



Maternal and Child Health Access

Our next Monthly Meeting is scheduled for this Thursday, 10-17-2019

Where?

10:00 AM to 12:00 PM

Maternal and Child Health Access
Patricia Phillips Community Room
1111 W. 6th St., 3rd Floor
Los Angeles, CA 90017
213 749 4261
info@mchaccess.org

Speaker/Topic

Domestic Violence Awareness Month

R.J. Dreiling
Deputy District Attorney
Los Angeles County District Attorney's
Office
Family Violence Division

Public Charge Update

Health Coverage and New Laws Signed

Note: We have asked Mr. Dreiling to speak about the Family Violence Division in general and on the rise in homicides in Los Angeles County and the role of the District Attorney's Office in addressing the issue. See the Los Angeles Times article, [As homicides drop in L.A., more women are being killed - often by intimate partners](#)".

Please be aware of the sensitive nature of the discussion and any triggers.

CLICK HERE TO
RSVP

Please note! Changes in public charge will not be implemented Oct. 15!

Nine separate lawsuits have been filed across the country challenging the public charge final rule. **Multiple federal courts have blocked this administration's Public Charge regulation change from going into effect - there is no set timeline now while the court cases continue.** Families should continue to use the services for which they are entitled without fear. MCHA will be finding or producing a client-facing flyer.

(Thanks to Justice in Aging for the following): Nine separate lawsuits have been filed across the country challenging the public charge final rule. On Friday, in three of those cases, district court judges issued nationwide preliminary injunctions blocking the final rule from going into effect. First, in [State of New York, et. al. v. U.S. Department of Homeland Security, et. al.](#), Judge George B. Daniels concluded that DHS failed to provide any reasonable explanation for changing the definition of public charge. Similarly, in [City and County of San Francisco, et. al. v. U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, et. al.](#), Judge Phyllis J. Hamilton reasoned that the new definition was far too expansive to be reasonable and found that the agency failed to adequately consider costs and benefits. Finally, in [State of Washington, et. al. v. United States Department of Homeland Security, et. al.](#), Judge Rosanna Malouf Peterson found that DHS overstepped its authority in issuing the final rule. Judge Malouf Peterson included a significant discussion on the harmful effects of the final rule on older adults. Notably, all three decisions found that the negative weighing of disability under the new rule potentially violative of Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act.

The injunction is temporary. Next, the attorneys will proceed with various stages of litigation, including briefing and arguing the merits of the cases, before the judges make their final rulings, and ultimately whatever ruling may be appealed.

From our meeting Sept., 19, 2019 (see materials on [MCHA website](#)):

Guest Speakers:

**Pina Hernandez, Outreach Manager, Public Health Foundation
Enterprises - The WIC Card - It's Coming!**

Ms. Hernandez spoke to the group about WIC, what it provides, who qualifies, and how to apply - a good background before telling us how accessing benefits will change. Remember, immigration status is NOT considered when determining WIC eligibility, and WIC is not being considered for public charge under Trump's blocked public charge rule change.

Starting to roll out in Los Angeles in November (it has already started in other areas of the state) will be a new WIC card. No more paper checks and WIC ID. The WIC card will be used like a debit card, with a four-digit PIN number. The card brings several advantages - lost cards can be replaced, unlike the paper checks and there is no threat of losing the benefits on the card. Food quantities can be bought as needed or convenient. A WIC phone app is being rolled out - it is now available but activates with card-related information when a recipient gets a card at the WIC office. The WIC app will provide major assistance with shopping and with appointment reminders - to find approved grocery stores, scan for approved items at the stores, what the balance is on the card, etc. and some of those features are available NOW. Farmer's Markets will have to apply to be vendors and be authorized for equipment, so it will take some time.

If clients don't have a smart phone, they can print their WIC balance - what they have on their card - at a WIC office or at a store. The card is picked up at a WIC office. Send your clients to WIC to get their new card. Many families have stopped participating with WIC out of fear - they deserve the benefits.

See www.phfewic.org. Text message to 91997, or call them at 888-942-2229 with any questions.

Donald Nollar - Medi-Cal and Public Charge

Donald gave background information on the concept of "Public Charge" and who it has historically affected and currently affects. This background is helpful for understanding when it should come up and our ability to reassure clients. We all know now that the change in Public Charge was blocked in the courts last Friday and will not go into effect on Tuesday, Oct. 15. But even if it had, the rules would not affect Medi-Cal for pregnant and postpartum women, children under 21 and state-funded benefits. The rules would not be retroactive for benefits used NOR for LPR applications processed or filed on or after whatever new date comes up - so families SHOULD feel safe using benefits up until any new effective date for the rule, and SHOULD feel safe continuing to apply for Legal Permanent Residency.

MCHA has wanted to get across that there are very few groups to which the benefits part of Public Charge - CalFresh and Medi-Cal - would apply. Very few without Legal Permanent Residency get these benefits and for those that do get Medi-Cal without LPR status, it is generally a state benefit not subject to the rule change.

See slides posted on our website. MCHA is working to produce a flyer for clients about the effective date being blocked.

Health Care Legislation Affecting Low-Income Families

See Western Center on Law and Poverty's list on our [website](#) for the September meeting - update at meeting this month and new list/highlights of what else has been signed!

New since meeting:

From the California WIC Association:

WIC Food Package Updates Improved Maternal, Infant Health Outcomes

Updates to the WIC food package in 2009 to incorporate more fruits and vegetables appear to have improved both maternal and infant health outcomes, [according to a recent analysis](#) of more than 2 million mother-child pairs in California. Lower rates of preeclampsia were seen after the revised WIC food package was introduced, and there was less excess weight gain during pregnancy. The effects on infants born to mothers receiving the updated package were smaller, but still beneficial. They tended to have higher average gestational ages at birth, were less likely to be small for gestational age, and were less likely to have birth weights under 2,500 grams. This indicates that at a critical juncture in the course of life, WIC policy can be a significant lever to decrease health disparities between high-risk women and children.

Nationwide Obesity Report Recommends WIC

Obesity is a growing epidemic in the United States - and has been for decades. Currently, about one in three Americans of all ages - or more than 100 million people - have obesity. A [report based in part on newly released data](#) from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS), and analysis by Trust for America's Health, provides an annual snapshot of obesity rates nationwide. Among the

report's recommendations to reduce obesity are [expansion of WIC services to age 6 for children and for two years postpartum for mothers and fully funding the WIC Breastfeeding Peer Counseling Program](#).

Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report

[Get your flu shots and encourage your clients!](#)

[Vital Signs: Burden and Prevention of Influenza and Pertussis Among Pregnant Women and Infants - United States](#)

From 2010-11 to 2017-18, pregnant women accounted for 24-34% of influenza-associated hospitalizations among females aged 15-44 years.

Legislation preview:

[Newsom Signs Historic Bill Expanding Access to HIV Prevention Medication - egca.org](#). California Will Be First State to Allow Pharmacists to Furnish PrEP and PEP Without a Physician's Prescription

The California Department of Public Health's Maternal, Child and Adolescent Health Division is pleased to share with you the 2017 adolescent birth rate data

In 2017, California's adolescent birth rate continued to decline to a record-low of 13.9 births per 1,000 females aged 15-19. This rate reflects an 11.5 percent decline between 2016 (15.7 births per 1,000 females aged 15-19) and 2017.

Other findings include:

- Between 2000 and 2017, the birth rate among California females aged 15-17 and aged 18-19 declined 77 percent and 68 percent, respectively.
- Despite declining birth rates, disparities exist in California's adolescent childbearing.
- In 2017, Black and Hispanic females aged 15-19 were 2.9 and 3.8 times, respectively, as likely to give birth as White females of the same age.
- The county with the highest three-year (2015-2017) aggregated birth rate has a rate 5.4 times greater than the county with the lowest three-year aggregated birth rate.

Related links:

[County level data \(PDF\)](#)

[2017 adolescent birth rate data \(PDF\)](#)

[Frequently Asked Questions \(FAQ\)](#)

Visit the [Adolescent Health Data and Statistics](#) page for additional adolescent health data and resources.

SAVE THE DATE

Tuesday, October 29, 8:30 AM - 4:00 PM: BEYOND SILOS: DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND HEALTH CARE PARTNERSHIPS At the California Endowment. The DVHC Leadership Council, Los Angeles County Department of Public Health, Office of Women's Health, and the Domestic Violence Council invite you to this premiere symposium!

The symposium is open to anyone with an interest in innovative cross-sector collaboration between the health and domestic violence (DV) sectors to promote prevention and early identification of DV. We highly recommended this conference for all public health professionals and DV advocates who would like to learn more about improving the safety net for survivors and their health needs, and promoting systems change across Los Angeles in a way that better addresses DV as a public health issue.

Space is limited - registration was requested by 10-11-19, but see link [here](#):

RESOURCES

For people with disabilities, tax-free savings accounts without losing eligibility for benefits

[Information on the California Achieving a Better Life Experience Program](#)

In 2014, President Barack Obama signed the Stephen Beck, Jr. ABLE Act into federal law, which allows individuals with disabilities to establish tax-free savings accounts without losing eligibility to public benefit programs. The law allows each state to decide whether to offer a qualified ABLE program to its residents. The CalABLE program was launched in December 2018.

Berkeley Media Studies Group: [9 tips for giving effective public testimony to support health equity](#)

When advocates reach out to Berkeley Media Studies Group (BMSG) for help shaping the public narrative and advancing policy change on a particular public health or social justice issue, they often are eager to improve their ability to write op-eds or speak with reporters. But public testimony is another powerful way to deliver compelling messages that reach decision-makers. In this blog, BMSG's health equity coordinator offers tips for doing so, based on her recent experience providing public comment at San Francisco City Hall.

If you live, work, or go to school within three miles of the Exide plant, Rep. Lucille Roybal Allard encourages you to get a FREE blood lead test. For details, visit bloodleadtesting.com or call (844) 888-2290. If you live within 1.7 miles of Exide, you can also sign up for soil testing. For more information, visit dtsc.ca.gov/residential-cleanup or call (844) 225-3887. Please also feel free to share [this general information Exide flyer in English](#) and [in Spanish](#) with any friends and family living in the affected area.

Are you familiar with Mental Health Advocacy Services Fair Housing Tips? They are available in English, Spanish and Korean and are archived.

Multiple Reasonable Accommodation Requests: TENANT: "I receive my disability benefits on the 3rd of every month, and my landlord has been allowing me to pay my rent on the 3rd for years. I recently asked for a reasonable accommodation to have an emotional support animal in my apartment. The landlord granted this, but then demanded that I pay rent on the 1st of every month, and threatened to evict me if I don't comply. Can my landlord limit me to only one reasonable accommodation?" ([view PDF](#))

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STAY CONNECTED:

