



## Maternal and Child Health Access

Support the work of  
MCH Access

by giving the gift of  
health care, food  
support and policy work  
that makes lasting  
change!



### In this monthly mailing:

[GUEST SPEAKERS: ESTHER ARIAS MCDOWELL HOTLINE SUPERVISOR SUMMER NAGANO COMMUNICATIONS MANAGER OFFICE OF WOMEN'S HEALTH, LOS ANGELES COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH](#)

[GUEST SPEAKER: MARI LOPEZ, POLICY DIRECTOR, VISION Y COMPROMISO - HEALTH ADVOCACY PROJECT, "IMPROVING HEALTH COVERAGE RETENTION FOR LATINO CHILDREN IN LOS ANGELES COUNTY"](#)

[CHILD HEALTH AND DISABILITY PREVENTION PROGRAM - STATE CHANGES THE RULES](#)

[APPLICATIONS NOW OPEN FOR WOMEN'S POLICY INSTITUTE-COUNTY LEVEL](#)

[HEALTH HAPPENS HERE; THE CAST OF THE POPULAR TEEN DRAMA "EAST LOS HIGH" IS GETTING BEHIND THE](#)

### Next MCH Access Monthly Meeting:

**Thursday, January 21, 2016**  
**10:30 am - 12:30 pm NOTE LATER TIME**

#### LOCATION:

**MCH Access**

**Patricia Phillips Community Room**  
**1111 W. 6th St., 3rd Floor**  
**Los Angeles, CA 90017**  
**(6th St., and Bixel St.)**

#### SPEAKER/TOPIC:

**Guest Speaker: Lucy Quacinella**  
**Multiforum Advocacy Solutions**

**State health budget overview**

**Changes to pregnancy coverage -**

**What are your experiences with clients? Please come and share.**

**Updates**

#### PARKING:

**Free at MCH Access; enter on 5th St. to 2-story parking (between Lucas and Bixel) and walk across the alley to our building**

CLICK HERE TO  
**RSVP**

Please contact our office with any questions regarding this email or visit our [website](#) for further information about our organization.

[AWARENESS CAMPAIGN TO GET THE WORD OUT ABOUT CALIFORNIA'S HISTORIC EXPANSION OF MEDI-CAL](#)

[CALIFORNIA TOPS IN NATION FOR HUMAN TRAFFICKING](#)

[NEWS RELEASE: POVERTY MAY SLIGHTLY INCREASE CHILDHOOD RISK OF NEUROLOGICAL IMPAIRMENT, NIH STUDY SUGGESTS](#)

[CALL FOR APPLICATIONS: PEDIATRIC INJURY PREVENTION SCHOLARS \(PIPS\) PROGRAM](#)

[COMPLAINT SAYS CALIF.'S LOW MEDICAID RATES KEEP LATINOS FROM GETTING CARE](#)

[BEAT THE ODDS SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITY](#)

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### SAVE THE DATE

**Fri., Jan. 22: 8 AM - 4 PM** Resiliency in African American Men "Speaking the Same Language". Charles Drew University Keck Auditorium

Register online or by phone [www.haafii.org](http://www.haafii.org) (323) 292-2002

### EMPLOYMENT

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

Note: The Medi-Cal Access Program, formerly known as AIM, should now be programmed into the state's eligibility computer for pregnancy applications, but it is not seamless. There is no plan choice function so women have to choose their plan and notify the state separately before care can be accessed. Instructions should come up on the computer.

Pregnant women in Covered California reporting a change in income during Medi-Cal are being transitioned to Medi-Cal, erroneously, at the rate of over 100 a month statewide - this could present a problem for disruption in care. Women have the choice to stay in Cov CA even though/if income has dropped. The state is working on ways to present the choice, but a solution is a ways off. For now, women should get a letter, or call the Covered CA customer service line 1-800-300-1506.

### Materials Distributed November 19, 2015 meeting

Click [here](#) for materials distributed

Guest Speakers: Esther Arias McDowell Hotline Supervisor

Summer Nagano Communications Manager

Office of Women's Health, Los Angeles County Department of Public Health

Did you even know that Los Angeles County had an Office of Women's Health (OWH)? Los Angeles is one of the few counties in California that can boast this attention to women's well-being and health issues. MCHA invited OWH staff to speak to our monthly meeting about their activities and resources, and specifically about their campaign for women to recognize their own health needs.

The OWH was established in 1998 after the Board of Supervisors and the LAC Commission for Women convened a Health Care Summit on Women's Health, as a focal point for strategic planning to make county programs and policies more responsive to women. The OWH is part of the Department of Public Health's "Health Promotion Bureau" - - so it is in the right place for work in prevention. Important statistics about women in LA County include:

- Estimated 3.8 million adult women
- Over 68% are women of color
- 46% are foreign-born; 39% speak language other than English
- Aging population - number of women 65+ years expected to double from 2000 to 2050
- Over half of women are living at less than 200% FPL

The OWH improves the health status of women through:

- [Pregnancy Coverage Specialist](#)
- [Administrative Assistant](#)
- [Project Coordinator](#)

[MCHA](#) is an Equal Opportunity Employer; women and people of color are strongly encouraged to apply.

**Join Our List**

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- Systems and policy work (e.g., data dissemination and policy recommendations for LA County's legislative efforts)
- Community level efforts (e.g., health collaboratives, coalitions and workgroups, such as the Reproductive Health and the Environment conference and efforts)
- With individuals (e.g., Multilingual Women's Health Hotline, health outreach at health fairs)

Programs over the years have changed as the needs in LA County have changed. The first initiative was on cervical cancer, due to high rates among women of color and its preventable nature. The hotline was established during this time. From 2002-2009 the OWH operated a mobile outreach program for PAP smears. Now, the Women's Health Hotline handles thousands of calls yearly, with information and referrals for health, mental health and social services, including family planning and pregnancy, doctor appointments, sexually transmitted infections, dental and vision issues, immunizations and housing/food needs.

- 1-800-793-8090
- Hotline operators speak 7 languages: English, Spanish, Cantonese, Mandarin, Korean, Armenian, and Vietnamese.
- Hours: Monday-Friday, 8 am-6 pm.

The OWH's most recent project is to connect women and men into health promotion workshops for chronic diseases, self-management, caregiving and fall prevention. The campaign advertising that "Putting your health last is not putting your family first" was a short-lived media campaign to increase callers and connect them to needed services. Women make 80% of the health care decisions for their family. They are more likely to be caregivers when someone falls ill. Moms are great at multitasking. They make sure to take their children to their doctors' appointments but, ironically, they often forget to schedule their own. The campaign is a call to action. It's a reminder for moms (and other women) to make their own health a priority so they can be there for their loved ones in the years to come. Key "learnings" from the campaign were:

- If funding available, test with focus group.
- For our targeted demographic, focus on broadcast.
- 1-800-793-8090 is not easy to remember. Consider using words, such as 1-800-GET-CARE. Could be confusing, however, if creating for each language.
- The website address is not easy to remember - [www.publichealth.lacounty.gov/owh](http://www.publichealth.lacounty.gov/owh). Consider an easier URL that points to the homepage.
- Although the campaign has ended, the copy is timeless and can be reused and repurposed.

This winter, the OWH is testing wallet cards with their hotline number.

### Guest Speakers: Visión y Compromiso - Health Advocacy Project, "Improving Health Coverage Retention for Latino Children in Los Angeles County"

Mari Lopez, Policy Director

Mari Lopez and Veronica Camacho, Health Advocacy Project Coordinator, presented their project - to identify why children may lose their Medi-Cal during renewal periods and seek solutions to retain Medi-Cal uninterrupted, and therefore medical care for children. It began in 2013 and was conducted in three phases:

- Phase I - Training of Promotores and Community Health Workers on the health system and public health coverage programs, as well as educating parents on coverage options.
- Phase II - Research and analysis
- Phase III - Development of policy recommendations.

The project completed seven focus groups, seven stakeholder interviews and a whopping 600 parent surveys! Visión y Compromiso would like to use the promotores' existing role in the community to help reduce the loss of coverage. Reasons found, through the key informant interviews, for why children lose coverage include:

1. Confusion around application and enrollment process.
2. Hard to understand applications and redetermination forms.
3. Parents don't always realize children have lost coverage until too late.
4. Unopened mail.
5. Limited language accessibility

From these efforts, Visión y Compromiso determined the following about health insurance messaging:

1. Education still needed to shift to a "culture of coverage"
2. There is mistrust, misinformation and confusion about Covered California and Medi-Cal.
3. Simple messages about enrollment are needed that emphasize the importance of family health.
4. Inclusive messaging that is welcomes everyone in the family into the enrollment process is needed.
5. Trusted, informed messengers are most trusted to deliver information on coverage options.

Visión y Compromiso are recommending the following:

- Increased in-person application assistance.
- Establish neighborhood-based centers with trained and knowledgeable staff to assist parents -when parents are available.
- Decrease eligibility workers caseload and improve efficiency of county offices.
- Improve cultural competency and customer service of workers.
- Improve ease of re-enrollment process.

Their recommendations will be taken to the Board of Supervisors and they are asking for support. If you would like more information, contact Veronica at 323-407-4816 or [veronica@visionycompromiso.org](mailto:veronica@visionycompromiso.org).

## CHILD HEALTH AND DISABILITY PREVENTION PROGRAM - State changes the rules

Click [here](#) to see this alert in PDF format.

**Background:** Since 2003, uninsured children receiving a Child Health and Disability Prevention (CHDP) visit could receive temporary, Full Medi-Cal through the "CHDP Gateway" if they had not already been identified as having Restricted Medi-Cal. The coverage lasts for the month of the visit and the month after, and is extended if the family submitted a Medi-Cal application for the child.

This changed in 2015 after federal review of California's "Presumptive Eligibility" (PE) programs. Children going through the CHDP Gateway can now receive temporary Full Medi-Cal under PE only two times a year. Enrollment through the Hospital PE Program counts as one of the two annual CHDP Gateway PE enrollments.

But limiting the PE Medi-Cal enrollment at the CHDP visit to two times a year does not mean that uninsured children no longer have the right to receive actual CHDP services. **Kids are still entitled to health and disability prevention services under the core CHDP program, like immunizations, health screens, school entrance, camp, and sports activity physicals, and follow-up treatment.**

### ALERT

The two-times-a-year PE restriction on receiving full Medi-Cal has (erroneously) resulted in limiting CHDP visits for uninsured children. Children who are not yet enrolled in either Full Scope or Restricted Medi-Cal are being turned away from CHDP visits after the second time going through the Gateway or Hospital PE.

This is apparently happening because when the Gateway computer system was changed to reduce PE to only two times a

year, the payment processing for CHDP services was shut off, too. Currently the only way that children who have exceeded two PE enrollments are able to access CHDP services is if they have been enrolled in either Full Scope or Restricted Medi-Cal.

### **WHAT THIS MEANS?**

**Infants under age one:** The main victims are infants under the age of one year who are supposed to be automatically enrolled in Medi-Cal without an application when the mother had Medi-Cal coverage for the delivery. Since 2003 there has been a "Deemed Eligible" (DE) infants pathway in the CHDP Gateway; if the Gateway finds a match between the mother's Medi-Cal or Social Security Number and the newborn's date of birth, then the baby should be immediately enrolled into on-going Medi-Cal coverage for the entire first year.

But if the mother doesn't bring her number(s) at the time of the infant's first two CHDP visits, or the mother doesn't yet have her case established, as happens even though she has benefits "online" or, as may happen, the state's computer systems fails to find the match to her infant, then these infants are not only not identified as DE for on-going Medi-Cal—they are also now being denied CHDP exams and immunizations for the remaining visits. (click [here](#) to see schedule of periodic visits).

### **WHAT TO DO:**

- Please let MCHA know if you have affected clients or you work in a clinic that has seen newborns with more than two CHDP visits and no Medi-Cal. These families need assistance. The state has been refusing our requests since the end of September to address this urgent matter. Bringing more cases to the state's attention could spur action.

If you work with or in a hospital with maternity, please be aware:

- Use the Newborn Referral Form (NRF) to get the newborn enrolled in Medi-Cal for the year without an application. The NRF is at this [link](#) in English: And [here](#) in Spanish:
- You can also call the county or add the newborn to the mother's on-line Medi-Cal account.

NOTE: The "Hospital PE Gateway" does not try to match up infants with their mothers on Medi-Cal to give a year's worth of coverage, like the CHDP Gateway does. If a newborn gets PE from the Hospital PE Gateway, it "counts" as one of the infant's two CHDP visits for the year. That only leaves one more CHDP visit before the infant's Medi-Cal card must be in hand under the new restrictions for the CHDP Gateway.

In contrast, using the NRF (or calling the county or updating the mother's Medi-Cal account on-line) will get the newborn into Medi-Cal for the year.

**What if**, after the first two PE visits in a year:

- An infant under age one year needs an immunization, well-baby exam for early detection of problems, or follow-up treatment from an earlier CHDP visit?

If the mother had Medi-Cal for the delivery, call the county, or submit a Newborn Referral Form, to register the infant into Medi-Cal without an application. The NRF is at this [link](#) in English: And [here](#) in Spanish:

- a child can't enroll in school without the physical or receive follow-up treatment for a condition identified during an earlier CHDP visit?

Apply for the child's Medi-Cal online in Los Angeles County at <https://www.dpssbenefits.lacounty.gov> or with another county's website, or [www.coveredca.com](http://www.coveredca.com) for the entire state.

- For a child of any age, you can also request a "Fair Hearing" by calling: 1-800-952-5253 (voice) or 1-800-952-8349 (TDD for the deaf/hard of hearing).
  - If there is an "Immediate Need", be sure to describe what the urgency is for the child.
  - These fair hearings are supposed to happen in 10 days. They can be done either over the telephone or in person. You do not need a lawyer or other representative.
- If you are a provider and you are unable to bill for a CHDP exam except through the CHDP Gateway, and this restriction is affecting your patients, please contact the Telephone Service Center (TSC) POS/Internet Help Desk at 1-800-541-5555 and let them know. They are available 6 am to midnight, Monday through Friday, except holidays.

Questions? Please contact MCHA Training or Outreach staff at 213-749-4261 or Lynn Kersey at [lynnk@mchaccess.org](mailto:lynnk@mchaccess.org).

**Applications now open for Women's Policy Institute-County level**

From the Women's Policy Institute:

You can't have too much of a good thing, right?

This might not be true in every situation, but it is true when it comes to the Women's Policy Institute (WPI). Over the last 13 years, we've trained over 350 women to advocate for policy change at the state level in California and they've helped [pass 25 laws](#) that have had far-reaching results. One of those laws, the Domestic Worker Bill of Rights, gave 100,000 women workers their long-denied right to overtime pay.

**But we had to do more.** We knew that we needed to grow our WPI-State program to reach more women. And we knew we needed to train local women leaders in local policy advocacy so that they could influence decisions that directly impact the communities they live in.

**So last year we created WPI-County.** Too many important decisions that affect women's lives and livelihoods are made at the county, not the state, level. So we decided to bring women's voices to the county decision-making table. To demystify and infiltrate the incredibly complicated and often closed off county policy process. [Applications are now open for our WPI-County fellowship. We're recruiting teams of women from Los Angeles, San Bernardino, Riverside and Monterey counties. Learn more by attending our informational webinar on January 14, 2015 at 12 Noon.](#) (The webinar is over, but may be available on line).

WPI-County is a policy advocacy fellowship program for women who want to influence and shape public policy in their counties. We are looking to train 35 powerhouse advocates who are ready to roll up their sleeves and learn how to articulate and shape real policy solutions to modern-day, complex challenges their counties and communities face.

We're looking forward to meeting the candidates. Please spread the word and [apply now!](#)



**#Health4All**

The cast of the popular teen drama "East Los High" is getting behind the awareness campaign to get the word out about California's historic

**expansion of Medi-Cal which -- for the first time -- will include undocumented California children and youth. Check out this [bonus scene](#) from the team at East Los High.**

We at The California Endowment are thrilled to partner with "East Los High" to share the important message that undocumented youth under the age of 19 who are financially eligible will qualify for full scope Medi-Cal as early as May 1. In the meantime,

undocumented youth should enroll in restricted scope Medi-Cal so they will be automatically transitioned into full scope Medi-Cal once the expansion takes place. For in-person enrollment help, families can locate their local health center at [www.localclinic.net](http://www.localclinic.net) (English)/ [www.clinicalocal.net](http://www.clinicalocal.net) (Spanish), or call 855-899-PLUS.

**Here are a few things you can do to help spread the word: Like, Share, Retweet and Repost the "East Los High" Bonus Scene on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#);**

**Email the link to your network so they can check it out and share with THEIR partners; and Post the link on your website.**

A special thanks to Wise Entertainment for their enthusiasm and partnership in sharing the #Health4All message through "East Los High." We are excited to work with them and with you to educate Californians about this opportunity for health and justice for all!  
Sincerely,

The #Health4All team

### [California Tops in Nation for Human Trafficking](#)

January 11, 2016 - Suzanne Potter, Public News Service (CA)

LOS ANGELES - Jan. 11 is Human Trafficking Awareness Day and California has the biggest problem in the nation judging from the number of calls to the [National Human Trafficking Resource Center](#) Hotline. In 2015 the hotline received more than 2,700 calls that led to 711 cases in the Golden State.



That's actually an improvement over 2014 when the state saw more than 900 cases. Jenna Novak is a regional specialist with Polaris, the company that administers the hotline.

Jan 11 is National Human Trafficking Awareness Day (Marjan Apostolovic/iStock)

"Human trafficking is a form of modern-day slavery where an individual is compelled to engage either in commercial sex or some kind of labor through the means of forced fraud or coercion," says Novak. "I think it's happening under our nose everywhere, all of the time."

A [2012 report from the state human trafficking task force](#) found that sex trafficking, in the form of forced prostitution rings, are run by gangs that now use social media to lure victims and attract customers.

It also found almost three quarters of the victims are American-born, not immigrants.

### **News Release: Poverty may slightly increase childhood risk of neurological impairment, NIH study suggests**

Wednesday, January 06, 2016 2:35 PM

Children from low income environments appear to have a higher risk of neurological impairment than those from more economically secure circumstances, according to researchers at the National Institutes of Health and other institutions. This neurological impairment appears to be distinct from the risk of cognitive and emotional delays known to accompany early-life poverty.

Read the full News Release [here](#).

### **Call for Applications: Pediatric Injury Prevention Scholars (PIPS) Program**

Call for Applications: Pediatric Injury Prevention Scholars (PIPS) Program

The Trauma Program at Children's Hospital Los Angeles is currently seeking applications for its innovative summer internship program, the Pediatric Injury Prevention Scholars (PIPS) program. The internship intends to cultivate a deeper understanding of the different components of trauma care in future health care providers, researchers, and public health administrators. Housed within the Trauma Program, the 10-week PIPS program offers students an inside look at the dynamics and operations of a Level 1 Pediatric Trauma Center.

This summer, interns will be selected to work in one of three focus areas: injury prevention, research & evaluation and disaster preparedness/ emergency management. Undergraduate, graduate, nursing, and medical students or graduates are encouraged to apply. To receive an application for the PIPS program, please contact [PIPS@chla.usc.edu](mailto:PIPS@chla.usc.edu).

Applicants should submit a completed application, cover letter, and resume to be considered for the program. Writing samples are also required if applicant is applying to the Research and Evaluation track.

Who Can Apply?:

Any current college or masters' student or recent graduate with a public health or other health related major.

Program Schedule:

- Program Dates: June 13-August 19, 2016

- Duration: 10 weeks
- Schedule: 40 hours per week
- At this time there is no housing or stipend support provided

#### Internship Program Deadlines:

- Application Deadline: February 29, 2016
- Interview Invitations: March 14, 2016- March 31, 2016
- Acceptance: April 15, 2016

### Complaint says Calif.'s low Medicaid rates keep Latinos from getting care

A complaint filed mid-December by the Civil Rights Education and Enforcement Center, along with a coalition of Latino advocates and attorneys, alleges that [California is engaging in unlawful discrimination by paying some of the lowest reimbursement rates in the country to the state's Medicaid providers](#). As some coverage pointed out, the notion that low rates are limiting access to doctors is "not unfounded" and, in some cases, may reduce Latinos' access to care.

### Beat the Odds Scholarship Opportunity

**Closes at 5 p.m. on Friday, January 29, 2016**

For 25 years, the CDF Beat the Odds scholarship program has honored outstanding young women and men for their hard work, and commitment to academic achievement and social justice in their communities, in light of the tremendous obstacles they face daily. Ten students will be selected from the nomination pool by the CDF Beat the Odds Selection Committee. After a year of participation in the program they will be interviewed and qualified as one of five finalists or one of five semi-finalists who will receive the following:

- \* Individualized college and career readiness, mentorship and internship opportunities, leadership development and other academic support services during and beyond high school.
- \* 5 finalists will receive a \$10,000 scholarship, and 5 semi-finalists will each receive a \$1,000 scholarship.
- \* Finalists will be honored at the 27th Annual CDF Beat the Odds Awards, in the winter of 2017. Professional, autobiographical films on each finalist's story will be produced and featured at the awards ceremony.

#### Basic Eligibility

- \* Be a High School Sophomore
- \* Share Your Personal Story

- \* Be Nominated or Seek Nomination
- \* Demonstrate Academic Commitment
- \* Demonstrate Commitment to Social Justice/Community

To apply online and download PDF or MS Word click [here](#):

The CDF Beat the Odds application period will close at 5 p.m. on Friday, January 29, 2016. You can find more information about the CDF Beat the Odds scholarship on our [website](#):

Additionally, if you are interested in scheduling a Beat the Odds scholarship presentation for your youth, please contact Michelle Jones at (213) 355-87 or [mjones@childrensdefense.org](mailto:mjones@childrensdefense.org)

## El Niño preparation

As part of the preparations underway for El Niño, Los Angeles County has launched a robust webpage to communicate emergency information and share preparedness tips with residents, businesses, and community partners:

<http://www.lacounty.gov/elnino>

The webpage provides storm-related resources including safety tips, weather forecasts, and information for homeowners affected by floods and mudslides. Additionally, visitors can find info guides, PSAs, and a dedicated Twitter feed of first responder agencies tweeting about this year's storms. It is mobile-friendly and can be instantly translated into 90 languages.

For those with limited internet access, an informational safety flyer can be downloaded and printed here:

[English](#): [Spanish](#): [Chinese](#):

As a public agency, community partner, or concerned resident, you are welcome to link to the resources on this website, or take any content that may be useful to your customers and constituents. Similarly, we are happy to add any of your own content which many further prepare the 10 million residents of Los Angeles County for the coming El Niño season. Thank you for your partnership in spreading the word.

## CONTACT US

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