

Our next monthly meeting is scheduled for this Thursday, May 16, 2019 - RSVP today!



Maternal and Child Health Access

MCHA Monthly Meeting

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

State Budget Updates - What are they? When will the new policies go into effect?

Home Visitation - How to refer using the new online guide!

Eligibility and Enrollment updates -
Medi-Cal transportation update!
SSI CalFresh expansion

CLICK HERE TO
RSVP

From our meeting March 21, 2019 (see materials on [MCHA website](#)):
Guest Speaker: Leonard Torrealba, Deputy District Attorney
Adrian Nguyen, DA Senior Investigator Consumer Protection Division,
LA County District Attorney's Office

The Notario Fraud Unit: Mr. Torrealba explained the origins of the word "notario" in Spanish language - Notary Publics are certified and take a course to be able to witness signatures. The Immigration Consultant Act in the Business and Professions Code defines what this professional can and cannot do: Immigration consultants are people who can help consumers fill out paperwork and translate and submit forms to government agencies. In California, immigration consultants cannot give anyone legal advice and cannot represent you in Immigration Court.

Attorneys or accredited representatives must be registered with the Executive Office of Immigration Review before appearing in Immigration Court. However, in some Latino communities, immigration consultants often advertise their services as notarios públicos. Consumers can be confused by this title because in some countries, notarios have training similar to lawyers and can perform legal services.

In California, however, notaries public are not lawyers. Notarios take advantage of this confusion to demand fees for services they are not legally allowed to offer, defrauding

consumers of large amounts of money in the process. Immigration consultants are not allowed to use the term notario to advertise their services.

Mr. Torrealba's unit has 3 lawyers to go after the people who defraud immigrants. He referred us to the [website for Immigration Services Fraud](#) in the Department of Consumer and Business Affairs: There you may also download a [brochure on Immigration Services Fraud](#). Mr. Torrealba or his colleagues would be pleased to speak to groups on their work. Email him at: LTorrealba@da.lacounty.gov (not for individual clients!)

Guest Speaker: Maggy Krell, Chief Legal Counsel at Planned Parenthood Affiliates of CA The Title X Gag Rule - Updates and Impact on California

Ms. Krell spoke to the critical role that modern contraception plays in our country and the history of the Title X ("Title Ten") Family Planning Program. It has been in existence since 1970, implemented under President Richard Nixon, and serves over a million patients in California, one-fourth of the patients nationally. Planned Parenthood serves 70% of the Title X patients here. The majority services are Pap tests, breast exams, tests for sexually transmitted infections (STIs) and birth control. Nearly 90% of the program recipients are under 200% of poverty, with the majority of patients women of color. The funding cannot be and is not used for abortion services.

The Title X program is being threatened by an attempt to block Planned Parenthood from receiving funds. This would result in decreased access to preventive health care services; other providers simply cannot provide more access if Planned Parenthood is blocked. In addition, new funding opportunities from the feds prioritize less effective methods of contraception and abstinence-only until marriage. This is a major departure from the recommendations of the Centers for Disease Control, who have evaluated these less-effective methods and abstinence programs.

As an update, federal judges have issued preliminary injunctions to temporarily block the Trump-Pence administration's dangerous Title X gag rule - the nation's program for affordable birth control and reproductive health care.

While this temporary block is a huge victory for all 4+ million patients who rely on Title X health centers for care, it is just that: temporary. We are still fighting the Trump-Pence administration in court to stop the gag rule, which would make it impossible for Planned Parenthood health centers and many other health care providers to continue participating in the program. [Take a moment to tell your representative: Take action and continue fighting to protect access to health care for all by supporting Title X Protection.](#)

New Since Last Meeting:

Postcards to households with an SSI member - starting this Friday

Los Angeles County will be mailing nearly 28,000 [postcards](#) daily from May 17 to the end of the month to households receiving SSI to let them know about CalFresh. See the information on the card to get languages other than English and Spanish.

Covered CA sending "Failure to Reconcile" notices

Starting **April 12** Covered CA began mailing "Failure to Reconcile" notices to approximately 50,000 households. Consumers will have until **May 15** to update their tax filing status for the 2017 tax year.

Please see Western Center on Law and Poverty's [Practice Tip](#)

A second letter will go out (in a **pink** envelope) at the end of May for those who still have failed to reconcile--this is last window of opportunity for consumers to fix their situation. Then on July 1, consumers that have not reconciled for the 2017 tax years will lose their current APTCs.

EBT Scam

The Department of Public Social Services (DPSS) has issued a warning about the latest scam targeting Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT) cardholders using U.S. mail to fraudulently attain client personal information. See the flyer in English and Spanish [here](#).

According to the California Department of Social Services (CDSS), a client reported receiving a letter in the mail instructing them to call (559) 461-9778 to renew their benefits. **THIS IS A SCAM!**

EBT cardholders should never provide personal information to unknown third parties. If anyone receives such a letter or suspects that they've been a victim of this scam, they should immediately **call the phone number on the back of their EBT card, change their PIN and report their EBT card as lost or stolen.**

Here are a few ways to make sure your identity is not compromised:

- Know who you share information with;
- Store and dispose of your personal information securely, especially your Social Security Number;
- Ask questions before deciding to share your personal information;
- Maintain appropriate security on your electronic devices.

If you believe that you have been a victim of a phone or text scam, please call the DPSS Customer Service Call Center at (866) 613-3777.

Breastfeed LA Issues Press Release and Breastfeeding Summit Report

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE - May 13, 2019

Report Examines Infant Feeding Disparities in Los Angeles County: Pinpoints Significant Inequities in Breastfeeding Rates by Race/Ethnicity, Hospital of Delivery and Other Factors

In October of 2018, BreastfeedLA organized a summit to explore new frameworks to understand and address breastfeeding inequities. In a report released today, BreastfeedLA has brought new data to light that examines the many factors that contribute to infant feeding disparities in LA County.

Data from the report indicates that in almost every birthing hospital in LA County, infants of color are less likely than white infants to be exclusively breastfed at hospital

discharge. Additionally, there are several hospitals in LA County that were Baby-Friendly in 2016 and were no longer Baby-Friendly in 2017. All of those hospitals saw decreases in breastfeeding rates in 2017, and decreases were larger for infants of color. The Baby-Friendly Hospital Initiative (BFHI) was launched by WHO and UNICEF in 1991. The initiative has measurable and proven impact, increasing the likelihood of babies being exclusively breastfed for the first six months. [A new paper published in Pediatrics links successful implementation of Baby-Friendly practices in the southern U.S. with increases in breastfeeding rates and improved, evidence-based care. The changes were especially positive for African-American women.](#)

The report explores disparities in awareness of paid family leave by race/ethnicity, income and education level, and highlights access to paid family leave as an important source of support for the health of all parents.

[READ FULL REPORT HERE](#)

SAVE THE DATE

Saturday, May 18 10 AM - 1 PM South LA Community Farm Ribbon Cutting Celebration 847 E. 20th St., Los Angeles. Celebrate the first year build out of the Community Farm and nine years of growing food, community and justice in South Central. Hear speakers, music, take a tour and more! RSVP [here](#)

Friday, May 24, 2019, 8:30am - 10:30am Community Clinic Association of Los Angeles County presents: Policy Café: Investing in our Future: Promoting Policies to Help California's Children Succeed,
with Kim Belshé, MPP, Executive Director of First 5 LA.
The Huffington Center at Saint Sophia Cathedral
1324 Normandie Avenue, Los Angeles, CA 90006
Single Ticket Cost: \$35
Cost includes breakfast and parking.
[REGISTER NOW](#)

RESOURCES:

If you aren't familiar with Safe Kids Worldwide, they issue a monthly newsletter full of resources, recalls, safety tips and checklists, etc. Check it out [here](#):

Safety, Emergency Tips

Several organizations offer advice on keeping children with physical, developmental, or behavioral conditions safe

- [Traveling Safely: Guidance for Transportation of Children with Special Needs](#) - A Policy Statement from the American Academy of Pediatrics.
- [An Emergency Information Card](#) (PDF) that patients or caregivers can download and customize with information about the cardholder's disability. From the federal Administration for Community Living.
- [State emergency-preparedness tools and resources](#) for individuals with disabilities and their caretakers, along with information for first responders, emergency managers, and community-based organizations. From the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Mental Health and Children with Special Needs

The recording and slides from the May 8 webinar, "Mental Health Policy Briefing: Raising the Priority of California Children with Special Health Care Needs," are now available. Experts from the National Health Law Program provided an overview of the mental health services to which CSHCN are entitled, highlighted current state policy priorities, and shared ways to engage in advocacy efforts. [Access the recording](#)

Also See:

- [The Long and Winding Road to Mental Health Care for Your Kid](#) - from California Healthline
- [Access to Mental Health Services for Children with Special Health Care Needs in California](#)

Infant Death from Pertussis:

From California Dept. of Public Health:

Tragically, [California experienced its first infant death of 2019](#) from pertussis.

The California Department of Public Health has issued a [clinical health advisory with guidance on immunizing all pregnant women](#) against pertussis to protect their babies.

We urge you to review it, and share it with health care providers in your networks.

For additional resources:

- Visit the [prenatal Tdap toolkit](#) page on EZIZ
- See the [CDPH webpage on pertussis](#)

Thank you in advance for passing along this important message and helping protect infants from the dangers of pertussis

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1111 W. 6th St., Ste. 400

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STAY CONNECTED:

