

Maternal and Child Health Access



Monthly Virtual Meeting

This Thursday, March 17, 2022 - 10:00 am to 12:00 pm

Where?

This is a virtual meeting
Do Not come to our location!

10:00 AM to 12:00 PM

After you register (at RSVP
below) look for the Zoom link
in your registration
confirmation email



Speaker/Topic:

Sylvia Castillo
Associate Director,
Government +
Community Affairs
Essential Access Health

State and Local Women's
Health Update

Health Coverage updates

**Notes from Monthly Meeting Feb. 17, 2022 (see [website](#) for
presentation slides)**

**Susie Baldwin, MD and Elizabeth Tapia – Office of
Women's Health, LAC/DPH (see slides posted)**

Dr. Baldwin and Ms. Tapia took us through a great slide deck of heart health issues, including an important breakdown of the kinds of heart disease. They emphasized prevention and the disparities in racial and ethnic treatment and outcome as well as disparities by gender, such as the fact that statin medication is widely prescribed but less so to women, and that women are less likely to get prescribed rehab.

Heart disease kills one woman every 80 seconds in the US; with half of women who have heart attacks experiencing no warning signs and only subtle symptoms. Heart disease is THE leading cause of death for women in the US! So why don't we talk about

it more? As the speakers pointed out, heart disease rates have not budged in the last 20 years, at about 6% of the female population, since the year 2000. The speakers also talked about differentiating between Black as more inclusive of Caribbean and Latin American populations, as opposed to the term African American. But many people use both interchangeably. They also talked about using the term “modifiable” risk factors, as opposed to “preventable”.

Older Adult Expansion in Medi-Cal (undocumented 50+) May 1, 2022!

It's getting closer – the “Transition Population” of adults who are or will be 50 years old/older in May, 2022, and currently have Restricted Medi-Cal should have gotten their first letters with information about the upcoming change to full-scope Medi-Cal May 1, 2022. Please help and encourage potential Medi-Cal enrollees to enroll in Restricted Medi-Cal both so that 1) they'll be informed with mailings and 2) when the switch to Full-Scope Medi-Cal happens, their BIC card can be used for full benefits! See CHOI enrollees – [Community Health Outreach Initiative](#) – if you need to refer someone for assistance.

MCHA, Vision y Compromiso and Neighborhood Legal Services of Los Angeles are conducting a webinar in [English](#) and in [Spanish](#) (see Save the Date, below) The second DHCS webinar is set for April, 2022. See these community-friendly flyers about the benefit in [English](#) and [Spanish](#). See also a flyer about the expansion from the [Health Consumer Alliance](#).

New since meeting:

Los Angeles County publishes report on access to abortion in Los Angeles County

We are very excited to let you know that this report is now published on the DPH website. It can be accessed through the rotating banner on the DPH home page or on the [Office of Women's Health website](#): (where the infographic is also located). Access to abortion is fundamental to the health of individuals, families, and communities and is a public health issue. Worldwide, over seven million women are admitted to hospitals every year due to complications that arise from having unsafe and illegal abortions and up to 31,000 women die. In the United States, abortion is common and also extremely safe. Despite its demonstrated safety record, abortion is extensively regulated and restricted. Restrictions on access to abortion care cause significant harm, especially to marginalized and vulnerable populations.

Access to abortion remains a public health priority. Currently, laws and policy changes are rolling back reproductive rights, putting health and lives at risk. Abortion also is a key reproductive justice issue - a component of the complex, intersecting rights and conditions that allow people of color to regain and maintain autonomy over what

happens to their own bodies and pregnancies, their ability to have or not have children, and to raise the children they have in safe and sustainable communities.

California State Bills to Watch!

[AB 1930 \(Arambula\)](#) – CPSP - Sponsored by Maternal and Child Health Access, AB 1930 would improve access to critical social and other supports for low-income mothers and infants during Medi-Cal’s new 12-month postpartum eligibility period. This bill would require the Department of Health Care Services to: (1) continue Medi-Cal’s Comprehensive Perinatal Services Program (CPSP) benefit beyond the initial 60-day postpartum period; and (2) adopt the federal option to allow Comprehensive Perinatal Health Workers to provide supportive services in the mother’s home or elsewhere in the community, not just at a clinic or doctor’s office.

Click [HERE](#) for sample letter of support! Best to submit as soon as possible, but no hearing date has been set yet.

[AB 2680 \(Arambula\)](#) – Navigators - advances health equity by connecting trusted community messengers with historically excluded low income Californians in order to help enroll, retain, and encourage the utilization of Medi-Cal benefits in these vulnerable populations.

[SB 1019 \(Gonzalez\)](#) – Mental Health - requires Medi-Cal managed care plans to conduct culturally and linguistically appropriate outreach and education to its enrollees and primary care physicians regarding the non-specialty, or mild to moderate, mental health benefit.

[SB 1234 \(Pan\)](#)

Sexually Transmitted Infections - improves health outcomes and address rising STI rates and structural inequities by expanding access to STI prevention and treatment for low-income and uninsured LGBTQ+ patients through Family PACT, which doesn’t currently cover these populations.

[SB 1375 \(Atkins\)](#) Nurse Practitioners SB1375 updates statutes to allow Nurse Practitioners qualified to practice independently to provide first trimester abortion care. It also clarifies that NPs who have been practicing for three or more years satisfy the transition-to-practice (TTP) requirement and allows them to utilize prior practice experience to satisfy the TTP

New from CDC – to get the updates below directly,
see www.cdc.gov/women

[Prevent Cervical Cancer](#)

January is Cervical Cancer Awareness Month. Cervical cancer is the leading cause of cancer-related deaths among women. Learn about the appropriate screening tests and the HPV vaccine to help prevent cervical cancer.

[Trends in Breast Cancer Incidence, by Race, Ethnicity, and Age Among Women Aged ≥20 Years — United States, 1999–2018](#)

The findings in this report indicate that breast cancer incidence among women aged ≥20 years decreased during 1999–2004 but increased during 2004–2018.

[Alcohol Consumption and Binge Drinking During Pregnancy Among Adults Aged 18–49 Years — United States, 2018–2020](#)

This report found several factors correlated with drinking during pregnancy including age, education, and marital status, which are generally consistent with other nationally representative studies. CDC is working to increase alcohol screening and brief intervention and community-level interventions.

[Decline in Perinatal Mortality in the United States, 2017–2019](#)

The U.S. perinatal mortality rate declined 30% from 1990 to 2011, but was stable from 2011 through 2016. This report presents trends in perinatal mortality as well as its components, late fetal and early neonatal mortality, for 2017 through 2019. Also shown are perinatal mortality trends by mother's age, race and Hispanic origin, and state for 2017–2019

LA Care Fined \$55 Million in Enforcement Action to Protect Consumers

(Sacramento) – The California [Department of Managed Health Care \(DMHC\) and Department of Health Care Services](#) (DHCS) have taken action against Local Initiative Health Authority for Los Angeles County (L.A. Care) to protect the plan's members. The two departments' actions against the state's largest Medi-Cal plan include penalties of \$55 million. This consists of a \$35 million penalty from the DMHC and \$20 million sanction from the DHCS.

[“The magnitude of L.A. Care’s violations, which has resulted in harm to its members, requires immediate action,” said DMHC Director Mary Watanabe and DHCS Director Michelle Baass in a joint statement. “Our investigations found several operational failures at L.A. Care, which have significantly impacted the health and safety of some of the state’s most vulnerable health care consumers.](#) This action is necessary to protect the plan's members, and to get L.A. Care to make serious changes to repair the plan's operations.”

[The two departments conducted coordinated investigations into the plan’s violations and worked together on the respective department actions. The departments’ investigations found several violations by the plan, including L.A. Care’s handling of enrollee grievances, the processing of requests for authorization, and inadequate oversight and supervision of its contracted entities regarding timely access.](#)

L.A. Care disclosed to DHCS and DMHC in 2021 a systemic failure to issue resolution letters to members who filed a grievance with the plan. A health plan is required to acknowledge receipt of a non-urgent grievance within five days, resolve the grievance within 30 days, and send a written resolution to the member. [L.A. Care reported to the DMHC that it had failed to timely respond to more than 67,000 grievances for several lines of business](#), including Medi-Cal. L.A. Care reported to DHCS 41,500 instances in which L.A. Care failed to timely issue a resolution letter for a grievance or appeal from January 2019 through October 2021.

[READ MORE](#)

Maternal Deaths Rose During the First Year of the Pandemic

Deaths during pregnancy and the first six weeks after childbirth increased, especially for Black and Hispanic women, according to a new report.

The number of [women in the United States who died during pregnancy](#) or shortly after giving birth increased sharply during the first year of the coronavirus pandemic, according to a new study, an increase that health officials attribute partly to Covid and pandemic-related disruptions.

The new report, from the National Center for Health Statistics, found that the number of maternal deaths rose 14 percent, to 861 in 2020 from 754 in 2019.

The United States already has a much [higher maternal mortality rate](#) than other developed countries, and the increase in deaths pushes the nation's maternal mortality rate to 23.8 deaths per 100,000 live births in 2020 from 20.1 deaths in 2019. Maternal mortality rates in developed countries have in recent years ranged from fewer than two deaths per 100,000 live births in Norway and New Zealand to just below nine deaths per 100,000 live births in France and Canada. [Read more](#)

[COVID-19 hospitalization rates among children ages 4 and younger were 5x as high during the peak of Omicron compared with Delta](#)

During Omicron variant predominance beginning in late December 2021, U.S. infants and children aged 0–4 years were hospitalized at approximately five times the rate of the previous peak during Delta variant predominance. Infants aged <6 months had the highest rates of hospitalization, but indicators of severity (e.g., respiratory support) did not differ by age group. Important strategies to prevent COVID-19 among infants and young children include vaccination of currently eligible populations such as pregnant women, family members, and caregivers of infants and young children.

Benefits changing to BenefitsCAL, but now not until April 25

Your Benefits Now (YBN) in Los Angeles is changing to BenefitsCal.com. This will be a new and simple way for Los Angeles County residents to apply, view, and renew benefits for health coverage, food, and cash assistance. To learn more about BenefitsCal, visit [Welcome to BenefitsCal - YouTube](#) or click [here](#) for the BenefitsCal YouTube channel. This change was slated for March 15, but has been extended until April 25. See the [Western Center's page](#) for information and the state's [website](#): where there are You Tube videos to explain the changes.

Congress Set to Extend WIC Benefit Bump through September

From Kiran Saluja, Exec Director PHFE WIC

Wonderful news for WIC families!!! Last week, leading appropriators announced a bipartisan \$1.5 trillion omnibus agreement to fund the federal government through September 30, 2022. In addition to fiscal year 2022 appropriations, the omnibus agreement will provide further funding for COVID-19 response and emergency assistance to Ukraine. The House is expected to vote on the package on Wednesday, with the Senate to take up the legislation later this week. Congress is also set to advance another short-term continuing resolution through Tuesday, March 15, to ensure no lapse in federal funding as Congress considers the omnibus package.

The bipartisan agreement funds WIC at \$6 billion, with a \$621.7 million rescission. The omnibus will extend the WIC benefit bump for fruits and vegetables through September 30, 2022. Benefit issuance will remain at current levels: \$24/month for children, \$43/month for pregnant and postpartum participants, and \$47/month for breastfeeding participants. The agreement also includes set-aside funding for WIC consistent with fiscal year 2021 levels, including \$90 million for breastfeeding peer counselors and \$14 million for infrastructure.

SAVE THE DATE

Fri Mar 18, 12 PM – 1 PM - Medical Debt 101 – Neighborhood Legal Services of Los Angeles. For consumers/beneficiaries. Do you have unpaid medical bills? Have you been sued for an unpaid healthcare bill? How to prioritize medical debt and your legal responsibilities for debt.

The presentation will be recorded.

<https://www.facebook.com/events/1291429577935687>

Weds. March 23 (English) and Fri., March 25 (Spanish) – 12 noon – 1 PM Older Adult Expansion in Medi-Cal.

Sponsored by Maternal and Child Health Access, Neighborhood Legal Services, Vision y Compromiso and BAILA – Benefits Access for Immigrants, LA. Please encourage Medi-Cal recipients or potential recipients to attend!

Thu, Mar 24, 2022 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM PT

Empower Hour Series: Five Legal Tips for People with Cancer - The Cancer Legal Resource Center

This webinar will cover legal issues that may stem from a cancer diagnosis, including employment law, insurance options and disability insurance, and laws that protect people affected by cancer. This "Empower Hour" webinar series is sponsored by a grant from the Tower Cancer Research Foundation.

<https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/5217105029338841869>

Friday Mar. 25 - Assistance with Emergency Rental Housing Program (ERAP)

The statewide Emergency Rental Assistance Program (ERAP) will close on March 31, 2022. If you/your clients need assistance paying past due rent and utilities, ERAP is the best way to get protection from future evictions. Reserve your appointment with SAJE at 213-745-9961. Other workshops at www.StayHousedLA.org

April 28-29 Join Us at Care Beyond the Clinic Walls School-based health centers are key to building health and education equity for California's children and youth. The California School-Based Health Alliance's statewide conference at University of Redlands in San Bernardino from April 28-29 is a place for health care practitioners, educators, and advocates to connect and learn how to support students. See details at: bit.ly/CSHAconference.

RESOURCES

Get free at-home COVID-19 tests

Every home in the U.S. is eligible to order 2 sets of 4 free at-home tests. If you already ordered your first set, order a second today.

Order Free At-Home Tests <https://special.usps.com/testkits> (website has a toggle for language preference Spanish or simplified Chinese in addition to English).

Need help placing an order for your at-home tests?

Call [1-800-232-0233](tel:1-800-232-0233) (TTY [1-888-720-7489](tel:1-888-720-7489)).

Job opportunities available!

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

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

- [CalFresh Administrative Assistant – Bilingual, Spanish](#)
- [Welcome Baby Outreach Specialist](#)
- [IT Support Technician](#)
- [Health Programs and Benefits Trainer](#)
- [Coordinator Oral Health Advocacy for Children and Pregnancy](#)

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

