

Our next monthly meeting is scheduled for this Thursday, October 19, 2017 - RSVP today!



## Maternal and Child Health Access

### October 19, 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

Julie Friedman, MPH, CHES, Director  
Iris Cantor-UCLA Women's Health Education &  
Research Center  
Planning for a Healthy Home, Body, and Baby

Updates: What's happening with:

Bills passed and failed  
Covered California and Federal Attacks  
Medi-Cal

**Please note:** Covered California will be open for enrollment from Nov. 1 to January 31. Please correct this information when you hear people talk about the shortened enrollment period - that is happening in other states, unfortunately, but not California!  
Remember Medi-Cal and MCAP enroll year-round.

Information on premiums and subsidies at our meeting.

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 September 21, 2017 see handouts [HERE](#)

*"Connecting the Dots: Snapshots of Child Well-Being in Los Angeles County"*

**Guest Speaker: Regan Foust, Ph.D, Director of Strategic Partnerships and Research Science, Children's Data Network, USC**

Ms. Foust spoke to MCHA about the work of the Children's Data Network and most specifically, four new "snapshots" of pregnancy data in Los Angeles. Children's Data Network (CDN) works specifically with linked administrative data. First she explained what this is and why it is important to agencies and communities through a [short video](#). CDN uses linked data generated throughout life to answer important questions and develop policy recommendations. CDN is addressing the siloed nature of agency data. Their work helps determine which children are most at need, how long services should be offered or extended and how targeted services might generate even more success.

The four perinatal snapshots discussed were drawn from 2002-2012 birth records to examine regional differences in births and healthy birth indicators and are available [here](#) and on the MCHA website:

1. Births in Los Angeles County (demographic trends): This snapshot examines how family demographics and birth trends are changing and why it matters. Births to white and Latina mothers decreased countywide by 33 and 19% respectively. Births to Chinese women rose 146%, meaning that service distribution may need to change accordingly. In some areas, births to women with college degrees increased, as for the county overall, but not in other areas.
2. Timely Prenatal Care: This figure worsened over the ten-year period, countywide, in almost all areas and for nearly every demographic group. This is vitally important information for policy - quality health care in the first trimester of pregnancy lowers the risk of complications such as preterm birth and low birth weight. With the advent of the ACA and expansions, we may see better statistics following 2012.
3. Perinatal Non-Smoking - the vast majority of women in LA County reported not smoking during pregnancy nor the three months prior to conception - and rates improved slightly. This measure is important as smoking is harmful to both the mother and fetus and to help gauge the effect of public health campaigns.
4. Full-term/Normal-weight Births: This snapshot examines trends in birth weight for the period - more babies were born full-term and at a normal weight than prior (53.5% vs. 47.7% in 2007). Improvements were seen in teens and women over 40 giving birth as well, the latter improving from 39.95 to 48.8%. The researchers concluded that public health efforts to decrease preterm birth and improve birth weights appear to be working. It is important to note that the disparity between African American and other groups' outcomes remains, although most all ethnic groups and regions improved.

### ***Maternal and Child Health-Related Bills; Governor signs many***

Our list of MCH-related bills was reviewed. Since the last day to sign or veto or for bills to become law passively was Sunday, Oct. 15 - we will post a roundup on our website and send a link in our follow-up mailing to this Thursday's meeting. Access and Insurance Coverage bills signed include [AB 17](#), which requires public notification and advance notice of price hikes for prescription drugs and [SB 133](#), extending "continuity of care" to those without employer-sponsored insurance - the ability for patients to complete a course of care for up to 12 months with a provider if coverage changes (addressing Anthem leaving Covered CA). Our three-month Covered CA Open Enrollment period was preserved in [AB 156](#). Unfortunately, glucose monitors, covered by Medicaid programs in 31 states, will still not be a Medi-Cal benefit - [AB 447](#) was not signed nor was [SB 643](#), which would add a certain Muscular Dystrophy condition to the Genetically Handicapped Persons Program and ease the transition for children with this condition from CCS to GHPP as adults.

#### **These bills were signed:**

[AB 273](#) - extends eligibility for child care services to parents engaged in an educational program for English language learners or to attain a high school diploma or GED.

[AB 557](#) - allows that for children in CalWORKs families in past or present domestic violence situation that resulted in school non-participation, the non participation can be excused. Also allows homeless assistance funds when fleeing an abuser.

[AB 480](#) - diaper benefit for infants and toddlers of low-income parents participating in CalWORKs welfare-to-work

[AB 10](#) - would require that school bathrooms offer an adequate supply of free menstrual supplies in Title 1 Schools grades 6-12.

[AB 168](#) - would prohibit an employer from seeking salary history information about an applicant for employment and would require an employer, upon reasonable request, to provide the pay scale for a position to an applicant for employment.

[SB 63](#) - The New Parent Leave Act would require employers to allow qualifying employees to take up to 12 weeks of parental leave to bond with a new child within one year of the child's birth, adoption or foster care placement. The bill will make job protected parental leave available to an additional 2.7 million Californians.

[SB 500](#) - Adds sexual acts or images as able to be considered under the definition of "extortion" and punishable by law.

### ***Medi-Cal Transportation***

Lynn Kersey gave an update on clarification that has been pursued and taking place on transportation as a Medi-Cal benefit. Transportation may be obtained because of medical need for assistance, "Non-Emergency Medical Transportation" (NEMT) or a beneficiary may need "Non-Medical Transportation" because adequate transportation doesn't exist or isn't appropriate for someone to attend doctor visits, including for mental health and dental care, or to access pharmaceuticals or for a number of other needs. Through Medi-Cal Managed Care Member Services Departments, clients should be able to get information about how to obtain the service. It is not necessary to fill out a form. In fee-for-service Medi-Cal, the state is just setting up new mechanisms to access transportation. We are happy to report we think this process will be better than it has been in the past. Stay tuned and if you have a client with Medi-Cal who needs transportation and is experiencing difficulty, please contact MCHA. Our flyer has not been finalized pending the fee-for-service info, but should be done enough to distribute by the end of the month.

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### ***CalFresh Updates***

Ivette Vivanco, CalFresh Advocate for MCHA noted the new income limits for 2017-2018 effective October 1 but that the benefit allotment will decrease slightly. There is an Elderly Simplified Application process for households with ONLY elderly and/or disabled members and no earned income. See the details in our [handout](#) from the meeting, or call our CalFresh department at MCHA.

### ***New since last meeting:***

#### ***Frail Los Angeles Residents Reject Managed Care***

From the [UCLA Center for Health Policy Research](#): Three in five of the poorest, sickest residents in Los Angeles County have rejected a managed health care program meant to improve their access to health services, according to the Health Policy Center's [policy brief](#). The managed care program, called Cal MediConnect, was designed to integrate financing and delivery of medical, mental health and

other health care services for 415,000 medically frail elderly or severely disabled young Californians who qualify for both Medicare and Medi-Cal benefits in the seven-county pilot program area. Eventually, 1.1 million Californians could be enrolled.

The main goal of Cal MediConnect is to have one entity coordinate care for this high-need, high-cost group, which eliminates fragmentation of health services and subsequent gaps in care, according to the policy brief. The new program also provides extra benefits, such as unlimited transportation (may already be a benefit) and more vision and dental care (also may be a benefit already now that oral health benefits will be restored). However, as of July 1, just [19 percent of eligible people in L.A. County were enrolled](#) - 38,020 people out of about 200,100. Although the California Department of Health Care Services in 2014 projected an enrollment rate of more than [60 percent](#) in the seven participating counties in the state, the rate is less than half that at 28 percent, the brief reports.

### **Factors that contributed to opt-outs in L.A. County**

According to the UCLA study, the possibility of losing a trusted doctor is enough to prompt many in L.A. County to opt out of the new program, which automatically enrolled people who were eligible. "These are very vulnerable people who have worked long and hard to cobble together a network of doctors and specialists they trust," said [Kathryn Kietzman](#), a research scientist at the UCLA Center for Health Policy Research and co-author of the policy brief. "They don't want to lose that."

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### ***Resources:***

America's Health Insurance Plans has issued a policy brief addressing the Social Determinants of Health entitled, ["Beyond the Boundaries of Health Care: Addressing Social Issues"](#) which highlights a number of examples of health plans addressing SDOH. It concludes with a number of recommendations for providing services not normally covered by state Medicaid plans if appropriate for the individual's needs. While we must be wary of calls for innovation and waivers, specific coverage of non-medical services and interventions intended to address specific SDOH should be supported.

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### ***SAVE THE DATE***

**Bloom Again Women's Conference** Here's a great opportunity to help your career to "bloom" and at the same time help

a low-income working woman to "bloom" after a medical challenge. This one-day event is packed with speakers and workshops to enable you to get and keep the job you want! Whether you're new to the job market, looking to change jobs, or want to get a promotion in your current job, you'll find internationally recognized speakers and subject-matter experts to get you on the right path. The conference fee includes lunch and all program materials. Download flyer [here](#)

#### **Speakers Include:**

**Dr. Lois Frankel**, Author of the New York Times and Businessweek Bestselling Business Bible for Women, Nice Girls Don't Get the Corner Office

**Carol Frohlinger, J.D.**, Author of the Breakthrough Book on Negotiation Skills for Women, Her Place at the Table

**Tom Henschel**, Award Winning Actor and President of Essential Communications

**Pamela Mitchell**, President of the Reinvention Institute and author of the 10 Laws of Career Reinvention

**WHEN** /SATURDAY, OCTOBER 28, 2017 8:30 AM - 5:00 PM

**WHERE** / HILTON - PASADENA 168 S Los Robles Ave Pasadena, CA 91101

**Oct. 31, 2017, 12-1: CHIS 2016 data release seminar at UCLA Center for Health Policy Research**, 10960 Wilshire Blvd., Ste. 1550, Los Angeles, CA 90024, or attend by webinar. See more information [here](#) and hear about the latest trends in insurance coverage, diabetes and prevalence of other chronic conditions, access to care and data on gender identity.

**Town Hall Meetings on Medi-Cal sponsored by Disability Rights California, Disability Voices United and the State Council on Developmental Disabilities:**

San Diego, Saturday, October 28th

Modesto, Thursday, November 2nd

Santa Clarita, Tuesday, November 7th

See the flyer in [English](#) and [Spanish](#) to register, and spread the word!

**Thursdays and Fridays Nov. 2-3 and 9-10: Promotora Training: East Los Angeles Women's Center** will offer HIV Promotora Training for those 18 years and older in a four-day series at the Pueblo del Sol Community Service Center. Contact Karla Morales (323) 526-5819 ext. 118 or [kmorales@elawc.org](mailto:kmorales@elawc.org)

**Nov. 17 - Dec. 1 with a kickoff party Nov. 17, 6 PM: Benefit Shopping - MCHA** will once again benefit from purchases at Ten Thousand Villages at 567 S. Lake Ave, Pasadena. See the flyer at our meeting or linked on our [website](#) soon.

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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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