

## Maternal and Child Health Access



### Monthly Virtual Meeting

Thursday, Sept. 16, 2021 10:00 am to 12:00 pm

#### Where?

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

**10:00 AM to 12:00 PM**

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



#### Speaker/Topic:

**Jenna Stewart, MA, CHES**  
Health Education Program  
Specialist

California Poison Control System -  
University of California San  
Francisco

**“Baby Safety Month and the  
Pandemic”**

**Timothy Brewer, MD, MPH**  
Professor of Medicine and  
Epidemiology at UCLA

**“COVID-19 and Variants – update”**

Additional Updates

The meeting notes and materials are posted on MCHA's website at  
[www.mchaccess.org/meetings.htm](http://www.mchaccess.org/meetings.htm)

**Meeting Notes – Thursday, June 17, 2021**

## **Guest Speaker: Pina Hernandez, Outreach Manager | PHFE WIC WIC webinar on fruits and vegetables seasonal Increase**

Ms. Hernandez spoke to the increased benefits in place for fruits and vegetables for WIC participants, \$35 per eligible person per month to spend on fruits and vegetables. This is more than double the usual amount and a family of three would thus receive \$105/month. This is a temporary increase just for the summer, due to the American Rescue Plan Act, but WIC and advocates would like this benefit to be used to show the need and work toward permanency for the benefit. Ms. Hernandez emphasized one of the myths – families’ reluctance to use benefits because it takes away from someone else – that isn’t the case.

Applicants can enroll completely by phone and mail the card, in LA, Orange and San Bernardino, text “apply” to 91997 or in other areas, the website is [www.signupwic.com](http://www.signupwic.com). Ms. Hernandez also discussed the WIC cards and WIC app and all it can do, and the increased WIC benefits overall during the pandemic.

### **Stella Kim – UCLA School of Dentistry Community Oral Health Improvement Plan (COHIP)**

Ms. Kim is part of the Oral Health Collaborative Consortium working with LA County to implement the COHIP. A number of exciting initiatives are already taking place in six areas of concentration – oral health education, workforce development, policy, oral health access, care coordination and data/surveillance. Initiatives include: Love Your Baby’s Teeth, focusing on pregnancy and infant care; an Emergency Department dental referral program to see patients who show up at ED within 24 hours and establish a dental home; working with eight hospital prenatal programs to provide resources and handout on the importance of oral health during pregnancy and oral health kits for children; provided oral health integration and fluoride varnish treatment training for non-providers – and so much more! Ms. Kim also distributed a colorful handout on LA County’s “dental deserts” – areas of need. See the slides posted on MCHA’s website, review the COHIP and assess your interest in being more involved – oral health in LA County needs you! [SSkim@dentistry.ucla.edu](mailto:SSkim@dentistry.ucla.edu)

## **New Since Meeting:**

**Your work is making a difference! Food insecurity is down!**

Despite the economic downturn, government figures for 2020 show no overall rise in hunger of the sort typical in past recessions. But some groups still suffered. Read more [here](#).

<https://www.nytimes.com/2021/09/08/us/politics/vast-expansion-aid-food-insecurity.html?referringSource=articleShare>

## The Maternal, Child and Adolescent Health (MCAH) Division of the California Department of Public Health has released

the first report from the [California Pregnancy Mortality Surveillance System \(CA-PMSS\) project](#).

This surveillance report provides the most accurate information on California's pregnancy-related deaths (including those up to one year after the end of pregnancy) occurring from 2008 through 2016.

**SB 65, the “M omnibus” bill, is headed to the governor’s desk, making it off the Assembly floor vote last Thurs. 9-9 with a 61-0 vote count!** The findings in the report above reveal what we have suspected about California's pregnancy mortality rates, and underscore the importance of SB 65 and bills that propose meaningful interventions to improve birth outcomes.

# SEPTEMBER IS SUICIDE PREVENTION MONTH

## FACTS ABOUT MATERNAL SUICIDE

### KEY FACTS

Mental health conditions are the **MOST COMMON COMPLICATIONS** of pregnancy and childbirth, affecting 1 in 5 women and childbearing people (800,000 new parents each year in the United States).

**Suicide and overdose combined are the LEADING CAUSE OF DEATH for women in the first year postpartum.**

The peak incidence of maternal suicide is 6-9 months postpartum.

New mothers who die by suicide:

- Are mostly White and older
- Use the most violent forms of suicide (hanging, jumping, shooting)
- Die in the late postpartum period
- Do not attend a postpartum obstetric visit (< 50%)

# 33%

of pregnancy-related suicide deaths had a documented prior suicide attempt

### TOP RISK FACTORS FOR MATERNAL SUICIDE

Personal or family history of mental health disorders

Interpersonal violence

Substance use disorder

*Citations are all included in the [Maternal Mental Health and Suicide Fact Sheet](#).*

Read more here: <https://myemail.constantcontact.com/September-is-Suicide-Prevention-Awareness-Month.html?soid=1133232824513&aid=pSuJ1Gjls2Y>

## Celebrate MCHA!!

**Thurs., Oct. 14, 6-7 PM - MCHA's very own Lucy Quacinella, Esq.,** Policy Advocate Extraordinaire and founder/owner of Multipurpose Advocacy Solutions will be honored by the Western Center on Law and Poverty at their annual Garden Party (virtually) along with our very favorite legislator (and now Supervisor) Holly Mitchell! Join us in honoring

Lucy online for her stellar achievements in improving access and quality of care for low-income Californians, especially those who are pregnant...

**Sunday, Oct. 24, MCHA is being honored by Bloom Again!**

**11:30 AM -1:30 PM at “That’s Entertainment” Brunch and Spotlight, at the Chevy Chase Country Club, 3067 E. Chevy Chase Dr., Glendale 91206** Bloom Again is an organization that ensures health equity in the healing process by providing rapid response financial assistance for living essentials to economically vulnerable working women who miss work due to a diagnosis of cancer or other illness. Many of MCHA’s clients have benefited from Bloom Again helping them over a rough patch and back to work. Tickets are a very reasonable \$21 and are available at [www.bloomagain.org/2021](http://www.bloomagain.org/2021). Act fast, as social distancing will be honored and less space accommodated.

Last but not least, stay tuned for the “Save the Date” for **MCHA’s own virtual celebration of our 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary** and YOU, our supporters and colleagues!

## Resources

*Please help spread the word.*

**Thurs Sept 23 and 30<sup>th</sup> - Women’s Health & Money – Free Virtual Workshops.** Iris Cantor-UCLA Women’s Health Center, Education and Research Center. **Two \$15 gift cards will be raffled off at each session!**

**Thursday, September 23rd from 12-1:00pm [Active Living and Healthy Eating on a Budget](#)**

**Thursday, September 30th from 12-1:00pm [Managing Money Matters](#)**

**View the flyer [HERE](#)**

**Register [HERE](#)**

## Save the Date

**Tuesday, Sept 21, 2021, 11-12 noon Pacific Time Advancing Maternal Health Equity during the Biden Administration** **Keynote Speaker: Chiquita Brooks-LaSure**, Administrator, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) and several more speakers. Register [here](#).

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**Wednesday, Sept. 29, 2021 9:00 am to 1:00pm**

**Beyond Silos: Domestic Violence and Health Care Partnerships**

Hosted by the DVHC Leadership Council and the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health, Office of Women’s Health and Domestic Violence Council

**REGISTRATION NOW OPEN PLEASE VISIT:** <https://bit.ly/38aFExK>

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**Thurs., Sept 30, 2021, 9 AM – 2:30 PM – Addressing Oral Health Inequities in Los Angeles County – Implementing the Oral Health Improvement Plan**

An in-depth look at the implementation of the Community Oral Health Improvement Plan (COHIP) [https://www.mchaccess.org//pdfs/monthly-meetings/LACDPH\\_COHIP.pdf](https://www.mchaccess.org//pdfs/monthly-meetings/LACDPH_COHIP.pdf) across Los Angeles communities. Contact Stella Kim for registration information: [sskim@dentistry.ucla.edu](mailto:sskim@dentistry.ucla.edu)

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**Sept. 30 – October 4 – Justice on Trial Film Festival  
A New Way of Life Reentry Program**

The Justice on Trial Film Festival features films that speak to the challenges of people caught up in the judicial system, with an emphasis on exposing injustice and exploring solutions. The 2021 film festival will be a hybrid event with one in-person night on Thursday, September 30th in Montebello, CA followed by four nights of virtual screenings. For more information, visit the website: <https://justiceontrialfilmfestival.net/> Register here for FREE. <https://www.eventbrite.com/o/a-new-way-of-life-reentry-project-15361370116>

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**Mon Oct./ 4, and Tues Oct. 5, 9:30 - 1 PM - Opening Doors for All: Improving Health in Housing and Homelessness.**

UCLA's Center for Health Policy Research 2021 E.R. Brown Symposium. Register [HERE](#)

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**Thursday, Nov. 4, 2021 – 8:30 -10:30 EASTERN time – note this is 5:30 AM Pacific Time!**

**School of Public Health, State University of New York at Albany  
Breastfeeding Ground Rounds – Marijuana Use During Pregnancy and Breastfeeding**

For a full description of this program please visit our [website](https://www.albany.edu/cphce/bfgr21.shtml). <https://www.albany.edu/cphce/bfgr21.shtml>

***All of our programs are available On***

***Demand <https://www.albany.edu/cphce/bfgr.shtml> 2 weeks after the live webcast.***

Click here to Register <https://ualbany-sph.informz.net/ualbany-sph/event.asp?eid=23DEFECBF-E77E-4825-BA8A-6C46C9F69700&uid=392193197&minst=3419375>

Call us at 518.402.0330 or e-mail [coned@albany.edu](mailto:coned@albany.edu) if you need assistance.

*Thank you!*

**Job opportunities available!**

Please click on the job title you are interested in to view the full job description and the application process. Provide a cover letter and current resume with your application that specifically outlines your employment history experience and educational background for the job for which you're applying.

MCHA is an Equal Opportunity Employer; women and people of color are strongly encouraged to apply.

- [IT Support Technician](#)
- [Health Programs and Benefits Trainer](#)
- [Coordinator Oral Health Advocacy for Children and Pregnancy](#)
- [Parent Coach / S6 - Welcome Baby Program](#)

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## Maternal and Child Health Access

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