

## Maternal and Child Health Access



### Where?

**ONLINE!**



**MCHA Monthly Meeting  
Thursday, July 17, 2025  
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, Devastating  
State and Federal Budget  
Cuts: What now?**

**Federal and state budget  
updates?**

**Thanks to all who donated for our \$29 for 29 years**

**Donations of any size still welcome!**



**From our June 26, 2025 meeting:  
[www.mchaccess.org/meetings.htm](http://www.mchaccess.org/meetings.htm)**

**Guest Speakers: Representatives from agencies working with Medi-Cal Managed Care plans! How does the benefit work now and how will it change in July? From GA Foods – Janet Uy and Carolina Jantac, MS, RD, LD From Mom’s Meals – Brianna Moncada and Angela Sandoval From Project Angel Food- Nancy Lopez and Alyssa Baldino**

Lynn Kersey introduced the topic of this benefit, Medically Tailored Meals/Medically Supportive Foods (MTM/MTF), explaining that meals are one of the 14 CalAIM Community Supports benefits phased in over time and by county, starting in 2022. Community Supports are often paired with Enhanced Care Management, but they are two different benefits with different criteria.

Earlier in June, the State Department of Health Care Services’ News Release announced data showing that the 12 benefits that were studied reduced avoidable emergency department visits, hospital stays and long term care use and show signs of cost savings. The main LA plans – Kaiser, Health Net and LA Care – offer all 14 benefits. Use of the benefits is growing but still need to get out to more people. In 2024, more than 494,000 Community Supports were delivered to 252,000 Medi-Cal members. But there are 14.9 million people enrolled in Medi-Cal, nearly 15 million and only 1.7% of them received a CalAIM benefit. Medically Tailored Meals/Medically Supportive Food has the greatest number of members studied – the most use of any benefit. In April the state released a new Policy Guide for Community Supports and plans are supposed to

Speakers from several of the food providers contracting with Medi-Cal Managed Care plans addressed how their companies’ work with Medi-Cal managed care plans, and some of the changes they see ahead. **(See slides now posted from all speakers.)**

**GA Foods - Carolina Jantac, MS, RD, LD – Director of Clinical Nutrition**

GA Foods has been serving the community for 52 years.

Ms. Jantac started the presentation with excellent statistics about pregnancy in California. She noted that initially, eligibility for MTM was more complex, with prior hospitalization and other requirements, but that had been lifted. The clinical benefits of nutrition pre- and postpartum were reviewed. She emphasized the importance of support, education and attending scheduled visits during the period of time meals are provided in order for the food changes to have lasting effects. Their referral process has several steps, updated for requirements to meet with dietician, etc (see slide 27):

- Identified patient is called
- Referral form completed and sent to GA Foods
- Patient is scheduled to meet with Registered Dietician
- Nutrition prescription developed
- Health plan authorizes and care center calls to set up program and delivery

GA Foods CalAIM Community Support Coordinator is Michelle Huerta [mhuerta@gafoods.com](mailto:mhuerta@gafoods.com) 727-644-2453

**Mom’s Meals – Brianna Moncada, RDN, Director of Healthcare Partnerships**

Mom’s Meals was founded in 1999 and has been in California for 20 years.

Ms. Moncada provided background on the benefit and proven results, with a case study that had taken place in San Bernardino's health plan as well as national results for diabetes, heart disease, renal failure, chronic diseases, behavioral health and post hospital discharge

How referrals work (see Q-code on slides)

- Individuals can submit an inquiry to determine if they are eligible to receive medically tailored meals under the CalAIM Community Supports Program
- Direct Link to referral: [www.momsmeals.com/csform](http://www.momsmeals.com/csform)
- Webpage: [www.momsmeals.com/calaim](http://www.momsmeals.com/calaim)

[Angela.Sandoval@momsmeals.com](mailto:Angela.Sandoval@momsmeals.com) is the Point of Contact for community information and requests.

### **Project Angel Food – Nancy Lopez, MPH, Program Manager**

Project Angel Food has over 35 years providing Medically Tailored Meals – they were founded in 1989 during the HIV/AIDs epidemic and are tripling their capacity with new expansion. Their process, which may have to change in July, is to:

- Confirm eligibility for the patient (their condition qualifies and they have Medi-Cal)
- Pt/Agency submits the referral
- Project Angel Food Submits the Authorization Request
- If approved, patient is a Project Angel Food client

For questions: 323-337-9650

or [communitysupports@angelfood.org](mailto:communitysupports@angelfood.org). Website [angelfood.org/communitysupports](http://angelfood.org/communitysupports)

Points clarified by the speakers included:

- The benefit is designed to address chronic or serious conditions that are nutrition-sensitive. The benefit is NOT a food security program, though it does help with members' food needs.
- Make the request (or have PCP make the request if that's now required) rather than self-select out not to receive the meals.
- One can challenge (file a grievance) if the MTM/MTF is not arranged by the provider or approved by the plan. Community organizations like MCHA and these meal programs can help.
- Each of the services must be tailored by a Registered Dietician Nutritionist or "other appropriate clinician"
- Plans provide tailored meals for diabetics, kidney disease, low sodium and many other nutritional needs.
- Meals are rotated and varied; pictures were shown on the slides
- The meals or groceries provided – separately or together – must meet at least 2/3 of the daily nutrient and energy needs of an average individual
- The MTM/MTF can be authorized for up to 12 weeks. Speakers felt less time was not enough for a return on the investment of time and meals made.
- Cultural preferences/needs not only are allowed but must be considered (halal or kosher meals)

According to the written guidance nutrition education – coaching, counseling, behavioral supports and materials, cooking classes – are encouraged but not required. There may be a change from the maximum number of times you can get the program from once yearly to a lifetime maximum – to be clarified.

Earlier this week, Attorney General Robert Bonta filed a lawsuit against the Trump Administration for illegally sharing personal Medicaid enrollee data with the Department of Homeland Security.

The lawsuit was filed in the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of California, the argument is that the mass transfer of this data violates the law and asks the court to block any new transfer or use of this data for immigration enforcement purposes.

You can view the press release from the AG's office [here](#).

### [Maternal Health for Displaced Women Issue Brief](#)

Displacement can cut mothers off from the care and support they need during pregnancy, childbirth, and the postpartum period. The US is in the midst of a maternal health crisis and people who experience displacement – removal from their home or forced relocation – before, during, or after pregnancy can be at higher risk for poor maternal health outcomes.

See the latest issue brief from Every Mother Counts [HERE](#)

### **Gender Equity Policy Institute's New Report – Maternal Mortality in the US After Abortion Bans**

Post-Dobbs, maternal mortality has declined 21% in states where abortion is legal and accessible, as reported in the new study **Maternal Mortality in the United States After Abortion Bans**.

The report, the fourth in Gender Equity Policy Institute's series on **Reproductive Health in the United States**, compares maternal health outcomes in states where abortion is banned to supportive states where it remains legal.

But you know that there is bad news. Women in banned states face double the risk of death during pregnancy, compared to those in supportive states. In short, living in an abortion ban state is hazardous to women's health.

### [Attorney General Bonta Releases Third Annual State of Pride Report in Honor of Pride Month](#)

*State of Pride Report highlights DOJ's actions to defend and expand the civil rights of the LGBTQ+ community amid ongoing threats to justice and equality*

**OAKLAND** — California Attorney General Rob Bonta today, in honor of Pride Month, issued a new "State of Pride Report" highlighting the California Department of Justice's (DOJ) recent actions to support, uplift, and defend the rights of LGBTQ+ communities across California and beyond. Pride Month is a time to celebrate the beautiful strength and diversity of LGBTQ+ communities, as well as reflect on the struggles, sacrifices, and historic accomplishments of the LGBTQ+ equality movement. Despite the immense

progress that has been achieved, LGBTQ+ individuals continue to face deeply rooted and emerging challenges across the nation. Amidst a rise in attacks on LGBTQ+ rights, DOJ remains steadfast in its commitment to fight alongside LGBTQ+ communities in pursuit of justice and equality.

“As a proud ally and advocate, I stand in solidarity with our LGBTQ+ community this Pride Month and every month,” **said Attorney General Bonta**. “Amidst a rise in attacks on LGBTQ+ rights, it is more important than ever that we recommit ourselves to the ongoing fight for equality, safety, and inclusion. Today’s report highlights our commitment to defending, expanding, and advancing LGBTQ+ rights. It also underscores the work that remains to be done to ensure LGBTQ+ individuals have access to all the rights and resources they deserve. As the People’s Attorney, I remain steadfast in my commitment to using every tool at my disposal to safeguard the rights, freedoms, and wellbeing of our LGBTQ+ community.”

The State of Pride Report presents detailed insight into DOJ’s latest initiatives to confront hate crimes and discrimination against LGBTQ+ individuals. The report emphasizes the importance of the Attorney General’s [Hate Crime Rapid Response Protocol](#), which equips local law enforcement with essential resources to efficiently handle significant hate crimes and extremism. The report also focuses on DOJ’s work to cultivate safe and inclusive learning environments for LGBTQ+ students that are free from discrimination and harassment, enable transgender athletes to participate in sports aligned with their gender identity, and defend access to critical lifesaving care.

Read more [HERE](#).

### Save the Date

July 17, Rally in Support of Trans Youth and Gender-Affirming Care at Children’s Hospital of Los Angeles (4650 W. Sunset Blvd, Los Angeles 90027)



The Los Angeles LGBT Center has had the honor of hosting weekly rallies to protest Children's Hospital of LA's (CHLA) cowardly decision to close their Center for Transyouth Health and Development on July 22. Rather than support the thousands of trans and non-binary youth who depend on CHLA for their care, the hospital has succumbed to political and administrative pressures.

On July 10 and July 17, the Los Angeles LGBT Center will rally in partnership with gender-affirming care providers and advocates to voice our disapproval with their decision. We encourage you to join the resistance in support of TGNBI+ youth and make it clear that we're ready to stand up and fight back! Before attending, please familiarize yourself with [these best practices](#) for safe protesting.

If you can make it to one or both of these rallies, we'd love to see you. *We have something special planned for the last rally, so bring your friends and family as well!*

If you are unable to make it to our rallies, please take some time to complete this quick one-click action in which we encourage Attorney General Rob Bonta to keep CHLA accountable given that gender-affirming care is legally protected by the state of California. You can [send a letter to Bonta and CHLA leadership](#) here.

Please feel free to circulate this flyer and information widely! Thank you and hope to see you with us soon!

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### **July 23, 11-12:30 PM Pacific Time – [Webinar – Guidelines to Include People with Disabilities in Health Promotion](#)**

Join Special Olympics and Lakeshore Foundation for a webinar introducing the newly updated Guidelines for Including People with Disabilities in Health Promotion Programs they developed. These guidelines are intended for organizations that create, run, or support health promotion programs. It provides a starting point for designing,

implementing, and evaluating programs that meet the needs of people with disabilities. These guidelines have been developed with input from national experts, as well as feedback from individuals with disabilities and service providers. Register [HERE](#)

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**Thurs Sept 25, 10 AM – 12:30 PM - Free [Sacred Support – Understanding Breastfeeding in the Context of Islam and Muslim Cultures](#)** – Join Breastfeed LA and Hoda Shawky, MSN, CPNP, PHN, PMHS, IBCLC, Doula. Virtual – you will receive a confirmation with URL. CERPs available.

Muslims make up nearly 2 billion people globally, 3.45 million living in the United States, and they represent a wide variety of ethnicities. While cultural practices may vary among Muslim women, core principles of Islam related to the rights of women and children, can influence the feeding preferences of Muslims such as duration of lactation, wet nursing, weaning, fasting in Ramadan, and modesty. Join Breastfeed LA for an understanding of these influences and the range of practices of Muslim mothers will help professionals to become more comfortable in providing culturally- respectful care. Register [HERE](#)

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### **Maternal and Child Health Access**

350 S. Bixel St., Suite 150

Los Angeles, CA 90017

213 749 4261 phone

213 745 1040 fax

[www.mchaccess.org](http://www.mchaccess.org)

[info@mchaccess.org](mailto:info@mchaccess.org)

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