

Our next monthly meeting is scheduled for this Thursday, September 21, 2017 - RSVP today!



## Maternal and Child Health Access

### September 21, 2017: Monthly Meeting

#### Where?

Maternal and Child Health Access  
c/o Patricia Phillips Community Room  
1111 W. 6th St., 3rd Floor  
Los Angeles, CA 90017  
213 749 4261  
[info@mchaccess.org](mailto:info@mchaccess.org)

#### Speaker/Topic

Connecting the Dots - Snapshots of Child Well-Being in Los Angeles County  
(focus on birth data)

Regan Foust, PhD  
Director of Strategic Partnerships, Research Scientist  
Children's Data Network

UPDATES - we haven't met since July  
Legislative Updates  
Medi-Cal Transportation Coverage

While we don't require reservations to attend our monthly meetings we do recommend to RSVP so we know you're coming...

[Click here to RSVP!](#)

From the meeting July 17, 2017 see handouts [HERE](#)

**Ms. Farri Farmer, Field Deputy/Community Outreach Coordinator, Los Angeles County District Attorney's (DA) Bureau of Victim Services  
"Helping Victims Become Survivors"**

**Please note:** The presentation slides are posted on MCHA's [website](#).

Ms. Farmer works to inform the community of Direct Services - assistance in courthouses and law enforcement stations - and Victim Compensation available through the DA's office. This includes specialized advocacy in 8 different areas - including elder abuse, stalking and threat assessment, sex crimes, juvenile advocacy, etc. Under penal code 13835.5 it is mandatory to provide crisis intervention, emergency assistance, resource and referral counseling, victim compensation assistance, orientation to the Criminal Justice System court escort/support, case status/disposition information and return of

property/restitution. Ms. Farmer explained what is meant by each of these topics - see slides. Some of the things we learned is that "emergency assistance" includes not only shelter, but also prescription medicines and eyeglasses or dentures lost or left behind. Crime scene cleanup can be covered. Relocation costs, with a limit of about \$2000, are covered. The services can inform victims and witnesses of what they should expect in terms of testifying (direct and cross-exam) and possible court delays. They can even accompany the victim or witness to the courtroom and remain during their court appearance. Optional victim services include funeral arrangement assistance and witness protection.

There are a number of requirements to get funds. The victim must apply within three years - immigration status is NOT a factor. There are funds for both Direct Victims and Derivative Victims - family and household members, certain witnesses to crime, and the primary caretaker of a victim. Compensation criteria include that the crime must have caused physical injury or the threat of injury. Property loss is not covered and the Victim Compensation Fund is the payer of last resort, i.e. the victim must first use their own medical insurance.

The DA's Bureau of Victim Services can be reached toll-free 1(800) 380-3811 and Ms. Farmer can be reached at (626) 927-2538 or [sfarmer@da.lacounty.gov](mailto:sfarmer@da.lacounty.gov). MCHA has also had a Spanish-speaking representative come to our classes for clients.

***Nancy Gomez, Organizing Director, Health Access***  
***"The Ongoing Saga of the ACA"***

Ms. Gomez spoke to us right after the apparent demise of the most recent (at that time) efforts to Repeal and Replace the ACA. She provided a succinct timeline of all the efforts and a set of comparison slides between the ACA and the Senate and House versions to replace - available at our website. The comparisons were made for various areas, i.e., how the bills treat:

- People under 26 (all included this wildly popular feature to allow young people to stay on a parent's plan OR buy independently);
- Adults (under 65) (cuts of various magnitude, except in the ACA)
- Low income nursing home residents (Medicaid could be cut for this population in all versions except ACA)
- Pre-existing conditions (All except ACA allow states could let insurers charge more for some conditions, and/or exclude, and/or permits states to ask to reduce essential health benefits and/or repeal mandate so healthier people drop and rates rise for others)
- Planned Parenthood (All except ACA block payment for at least one year)
- People with disabilities (All except ACA could force states into deciding to cut Medicaid for this population)
- Mental health services (All except ACA would allow waivers to opt out of requiring mental health as an Essential Health Benefit, OR would do away with them in Medicaid)
- Working poor (Federal funding for Medicaid expansion phases out and some proposals have "trigger clause" to immediate end the expansion if federal matching declines below ACA-promised rates)
- The wealthy (All repeal ACA taxes on corporations and cut taxes for wealthy by some amount)

Ms. Gomez spent some time explaining the idea of "repeal without replacing" has been floated, but the Congressional Budget Office analysis noted that this would cause 32 million people to lose coverage, double premiums in the individual market and cause the individual market to virtually collapse.

Ms. Gomez ended with news of a call-in day and how to fight back, groups to join online and where to get more information. Fight4Our Health conference calls are held every Friday at 11 AM - 1-866-906-7447 code 9174075#

*New since last meeting: July 17, 2017*

***UPDATE - STOP ANOTHER BAD HEALTH BILL  
thanks to NextGen and the National Health Law Program***

Last week Republican senators announced that they are making one final push to kick millions off their health coverage, but they only have until September 30 to pass it with 51 votes.

The new effort led by Senators Lindsey Graham, Bill Cassidy, and Dean Heller is not just another revival of their old repeal bill - it's even worse. Called the "Graham-Cassidy Proposal" after its first two authors, this latest GOP health care scam would gut protections for people with pre-existing conditions, raise costs for families, and end health coverage for 32 million Americans. And it hits states like California the hardest with massive cuts to funding statewide each year. It would eliminate the ACA's key premium tax credits and cost sharing reductions, and the ACA's integral individual and employer mandates, which ensure robust market participation needed to assure that those with pre-existing conditions are able to access quality health care. The Graham-Cassidy proposal would also end Medicaid expansion by providing a time-limited block grant that would expire in 2026, leaving states with no federal assistance to provide health care for the 11 million low-income individuals and families who have benefited from Medicaid's expansion. On top of that, the Graham-Cassidy measure imposes a Medicaid per capita cap that was a part of the Senate's so-called Better Care Reconciliation Act (BCRA). The nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office estimated that the Medicaid per capita cap would quickly result in hundreds of billions of dollars cut from Medicaid ever year. In a cynical effort to win votes in the Senate, the new proposal shifts funding from densely populated states, such as California that expanded Medicaid, to smaller, sparsely populated states that refused to expand Medicaid.

[Act now: Stop the latest GOP effort to take away health care and raise costs for millions.](#)

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***Los Angeles County launches effort to reach those eligible for food assistance,  
but not applying.***

Based on the latest numbers provided in February by the California Department of Social Services (CDSS), Los Angeles County currently has a 66.3 percent usage, or 1.1 million residents who are currently receiving CalFresh benefits. But the state agency adds that there are approximately 599,000 residents who are in need of food assistance, but are not receiving the benefits.

There's no argument that when government organizations work closely with their community partners, advocates and stakeholders to address the problem of food insecurity in the County of Los Angeles, those in need of services, such as CalFresh food assistance, benefit the most.

Faced with numerous challenges to enroll local families and individuals who are eligible and in need of the benefit, the Department of Public Social Services (DPSS) has launched a major county-wide effort to reach those who are eligible, but are not applying. DPSS recently sent a communication ([HERE](#)) seeking community events at which they may enroll possible participants.

***Also from DPSS: Do you need help because of a disability?***

See the flyer, in [Spanish and English](#). PLEASE test it out and let MCHA know if your client gets additional help, or does not. Emotional and cognitive disabilities that make it difficult to fill out forms should qualify.

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***Insurance claims for food-induced anaphylaxis care are up five-fold in past 10 years***

A [report by FAIR Health](#) - a national, independent non-profit corporation not affiliated with FARE, (Food Allergy Research and Education) - finds that between 2007 and 2016, the number of medical procedures to treat food-induced anaphylaxis grew by 377 percent.

This dramatic surge in emergency treatment for food allergy reactions is new evidence that food allergies have become more prevalent in the past decade and suggests that the severity of reaction symptoms may also be increasing. Anaphylaxis treatment for reactions to peanuts and tree nuts grew at the fastest rate, with treatment procedures increasing at a quicker pace in rural areas than in urban communities. The escalating need to treat severe food allergy reactions reinforces the importance of FARE's efforts to expand food allergy research, education, advocacy and awareness.

The FAIR Health findings are based on analysis of a very large collection of U.S. healthcare claims data, reflecting more than 23 billion medical and dental procedures provided to more than 150 million privately insured individuals, plus additional data reflecting the health care received by more than 55 million individuals enrolled in Medicare. You can read more about the report here:

And - The Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) recently revised its allergy testing policy in response to stakeholder feedback and review of scientific literature:

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***Medi-Cal NewsFlash: New Allergy Testing Policy***

The article titled "[New Allergy Testing Policy](#)" was posted to the NewsFlash area of the Medi-Cal website on August 9, 2017.

If the above link does not take you to the article, then simply copy and paste the below link into your browser.

[http://files.medi-cal.ca.gov/pubsdoco/newsroom/newsroom\\_26177.asp](http://files.medi-cal.ca.gov/pubsdoco/newsroom/newsroom_26177.asp)

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***Ad Hoc Committee on women and homelessness releases report and recommendations  
Los Angeles, CA (August 25, 2017)***

The final report and recommendations from the Ad Hoc Committee on Women and Homelessness was approved today by the LAHSA Commission. Created by the LAHSA Commission last fall, the committee was formed to address the growing numbers of women experiencing homelessness across Los Angeles County.

The report consists of key findings as well as recommendations centered around five categories: (1) data and reporting, (2) training and capacity building, (3) funding, (4) service delivery, and (5) advocacy and policy development. Recommendations include requiring income housing to provide feminine

hygiene needs, including people with lived experience as part of trainings, and requiring trauma-informed services in all contracts. The recommendations can be explored in detail by viewing the report [HERE](#).

The committee was comprised of service providers, advocates, thought leaders in the field, people with lived experience of homelessness, and government representatives. The committee held eight monthly meetings focusing on understanding and addressing the needs of women within the homeless crisis response system.

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## ***SAVE THE DATE***

### **September 10-23 Target recycles car seats and provides 20% off new car seats in return:**

September is National Baby Safety Month. And one of the ways that you can make sure that your baby is safe is by checking her car seat. If your baby has outgrown her car seat, doesn't have one that meets current safety standards or you're just ready to change things up, don't throw the old model out! Why not? Target is reprising their fabulously popular car seat trade-in program. Check out what you need to know [HERE](#).

### **Thursday Sept. 21, 2017 1:30 - 3 PM - Medi-Cal dental data reporting webinar:**

The purpose of this meeting is to update stakeholders on recently posted data, and for stakeholders to provide input on data reports that are being developed in accordance with Assembly Bill 2207 (Chapter 613, Statutes of 2016). This includes both Dental Managed Care and Fee-for-Service Denti-Cal delivery systems.

Register at the [DHCS website](#). The agenda and meeting materials will be posted online prior to the meeting. Please feel free to submit any questions to [dental@dhcs.ca.gov](mailto:dental@dhcs.ca.gov) in advance of the meeting.

### **Thursday, October 19, 8 AM - 5 PM Black Women for Wellness conference - Power Manifesto: Reproductive Justice = Voting Power + Accountability + Good Policy.**

The conference is designed to provide an open forum and space to dialogue about what reproductive health means for Black women and girls. Registration is online [HERE](#). Opportunities for workshop submissions, vendors, and volunteers. Held at the California Endowment.

### **October 23-24 Women's Health Update 2017, Sponsored by Essential Access Health in partnership with Contraceptive Technology.**

[Registration is now open](#). The Women's Health Update 2017 will provide a unique opportunity for providers to learn essential clinical skills and best practices based on current guidelines from nationally recognized experts in the field. Continuing education credits are available (CME, Nursing, CHES, CPH and more). [See all CEUs provided](#). [View the Women's Health Update 2017 session descriptions](#).

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## ***Resources***

### ***DACA Renewal Scholarships - Renew by Oct. 5!!***

Over 154,000 Dreamers are eligible to renew their DACA status by October 5. Join us to make sure that as many Dreamers as possible are able to file their applications before the deadline. Thanks to the

support of our incredible community, \$495 scholarships are being offered to Dreamers so they can renew their DACA status before October 5.

Since time is of the essence, this program is available nationwide. All Dreamers need to do is apply online and have an EAD card (work permit): <http://lc4daca.org/>

### **Directory Of Home-Based Family Support Programs**

An updated version of the Los Angeles County Perinatal and Early Childhood Home Visitation Consortium (LACPECHVC's) Directory for Pregnancy and Parenting is now available. **The revised version includes the addition of several new agencies.**

You can access the revised version [HERE](#). If you represent a home visiting program, please verify that the information for your program in the Directory is accurate. We want to keep this tool as up-to-date as possible.

### **Are you a mid-career health professional or behavioral and social scientist with an interest in health policy?**

The [Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Health Policy Fellows program](#) is an outstanding non-partisan opportunity that offers exclusive, hands-on policy experience with the most influential congressional and executive offices in our nation's capital.

Fellows participate in the policy process at the federal level and use that leadership experience to improve health, health care, and health policy while advancing their own careers.

Up to six awards of up to \$165,000 each will be made in 2018. The fellowship requires a minimum commitment of 12 months in Washington, D.C.

[Learn more about this opportunity and register for an informational webinar](#)

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**Take action!**



Your donations allow us the space to reassure, to exchange information, to take the vast amount of time it already takes to ensure health - for everyone. Donate now - we appreciate your support!

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