

Maternal and Child Health Access



Monthly (Virtual) Meeting
Thursday, May 16, 2024 - 10:00 am to 12:00 pm



May is CalFresh and Mental Health Awareness Month, AANHPI Heritage Month, Nurses and Teacher Appreciation!

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:

**Lucy Quacinella, Multiform
Advocacy Solutions**
**The State Budget - May Revise
Getting Ready for Hospital Newborn
Enrollments in Medi-Cal**

Updates

Notes from Monthly Meeting April 18, 2024 ([website](#))

Speaker: Kelly Sanks, PhD Climate Impacts Analyst, [Center for Climate Integrity](#) “[LA County’s Climate Cost Challenge: A \\$12.5 Billion Bill to Protect Communities Through 2040](#)”

Emma Silber, Climate Justice Associate, [Physicians for Social Responsibility Los Angeles](#)

“The fight to end neighborhood oil drilling at the local and state level”

Dr. Kelly Sanks and Emma Silber spoke to us about their organizations and the climate work that is their missions. See five studies and flyers referenced and posted on our website for the April meeting date.

The Center for Climate Integrity helps local communities hold oil and gas companies responsible for the massive costs of climate change. The work consists of education, outreach and climate cost studies, most recently of Los Angeles. She referenced, for example, the nearly 15 inches of rain received this year and that 2023 was the hottest year on record and our wildfires. The study is the first-ever attempt to calculate the costs of climate change – 14 different climate impacts and their impacts on municipal, county, state and federal governments in Los Angeles County. Their estimate is that these entities will need to spend at least \$12.5 billion through 2040, over \$9 billion of which will be incurred by municipalities, \$780 million per year. These are a conservative estimate of adaptation strategies, not the cost of the disasters themselves. The 14 adaptations include against increased temperatures, changes in precipitation, other climate impacts and public health. They include everything from stormwater management, to addressing higher pediatric asthma. Of course, the city of Los Angeles has one of the highest estimated future costs. Lower income and higher diversity communities disproportionately lack green space that can cool urban environments.

Dr. Sanks made a compelling case for the public health crisis posed by climate change and focused on the largest public health threats in LA County – urban heat islands, extreme wet weather events and wildfires and how increased temperature will lead to increased cases of pediatric asthma and with increased precipitation added, more West Nile Virus cases. She linked the costs to the burning of fossil fuels and how long ago oil and gas companies knew of the consequences of burning these fuels and the disinformation campaigns and blocking of climate treaties taking place from as long ago as 1976. Similar to Big Tobacco, companies can be held accountable through the courts and Dr. Sanks’ organization tracks such lawsuits. As advocates, we can talk about climate costs, champion California’s own climate accountability lawsuit and encourage our local officials to sue.

Emma Silber, Physicians for Social Responsibility, Los Angeles (PSR-LA). PSR-LA partners medical and health professionals with impacted frontline communities to advocate for public health and environmental justice. She spoke to us of two issues: STAND- LA, Stand Together Against Neighborhood Drilling, Los Angeles, formed in 2013. PSR-LA is the co-chair for STAND and Emma spoke of the history of oil drilling in Los Angeles and an oil site near USC making people sick. They have a huge coalition of neighborhood councils and community organizations. She showed a map of oil wells – active and idle, which are not producing but

haven't been properly closed. Between 6-700 active and 12-1300 idle exist in the city of LA. Wilmington has the largest number of oil wells. The communities have less protection and oil wells are closer to people's homes than even other state allows. A very effective flyer is embedded in the slide, showing the impacts on women's health and reproductive health. Overall, health impacts include headaches, upper respiratory illness, asthma, nausea, nosebleeds and increased cancer risk.

Their campaign has been effective with the City Council; in Dec. 22 they voted to phase out all oil drilling, a nonconforming land use, and in January 2023 for the county. But oil companies filed suit so the 20-year phaseout cannot even start. The city and county phaseout timeline is being examined to see if it can be shortened. PSR-LA and STAND are working to defend the ordinance, pass a cleanup policy by the end of the year and prepare for site redevelopment based on community vision and needs. At the state level they are trying to pass a "setback" health and safety buffer zones between homes and schools – 3200 feet. Even Texas and Louisiana have these setbacks. In California over 28,000 active oil and gas wells are located closer than that to homes, hospitals, and schools. Big Oil has qualified a referendum to overturn 2022 legislation requiring this space/distance. We don't yet know the initiative number. Voters overwhelmingly want to keep the law prohibiting the drilling – 71% - but they may be tricked by the language used and the oil companies have spent and will spend a lot of money on ads saying, for example, that there will be higher gas prices – not true.

Reminders:

Report the pregnancy!! Even though pregnant people under 138% of Federal Poverty can have full-scope Medi-Cal now, we are experiencing many cases of people being cut off Medi-Cal during pregnancy because the county doesn't know the person is pregnant and should not be terminated from Medi-Cal! DPSS will put the person back on Medi-Cal, and we are working to smooth this process, but the mix-ups can delay care!! See [Medi-Cal Eligibility Division Information Letter No. I 23-24](#).

All doors to Medi-Cal open for real time Accelerated Enrollment (AE) into MAGI Medi-Cal on November 1, 2023!

What is AE? Accelerated Eligibility provides temporary Full Scope coverage in real time when a person's application information shows they are eligible for MAGI Medi-Cal (under 138% of federal poverty, using "Modified Adjusted Gross Income" rules). AE lasts until the county completes the final eligibility decision, even if that takes more than the 45-day limit. AE also frees up county time to process the small minority of applications that are not based on MAGI. AE is provided under Medi-Cal eligibility aid code 8E. All immigrants, regardless of status, and pregnant adults who are waiting for a final eligibility decision also go into 8E for Full Scope under AE when their application information shows they are eligible for any MAGI category AE expands to applications submitted directly to the county: Starting November 1, MAGI-eligible individuals applying for Medi-Cal directly to the county using BenefitsCal or by mail, phone, fax or in person will also be granted AE. [MEDIL I 23-45](#); [ACWDL 22- 24](#). See full MCHA Bulletin [here](#).

New since last meeting

[The Governor's Proposed State Budget Revise released](#)

We will talk about the budget proposal, the \$27.6 billion deficit, and its impact on our work at the meeting, but here are some articles and analyses in the meantime, from the [Western Center on Law and Poverty](#), from [CalMatters](#), from the [California Immigrant Policy Center](#). The California Budget and Policy Center has not yet released their analysis.

Updated MIHA State, Regional, and County Data Snapshots Now Available in a Dashboard!

The [Maternal and Infant Health Assessment \(MIHA\) Snapshots Dashboard](#) includes updated 2019-2021 MIHA data and previously released MIHA Snapshots data from 2013-2015 and 2016-2018.

MIHA Data Snapshots:

Provide data for 35 counties with the greatest numbers of births and nine MIHA regions.

MIHA data are representative of all California residents with a recent live birth. MIHA county-level data are available for the 35 counties with the greatest numbers of births. Due to their smaller birth populations and sample sizes, county-level estimates are not provided for the remaining 23 counties. However, regional MIHA Data Snapshots include births from all counties within a geographical region.

Include information on a range of maternal and infant health topics:

- Health status before pregnancy
- Nutrition and weight
- Nutrition program participation
- Intimate partner violence
- Mental health and substance use
- Hardships during pregnancy
- Pregnancy intention and family planning
- Infant sleep and breastfeeding
- Healthcare utilization and health insurance
- Demographics

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Include NEW indicators for 2019-2021:

- Depression before pregnancy
- Ever breastfed

Provide data by key subgroups to inform program and policy development:

- Age
- Education
- Household income
- Neighborhood poverty
- Population density
- Prenatal care payment source
- Race/ethnicity
- Total live births

Highlight disparities to promote health equity for all mothers/birthing people and infants in California.

MIHA is the key data source that provides population-level data that can be used to inform efforts that address the social determinants of health and to target program services and resources. *For more information about MIHA, please visit www.cdph.ca.gov/MIHA or contact us at MIHA@cdph.ca.gov.*

**Just in time for CalFresh Awareness Month:
1) Updated CalFresh Student Eligibility Handbook and
2) Simplified Elder Application**

CDSS released an updated version of their CalFresh Student Eligibility Handbook, which you can find [here](#):

There have been updates to the following sections of the Handbook:

- Restaurant Meals Program (RMP)
- Paid Work Exemption
- Local Programs that Increase Employability (LPIE)
- Exception for California Community Colleges (CCCs) offering a baccalaureate degree (BA)
- Student Income Eligibility for CalFresh
- Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA)
- Verification of Exemptions

New sections that have been added are as follows:

- County Staff Liaisons for Public Institutions of Higher Education
- Participation in an LPIE
- Tracking Student Exemptions
- New Resources added in Appendices

New CF 485 – Elderly Simplified CalFresh Application forms for Application Assistance.

Below are the links to the Large Print version and several translated languages:

- § [CF 485 LP \(12/23\) - CalFresh Elderly Simplified Application](#) - Large Print
- § [CF 485 – Armenian](#)
- § [CF 485 – Chinese](#)
- § [CF 485 – Spanish](#)
- § [CF 485 - Vietnamese](#)

Below is the link to where the CF 485 and CF 485 LP are located:

- § [On-line Forms and Publications A - D](#)

Select the link to the language you are looking for and then find CF 485

- § <https://www.cdss.ca.gov/inforesources/translated-forms-and-publications>

New Report: 131 Million People Live in Areas With Unhealthy Levels of Air Pollution

On April 24, the American Lung Association release its 25th annual "[State of the Air](#)" report. Among the report's [key findings](#) were the following:

- Spikes in deadly particle pollution are the worst they've been in the history of the report.
- People in the U.S. experienced more days with "very unhealthy" and "hazardous" air quality due to particle pollution in 25 years.
- With some exceptions, ozone pollution has generally improved across the country, with 2.4 million fewer people living in an area with unhealthy ozone pollution compared to last year's report.

Read and share the report at [Lung.org/SOTA](#) and learn about air quality in your region:

- [Air quality in your state](#)
- [Cleanest cities](#)
- [Most polluted cities](#)

Take action to improve the State of the Air by [calling on EPA to set long-overdue stronger national limits on ozone pollution](#).

SAVE THE DATE

May 20, 2024 – 8:30 – 4 PM USC Gehr Family Center Research Symposium *Providing High-Quality, Equitable Care Across the Care Continuum Within the Changing Policy Landscape.* At the California Endowment

The USC Gehr Family Center for Health Systems Science and Innovation is hosting its first annual research symposium. We invite researchers, students, health policy specialists, and health care administrators to come together to hear about ongoing research projects and to also discuss new ideas and questions that can help inform broad efforts to improve health equity and reduce disparities. See flyer [here](#):

[Quality of Life for Families XXVII: Strategies in Perinatal Care Engaging Inclusivity with Partners and Families](#) - See brochure [here](#)

[Hilton Los Angeles North/Glendale](#) 100 West Glenoaks Blvd. Glendale, CA 91202 - **May 23, 2024** - Register Online at www.paclac2023.eventbrite.com

Tues., May 28, 2024, 12 PM – 1 PM – Stop the Bleed Training – Dignity Health California Hospital Medical Center. Learn how to help in a bleeding emergency before professional help arrives – free. May is National Stop the Bleed Month. To register call 213-742-5569. Limited to 20 participants.

Friday, June 7, 2024, 9 AM – 12:35 PM – Strategies to Collaborate with Family and Patients to Advance Healthcare Outcomes. Children's Hospital Los Angeles Free Virtual Conference. CME and CEU credits offered. Register [here](#):

RESOURCES

For CalFresh Month in May:

Great news! The California Food Assistance Program (CFAP) has developed an Implementation Newsletter that will be published quarterly (Fall, Winter, Spring and Summer) leading up to the CFAP expansion implementation.

The newsletter will provide a summary of the expansion progress and may include data, participant stories, timelines, and important dates. The Newsletter will be available in both English and Spanish. We have attached the Winter 2024 edition of the Newsletter to this email, and you can also find it on the [CFAP](#) webpage.

Please contact us if you have any questions about the CFAP expansion at CFAP@dss.ca.gov.

“Transitional Age” Youth 18-25 Rental Assistance – South Bay, Antelope Valley, South Los Angeles – If behind on rent or facing housing crisis. 323-786-2413 [APPLICATION](#):

Job opportunities available!

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

- [Project Director Reproductive and Maternal Health](#)
- [Health Programs and Benefits Trainer](#)
- [IT Support Technician](#)
- [Volunteering](#)

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