

Please click on the job title you are interested in to view the full job description and the application process. And provide a cover letter and current resume with your application that specifically outlines your employment history experience and educational background for which you're applying.

- [Welcome Baby Registered Nurse Part Time 20 Hours per Week - Bilingual in English/Spanish- December 2025](#)

MCHA is an Equal Opportunity Employer; women and people of color are strongly encouraged to apply.

MCHAs Next Monthly Meeting
February 19, 2025
10 am- 12 noon

Maternal and Child Health Access

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