



Maternal and Child Health Access

MCHA Zoom Monthly Meeting is scheduled for this Thursday, 11-19-2020

Where?

10:00 AM to 12:00 PM

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

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

questions?
213 749 4261
info@mchaccess.org

Speaker/Topic

**November is Prematurity Awareness
Month** - Highlighting the March of Dimes
Prematurity Scorecard - hint - it's not
good.

Alzheimers and Diabetes Awareness
Month

COVID-19 and other coverage updates



SMILE California - new videos and materials! Sign up for texting:
[English](#) [Spanish](#)

From our meeting Oct. 15, 2020 (see materials on [MCHA website](#)):

Guest Speaker:

**David Holtzman, volunteer for League of Women Voters, Los Angeles
"California State Ballot Measures"**

Mr. Holtzman, a volunteer for the League of Women Voters, took us through the (only) 12 ballot measures California faced in this election. Here are just a few highlights of the results, rather than the purpose only of each ballot measure:

Prop 14 - Approved. Authorizes California to issue \$5.5 billion in state general obligation bonds to continue funding stem cell and other medical research.

Prop. 15 - Lost. This measure would have provided \$6.5 billion to \$11.5 billion in new funding for public schools, community colleges, and local government services by creating a "split roll" system that increased taxes on large commercial properties by assessing them at market value, without changing property taxes for small business owners or residential properties for homeowners or renters. It lost by a very small margin; about 650,000 votes with over 17 million Californians voting (current count).

Prop. 16 - Lost. This measure would have eliminated California's ban on affirmative action policies. If passed, it would have allowed schools and public agencies to take race, ethnicity and sex into account when making admission, hiring or contracting decisions.

Prop. 17 - Approved. This constitutional amendment would allow people on parole for felony convictions to vote after their state or federal prison term ends.

Prop. 18 - Lost. This constitutional amendment would have expanded voting rights for citizens who are 17, residents of the state and will be at least 18 years old at the time of the next general election, would have been allowed to vote in any primary or special election that occurs before the next general election.

Prop 19 - Approved. This constitutional amendment allows homeowners who are over 55, disabled or victims of natural disasters to transfer part of their property tax base with them when they sell their home and purchase a new one.

Prop. 20 - Lost. This ballot measure would have rolled back changes to California's sentencing laws, changing certain misdemeanor crimes to felony crimes. It would also make changes to the state's parole system and require people convicted of certain misdemeanors to submit DNA collection to a state database.

Prop. 21 - Lost. This measure is similar to one on the ballot in 2016 and would have allowed cities and counties to implement rent control for certain residential properties that are over 15 years old.

Prop. 22 - Approved. This proposition would exempt some gig workers - mainly Uber and Lyft - from being subject to Assembly Bill 5, a labor law that requires companies to label independent contractors as employees.

Prop. 23 - Lost. The measure would have required dialysis clinics to have a licensed physician, nurse or physician assistant on site during kidney dialysis treatment.

Prop. 24 - Approved. Allows Californians to block companies from sharing personal information and limit businesses' use of "sensitive personal information."

Prop. 25 - Lost. The proposition would have replaced California's cash bail system with a new pretrial release system based on public safety and flight risk.

Some wins and losses - and very difficult to predict. Thank you for being some of the record voter turnout this year nationally - keep up the good work!

MCHA reviewed changes in health coverage for the pandemic, mainly in Medi-Cal. We have produced two materials on COVID-19 related care, one more text and explanation and one that is a color piece that we are translating into Spanish and other languages:

[Three important Medi-Cal programs to help with COVID-19 testing and treatment](#) (including in-patient hospitalization), regardless of immigration status

[Medi-Cal and Medi-Cal Access Program \(MCAP\) Protections During the Public Health Crisis](#)

Your feedback and questions welcomed!

Reminders:

No Negative Action - The ONLY ways that Medi-Cal should be cut off is if a beneficiary requests, or dies, or moves out of state! Please note that thousands are still inadvertently or through systems issues being cut off, but the state moves to put them back on Medi-Cal. Please contact DPSS or have your client contact DPSS's Customer Service Line if this happens.

"COVID Uninsured" -neither income nor immigration status matter, covers COVID testing, treatment, hospitalization. No public charge for any COVID-related service. See the state's page [here](#), but also MCHA's information above.

"Waive", or Get Rid Of, Medi-Cal Premiums During the Pandemic Few Medi-Cal enrollees know that during the public health emergency, premiums paid monthly can be waived for MCAP, Optional Targeted Low-Income Children's Program and the Medi-Cal Access Infant Program (infants born to a person covered by MCAP for the pregnancy), County Children's Health Initiatives and the 250% Working Disabled Program. MCHA and other advocates have made suggestions about the posting, language and distribution of notices regarding the waived premium issue. The clearest link right now is this one: [Premium Waiver Due to COVID-19](#) - November 4, 2020 on the COVID-19 page. But no one has to HAVE COVID in order to get the waiver
Here is a link to the notice MCAP enrollees should be getting:
Monthly Contribution Waiver for Medi-Cal Access Program

October was Breast Cancer Awareness Prevention Month and National Domestic Violence Awareness Month

See the materials on the MCHA Monthly meeting page for facts and resources.

New Since Meeting

2020 MIHA Stakeholder Web Meeting

The Maternal Infant Health Assessment (MIHA) team recently held a stakeholder webinar on the MIHA process and considerations for the 2021 survey. MIHA is an annual, statewide-representative survey of women with a recent live birth in California.

MIHA collects self-reported information about maternal and infant experiences and about maternal attitudes and behaviors before, during and shortly after pregnancy. Please feel free to contact **Kristen Marchi** Kristen.Marchi@UCSF.edu or the **MIHA e-mail** MIHA@cdph.ca.gov if you have comments or suggestions to provide.

See the links below to access the recording and slides from the webinar, as well as a list of MIHA 2020 conference abstracts, the reference materials sent before the meeting, and a link to the MIHA website.

- [Recording of MIHA Stakeholder Meeting](#)
- [MIHA Stakeholder Meeting Slides with Zoom poll results](#)
- [MIHA abstracts from 2020 conferences](#)
- [Final MIHA 2020 Questionnaire](#)
- [MIHA Questionnaire Topic List and Potential Modifications](#)
- www.cdph.ca.gov/MIHA
- [MIHA Home Page](#)

Big Win for DACA!

On November 14, a [U.S. district court found](#) that Chad Wolf, who claimed to be the acting secretary of Homeland Security, did not have the legal authority to serve as the acting secretary of Homeland Security when he issued his July 2020 [memorandum whose provisions limit the availability of DACA](#), and therefore that his memo was issued unlawfully. As a result of the Batalla Vidal v. Wolf decision, the Department of Homeland Security should return the DACA program to its initial form - reopening DACA to first-time applicants, restoring work authorization and renewals to two years, and making travel on advance parole available to DACA recipients without restrictions.

You can read more about the Batalla Vidal v. Wolf decision in NILC's press release [here](#).

Women with asthma may be at higher risk for weight gain during pregnancy, NIH study suggests

Women with asthma are more likely than normal to gain weight during pregnancy and to retain weight 3 months after giving birth, suggests a National Institutes of Health study. On average, women with asthma gained 3.1 kg (just under 7 lbs) more after a full-term pregnancy than women without asthma. Among women with asthma, weight gain was greater with obesity. Weight gain was also greater with more severe asthma and with asthma triggered by exercise. The study authors suggest that their findings underscore the importance of pre-pregnancy counseling for women with asthma on the need to achieve and maintain a healthy body weight.

Read the Science Update [here](#)

**Medi-Cal Prescription Drug Coverage (Medi-Cal Rx) implementation
delayed until April 1, 2021 from January 1.**

Given the ongoing challenges and constantly evolving health care landscape associated with the unprecedented COVID-19 public health emergency (PHE), the Department of Health Care Services (DHCS), after careful consideration and in close partnership and collaboration with Magellan Medicaid Administration, Inc., has decided to lengthen the transition time to the full implementation of Medi-Cal Rx by three (3) months, until April 1, 2021. In the interim, all current prescription drug service processes and protocols, both effectuated by DHCS and Medi-Cal managed care plans (MCPs), will remain unchanged and in place until Medi-Cal Rx launches.

Registration deadline extended to November 21, 2020 for certain individuals who received an Economic Impact Payment (EIP) for themselves but not for their eligible children.

Eligible people now include those with qualifying children who did not (and are not required to) file a tax return in 2018 or 2019 and who receive Social Security retirement, survivor or disability benefits, Supplemental Security Income (SSI), Railroad Retirement benefits, or Veterans Affairs Compensation and Pension (C&P) benefits. The IRS had previously only extended the deadline to November for adults who had not received their own Economic Impact Payment. Those who are eligible and have not yet received a stimulus payment for their dependent children can now use the [Non-Filers tool on IRS.gov](#) to enter their information. Eligible individuals who do not submit their dependent information before the November 21st deadline will have to wait until next year to receive the payment by filing a 2020 tax return.

MCHB Strategic Plan - Give Input!

The Maternal Child Health Bureau (MCHB) is developing a new Strategic Plan to provide a roadmap for MCHB's future. The strategic plan will guide MCHB's efforts to advance the health and well-being of mothers, children and families in the United States. We seek your innovative ideas, experience, and feedback to ensure the strategic plan positions MCHB to:

- Respond effectively to future needs of maternal and child health (MCH) populations
- Accelerate improvement in equitable MCH health and well-being outcomes
- Incorporate public health advancements
- Leverage new technologies
- Translate emerging MCH evidence into practice

Please review our [request for information](#) and share your comments. We encourage input from a broad range of stakeholders

Resources

SMILE California - SMILE is California's campaign for good oral health and to help remind Medi-Cal members that dental care is included in their Medi-Cal benefits. SMILE CA has amazing materials and have just come out with a pregnancy video and flyers. Their website www.smilecalifornia.org has a Spanish toggle in upper right hand corner, and a "FIND A DENTIST" link. We will show the video at our monthly meeting.

Sign up for the SMILE California texting program! - [English](#), or OR text SMILECA to 31996 to subscribe - [Spanish](#), OR text SONRIECA to 31996 to subscribe

English materials:

Smile, California Pregnancy Video
Smile, California Pregnancy Brochure
Smile, California Pregnancy Flyer
Returning to the dentist during COVID-19 video

Spanish materials:

Smile, California Pregnancy Video
Smile, California Pregnancy Brochure
Smile, California Pregnancy Flyer

Save the Date:

Thursday, Dec. 3, 2-3 PM: Caring for Lesbian, Bisexual and Queer Women's Health Virtual Workshop. Reducing health disparities, action steps in promoting inclusive care and promoting best practices in care. Bobbie Emetu, PhD Register [HERE](#).

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STAY CONNECTED:



