



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!



MCHA has been gifted 2 amazing tickets to this coming Saturday, Nov. 22 UCLA-USC football game to sell as a fundraiser. The tickets are on the UCLA side, 20L 6th Row, number 9 and 10. Please contact Martin Garcia at marting@mchaccess.org if you are interested in bidding \$500 or over for each ticket to this sold-out game!

In this monthly mailing:

[SUMMARY OF OCT. 16 MEETING](#)

[GUEST SPEAKER: TIM MOLINA, ONLINE STRATEGIC CAMPAIGN ORGANIZER](#)

Next MCH Access Monthly Meeting:

Thursday, Nov. 20, 2014

10am - 12pm

LOCATION:

MCH Access

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

SPEAKER/TOPIC:

**Martha Dina Arguello, Ex. Director, Physicians for Social Responsibility, Los Angeles
AB 32 and Environmental Health Update in Los Angeles**

Updates on Open Enrollment in Covered CA, and enrollment in Medi-Cal and AIM/MAP

Holiday Craft Fair! Handmade goods from MCHA's Women's Collective

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



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

[MCHA-RELATED
LEGISLATION](#)

[COVERED CALIFORNIA
DENTAL COVERAGE FOR
CHILDREN & OPTIONAL
DENTAL COVERAGE](#)

[STATE DECIDES TO WAIT
ON PREMIUM ASSISTANCE
FOR PREGNANT WOMEN &
NEWLY QUALIFIED
IMMIGRANTS](#)

[KAISER PERMANENTE
CHILD HEALTH PROGRAMS
OPENS FOR ENROLLMENT](#)

[ADVOCACY GROUPS SUE
DHCS OVER MEDI-CAL
COVERAGE](#)

[35,000 PREGNANT WOMEN
CUT OFF MEDI-CAL NOV.1](#)

[AIM/MEDI-CAL ACCESS
PROGRAM CCEPTING AFTER
30 WEEKS PREGNANCY](#)

[MORE THAN 4 IN 10
UNINSURED DON'T KNOW
BASIC HEALTH INSURANCE
TERMS, SEE YOU TOONS
EXPLANATION](#)

[SHE'S BEAUTIFUL WHEN
SHE'S ANGRY](#)

[THE WOMEN'S POLICY
SUMMIT](#)

[MEDI-CAL CHILDREN'S
HEALTH ADVISORY PANEL](#)

[CONTACT US](#)

SAVE THE DATE

**Sat. Nov. 22 7 PM - and
Nov. 22-Dec. 6 - Benefit
Shopping for Maternal and
Child Health Access at "[Ten
Thousand Villages](#)"**

Pasadena! Ten Thousand Villages in Pasadena, CA, is a fair trade retailer of artisan-crafted home decor, personal accessories and gift items from across the globe. Use this [FLYER](#) during this time so that we receive 15% of purchase price during that time period. In addition,

Summary of October 16, 2014 meeting

Materials Distributed at October 16 meeting may be found [HERE](#)

Guest Speaker: Tim Molina, Online Strategic Campaign Organizer, Courage Campaign Update on State Ballot Measures' Connection to Health -

Tim Molina spoke to us about Propositions 1, 2, 45, 46, and 47. We did not discuss Indian Gaming, Prop. 48, which did not pass. Here is a quick update and summary of each:

Proposition 1 - Water - Authorizes \$7.545 billion in general obligation bonds for state water supply infrastructure projects, including surface and groundwater storage, ecosystem and watershed protection and restoration, and drinking water protection - **Passed**, 67% yes, 33 percent no.

Proposition 2 - State Budget Stabilization Account, or "Rainy Day Fund". Requires annual transfer of state general fund revenues to budget stabilization account. Requires half the revenues be used to repay state debts. Limits use of remaining funds to emergencies or budget deficits. Many organizations argued that the "Rainy Day" is now and we need the funds for human services. **Passed** 69% yes, 31% no.

Proposition 45 - Healthcare Insurance Rate Changes - Requires Insurance Commissioner's approval before health insurer can change its rates or anything else affecting the charges associated with health insurance. Provides for public notice, disclosure, and hearing, and subsequent judicial review. Exempts employer large group health plans. **Defeated** 59% no, 41% yes.

Proposition 46 - Doctor Drug Testing, Medical Negligence - Requires drug testing of doctors. Requires review of statewide prescription database before prescribing controlled substances. Increases \$250,000 pain/suffering cap in medical negligence lawsuits for inflation. **Defeated** 67% no, 33% yes.
Tim Molina noted that over \$100 million was spent by insurance companies to defeat Props. 45 and 46.

Proposition 47 - Criminal Sentences, Misdemeanor Penalties - Requires misdemeanor sentence instead of felony for certain drug and property offenses. Inapplicable to persons with prior conviction for serious or violent crime and registered sex offenders. Fiscal Impact: State and county criminal justice savings potentially in the high hundreds of millions of dollars annually. State savings spent on school truancy and dropout prevention, mental health and substance abuse treatment, and victim services. **Passed** 59% yes, 41% no.

MCH-related legislation signed or vetoed - Lynn Kersey

The [bill list](#) is on MCHA's website and is divided into categories. Some highlights are AB 1174, the virtual dental home; SB 964 - oversight of health plans; AB 1559 newborn screening expansion; and SB 1053 contraception coverage.

Ten Thousand Villages will be kicking off the Nov 22-Dec 6 benefit shopping window with a party in the store on Nov 22 at 7pm. We encourage our benefit shopping partners to attend. We will have music, food & drinks, and everyone who attends will have an opportunity to enter their organization into a drawing for an additional \$200 to their benefit shopping check.

My Health LA 4th Stakeholder Forum
Time: 2:00pm - 4:00pm
When: Monday, December 8th - at CCLAC 700 South Flower Street, Suite 3150, Los Angeles, CA. Registration is required for building access and organizations are limited to 3 participants each. To register for this event click [here](#). The agenda will be provided at the event. For more info, click [here](#) to download a flyer or please contact the event organizer, Erica Tarango at conetarango@ccalac.org

Parking information is available [HERE](#).

RESOURCES

Order Oral Health Resource Center pubs now! We have an [order form online](#) that shows all of our titles with links to PDF versions, and bulk quantities where available. We now have in stock our consumer brochures in English and Spanish, the Bright Futures in Practice: Oral Health -- Pocket Guide (2nd ed), Oral Health Care

Covered California Dental Coverage for Children and Optional Dental Coverage for Adults

Lynn Kersey explained how new dental care within Covered California -for kids under 19 - would work. For kids, it is already a part of the health care plans - a separate choice is not necessary. However, after January, adults may choose optional dental care that IS separate and separately paid for. There is no financial assistance available for the optional adult dental benefits. Parents may enroll their children in the separate plans if they prefer a certain provider not available in their child's assigned plan. See the [information sheet](#) distributed at the meeting.

State decides to wait on Premium Assistance for pregnant women and newly qualified immigrants

SB 857, passed as part of the state budget in June, 2014, established a process for implementing Premium Assistance for pregnant women and newly qualified immigrants, and the increase of full-scope Medi-Cal for pregnant women to 138%. As part of that process, monthly meetings are held in Sacramento, with webinar presentations and the ability to follow and ask questions by phone. See dates and times, however, note that the State has unilaterally cancelled this Friday, Nov. 21 meeting although it's still shown [here](#) (as of today, 11-18-14).

At the September meeting, DHCS announced that the increase to 138% will take place sometime in January-February of 2015, but the Premium Assistance component will be delayed until January, 2016. MCHA is pleased to have the additional time to work out important policy details. In addition, the federal government has sent some new rules on Minimal Essential Coverage requirements that DHCS and advocates are reviewing.

However, we are very concerned that the navigation on CalHEERS for pregnant women in the 138-213% FPL "pregnancy-related" Medi-Cal and the AIM/MAP income range of 213-322% FPL is misleading, even fraudulent NOW and until 2016. In the case of Medi-Cal, the women are enrolled in Cov CA and then told their application has been sent to Medi-Cal, asked to pick a Cov CA plan, etc. Being enrolled in Cov CA is not cost-effective or necessary, and blocks the ability to use Medi-Cal for pregnancy and thus blocks CPSP as well; For AIM/MAP, women are enrolled in Cov CA - AIM/MAP is not on the CalHEERS website, and DHCS staff call women after they enroll in Covered CA and tell them about AIM after they have established a provider relationship. Not surprisingly, few women change programs at that point.

Keep in mind that Covered CA has co-pays, deductibles and premiums - delivery costs in the Bronze and Silver plans are a percentage of "usual and customary" fees, which are unknown at the time of application. 2014 maximum co-pay for an individual is over \$6,000 - delivery could cost that much. This is entirely unnecessary for a woman in the Medi-Cal or AIM/MAP income ranges.

Please lend your agency's name to efforts for transparency. The redesigned Covered CA website does not have the same ability to click for information about pregnancy coverage - it is buried in "individuals and families/special circumstances" and the FAQs MCHA helped write are gone. We are glad that a few pieces of information were added, such as:

Unlike Medi-Cal and MAP, Covered California considers a pregnant woman to be a household size of one.

During Pregnancy: A National Consensus Statement, and several fact sheets, [tip sheets](#), and [resource guides](#). Stock up!

Topic pages on OHRC's website help you find what we have published and collected in our library: [Children and Adolescents with Special Health Care Needs](#), [Dental Sealants](#), [Fluoride Varnish](#), [Head Start](#), [Pregnancy](#), & [School Health Services](#).

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.

- [CalFresh Specialist \(formerly known as Food Stamps\)](#)
- [Administrative Assistant](#)
- [Project Coordinator - Pregnancy Policy](#)
- [Parent Coach, Level II - Welcome Baby Program](#)

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

However, we'd like information to the woman about what to do with this information about counting household size! We think if she gets put in Cov CA she should enroll through the County or directly with Medi-Cal instead, something like, "If you have been on Presumptive Eligibility Medi-Cal, for example, or are pretty sure you are Medi-Cal eligible, apply for Medi-Cal for your pregnancy through the county system or a patient navigator/CEC."

Kaiser Permanente Child Health Program opens for enrollment

Along with Covered CA - click [HERE](#) to learn more. This link will allow you to download and print an application or find an agency that can help you enroll.

New since meeting Advocacy Groups Sue DHCS Over Medi-Cal Coverage Cancellations

November 18, 2014

Yesterday, a coalition of advocacy groups filed a lawsuit over the termination of Medicaid coverage for California enrollees who have not yet submitted renewal forms. The groups say the forms are confusing and ask for information that was not requested on previous renewal forms. Kaiser Health News. [Visit full article...](#)

35,000 Pregnant Women Cut Off Medi-Cal Nov. 1 - All should be restored and notice received

MCHA has seen pregnant women whose Medi-Cal cases are cut off during pregnancy, which, we know, should not happen since women have "Continuous Eligibility" during pregnancy. Unfortunately, these situations happen because of an incompatibility between the state's and county's computer that throws off correct income interpretation any time a case is "touched" - a new family member is added or a woman moves or changes Medi-Cal details. However, the first week of November we received over a dozen cases - and then found out that as part of a specific state computer operation, around 35,000 pregnant women lost their Medi-Cal from one day to the next - effective Nov. 1.

State staff worked hard over two nights to restore cases and create a notice to send to the women, which MCHA and advocates helped edit. MCHA sent word that cases should be restored and it was safe to accept pregnant women in this situation, without active Medi-Cal, to LA's Best Babies "Perinatal Links" list-serve, and to the Community Clinic Association of Los Angeles County, which got the word out to their members. MCHA's clients had pending c-sections, ovarian cysts, echocardiograms and plain vanilla deliveries - all important and subject to provider's refusal to see them without their active Medi-Cal coverage (deliveries must be seen as emergency service). We hope that the state heeds our request to explain to providers that pregnant women rarely lose coverage, and the concept of Continuous Eligibility.

MCHA has explained the Medi-Cal "Chain of Command" at our trainings and our monthly meetings - it is the Medi-Cal District Director for a "case inquiry" and if that doesn't work, specific people at Medi-Cal Programs. Let us know if you need those contacts, or if you can't resolve a case situation, contact us at (213) 749-4261.

Join Our List

Join Our Mailing List!

AIM/Medi-Cal Access Program (as it's now called) to accept women after 30 weeks pregnancy!

Since it's beginnings, the Access for Infants and Mothers program, now called the Medi-Cal Access Program, has limited enrollment to women under 30 weeks gestation at the time the application is received. MCHA has advocated changing this rule for years, but with more intensity since AIM is now funded by the Child Health Insurance Program (CHIP) and discrimination based on a pre-existing condition is outlawed in both CHIP and the ACA. Being 30 weeks pregnant at application is a pre-existing condition as much as is being two weeks pregnant. We were heard, CMS urged California's DHCS to end this rule, and they agreed to! There are as yet no guidelines from the state, and advocacy will be needed to ensure that the application for a woman in this situation is accepted. Please call MCH Access for any assistance in 30 week cases - additional volume will help put pressure for written guidelines.

More Than 4 in 10 Uninsured Don't Know Basic Health Insurance Terms, Fewer Understand Complex Coverage Concepts

Kaiser Family Foundation Provides Consumer Resources to Fill Knowledge Gaps as the Second Open Enrollment Period Nears for the Affordable Care Act's Marketplaces

MENLO PARK, Calif. - With open enrollment for the Affordable Care Act's health insurance marketplaces days away, findings from a new Kaiser Family Foundation [survey](#) suggest that some people who stand to benefit from the law struggle to understand how coverage works. The [survey](#) finds more than four in 10 uninsured people could not correctly identify the definitions of essential health insurance terms, such as "premium," "deductible" and "provider network." Even more of the uninsured could not correctly answer questions that required calculating the amount an insured person would have to pay for a hospital stay (61 percent) or an out-of-network lab test (91 percent) based on the plan's cost-sharing requirements.

To inform and educate both uninsured and insured consumers, the Foundation today released a new five-minute cartoon video that explains insurance using fun, easy-to-understand scenarios. [Health Insurance Explained - The YouToons Have It Covered](#) is a light-hearted treatment of a difficult and important topic, breaking down important insurance concepts, such as premiums, deductibles and provider networks. It explains how individuals pay for coverage and obtain medical care and prescription drugs when enrolled in various types of health insurance, including HMOs and PPOs. Former U.S. Senate Majority Leader Bill Frist, a nationally-recognized surgeon and Foundation trustee, narrates the video, which is the third written and produced by the Foundation featuring the YouToons.

The Foundation developed the video and other tools to aid consumers as they make decisions about coverage for 2015, whether through the ACA marketplaces, job-based coverage, Medicare or Medicaid. The [new video](#) can be linked to numerous social media networks and can be featured on other web sites using [YouTube's](#) share button. The previous two videos, [Health Reform Hits Main Street](#) and [The YouToons Get Ready for Obamacare](#), also continue to be available. Additionally, consumers may test their own health insurance literacy by taking a [quiz](#) online and challenging others to do the same. Scores can be shared via Twitter and Facebook.

SHE'S BEAUTIFUL WHEN SHE'S ANGRY

Opens in Los Angeles Friday, Dec. 12 at the Nuart Theater in West Los Angeles. Meet the brilliant women who founded the modern #women's movement in a great new film: @SBWSA :<http://ow.ly/DozeA> **SHE'S BEAUTIFUL WHEN SHE'S ANGRY** resurrects the buried history of the outrageous, often brilliant women who founded the modern women's movement from 1966 to 1971. **SHE'S BEAUTIFUL** takes us from the founding of NOW, when ladies wore hats and gloves, to the emergence of more radical factions of women's liberation; from intellectuals like Kate Millett to the street theatrics of WITCH (Women's International Conspiracy from Hell!).

Remarkably, there has never been a theatrical documentary about the early days of women's liberation. SHE'S BEAUTIFUL aims not to romanticize the early movement, but to dramatize it in its exhilarating, quarrelsome, sometimes heart-wrenching glory.

The film does not shy away from the controversies over race, sexual identity and leadership that arose in the women's movement. **SHE'S BEAUTIFUL WHEN SHE'S ANGRY** captures the spirit of the time -- thrilling, scandalous, and often hilarious

The Women's Policy Summit

Weds., January 14, 2015: Women's Policy Summit - Advancing Women's Health, Wealth and Power

The Women's Policy Summit is a major policy forum held in the State's Capital to help launch the legislative session with proposals to advance the health, wealth and power of women and girls in all of their diverse communities. This year we are intent on building bridges between communities of women leaders and advocates. We will hold numerous plenaries to set the stage for learning, coalition-building, and agenda-setting. Topics include: Women, Poverty and Economic Empowerment; Women, Working Families, and the Workplace; Women's and Girls' Health -- and a Health Policy Fair; Preventing Violence against Women & Girls: State and Local Strategies. Luncheon Keynote Speaker: The Hon. Toni G. Atkins, Speaker of the California State Assembly.

[Register Now!](#) Click [here](#) to download the Summit program.

Don't wait to register -- we expect a full house!

Medi-Cal Children's Health Advisory Panel: Recruitment of Vacant Positions

The Department of Health Care Services is recruiting to fill several vacancies on the Medi-Cal Children's Health Advisory Panel as specified in Assembly Bill (AB) 357 (Pan, Chapter 376, Statutes of 2014). This notification is to solicit representation for the following positions:

- * **Licensed Practicing Pediatrician**
- * **Subscriber Representative in one of the following categories:**

1. A current or former foster youth; an attorney, social worker, probation officer, or court appointed special advocate who currently represents one or more foster youth; a foster care service provider; or a child welfare advocate.

2. A parent of a Medi-Cal enrollee who has received treatment services under the California Children's Services Program within the past six months.
3. A Medi-Cal enrollee who has received services under the Access for Infants and Mothers Program within the past six months.

Please complete the **Statement of Interest** along with a resume, and send both to MCHAP@dhcs.ca.gov no later than December 1, 2014. Recruitment information as well as other vacancies can also be found on the **Advisory Panel** webpage.

The Department will review all nominations and Statements of Interest received and will notify the public of the newly selected representatives.

Thank you.

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