

Our next monthly meeting is scheduled for this Thursday, June 21, 2018 - RSVP today!



Maternal and Child Health Access

***Please note earlier time to accommodate speaker.
Please aim for 9:30 to deal with parking, etc. Thank you!***

Where?

9:45 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

*Judy London, Directing Attorney
Immigrants' Rights Project, Public Counsel
Domestic Violence Asylum Ruling*

*Jorie Aldrich
Program Director, Baby2Baby
CalWORKs and Diaper Program*

*HealthCoverage, Legislative and
Budget Updates*

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 April 19. 15, 2018 (see materials on our website): [HERE](#)

***Guest Speaker: Aracely Lozano, Violence Prevention
Community Organizer, Peace Over Violence Sexual Assault
Awareness Month and Denim Day April 25!***

Ms. Lozano explained the origins of Denim Day: an Italian high court judge overturned a convicted in a rape case, stating that the jeans the victim was wearing were so tight she would have to have taken them off herself therefore the sex was consensual. Italian women in their parliament protested by wearing jeans. Protests spread worldwide. It is now an annual observance globally, with over 100 countries joining in in 2016, informing and breaking down myths about sexual violence. Ms. Lozano went through definitions, including that of consent, which is more than "yes" or "no" and when there is not equal power, there cannot be consent (see slides posted) and healthy sexuality.

The Italian incident gave rise to the "There is no excuses" campaign, addressing myths and realities of sexual assault - wearing tight clothing; flirting online, "asking for it"; being drunk, being married to the perpetrator - none of these excuses rape. This campaign originated with clothing company Guess, who is now not a partner. Peace Over Violence also hosts "bystander education" - engaging the community in various ways to talk to teens; support survivors of sexual assault; not to joke about rape nor ignore it. Material resources and hotlines were provided for Los Angeles: 213-626-3393; 626-793-3385 and 310-392-8381 as well as national numbers (see slides).

Assistance with diaper costs for CalWORKs clients

Please see [All-County Letter #18-38](#) from the Department of Social Services. The CalWORKs grant for each child under 36 months as of April 1, 2018 should contain \$30 additional monthly, as long as the individual with the child is a participant in a Welfare to Work program. Teens in the Cal-Learn program are also considered participants and may receive diaper payments. The child must be under 36 months old as of the beginning of the month. Child-only grants in which the parent is ineligible for CalWORKs do not qualify for diaper payments.

Please note that \$10 million in one-time funding to non-profit organizations for diaper banks was included in the state budget. We will hope to have more information at the meeting.

New since last meeting:

California's 2018-19 budget increases much-needed anti-poverty spending, but little done in health

Thank you to the Western Center on Law and Poverty for the information here.

California's record \$137 billion budget for 2018-19 includes badly needed increases and improvements in CalWORKs and some exciting new programs and pilots in CalFresh, CAPI, and SSI.

CalWORKs will be increased by 10% April 1, 2019, so that the maximum grant of \$714/month will increase to \$785/month for a family of three. This moves families from 41.2% of the poverty level to 43.6%, with a two-step process to get to 50% of poverty in the next two years. The cost of living adjustment is restored for CalWORKs but not until 2022-23 (this was repealed in 2009).

A pilot home visitation/family support program for CalWORKs recipients was funded and the Homeless Assistance daily amount paid for temporary housing was increased from \$65 to \$85. One of the biggest changes was the repeal of the state law that traded CalFresh benefits in SSI for \$10 increase in SSI/SSP grants. This will end in June, 2019 and SSI recipients will be able to apply for CalFresh - some 375,000 SSI recipients may be eligible. If the new benefit causes a loss of SSI dollars, CalFresh households with one or more SSI recipients will have the SSI income considered when calculating CalFresh eligibility. This "hold harmless" is a new state benefit so that getting CalFresh doesn't penalize the SSI grant for households, which could be the case for some 70,000 households.

The budget increases the Cash Assistance Program for Immigrants by \$10/month by reversing an old policy that requires disabled and elderly immigrants to be paid less than SSI recipients. A new rapid re-housing program for seniors in adult protective services is funded for \$9 million.

There is little in health, but the best news I've read in a while is that the budget DOES include the elimination of treatment caps for the state-only Breast and Cervical Cancer Treatment Program! Another spot of good news is an \$8 million increase to expand interventions in the Black Infant Health Program. In mental health, the budget created a three-year "All Children Thrive" pilot to address childhood trauma and a program to create scholarships for primary care physicians in medical shortage areas to enroll in a UC primary care psychiatric fellowship program.

Finally, in keeping with the governor's desire to fund one-time projects and not build ongoing costs into the budget, but still a very needed use of funds is \$500 million dollars in emergency block grants for homelessness:

- \$350 million to Continuums of Care based on 2017 census
- \$150 million to cities with populations of more than 330,000

Funding is allocated for the Domestic Violence Shelter Program and for the Homeless Youth and Exploitation Program under Emergency Services. As part of funds gathered in new document recording fees, a permanent source of funds for homelessness and housing passed in 2017, the budget allocates another \$125 million in funds for housing and shelter.

More at this Thursday's monthly meeting!

Family separation - it's a health issue as well - Speak Up!

One of the best articles I've seen about the effects of family separation, including on such developmental and attachment issues as breastfeeding, and of course, on trauma, "[When they are separated from their parents, Kids' stress hormones start working overtime...](#)"

And an article laying out what we can do to fight family separation at the border. Inform yourselves! Many/most of the people are seeking asylum. This spring, the administration ordered that everyone caught crossing illegally into the United States be prosecuted, which is new. See [here](#).

And attend an event June 30, as well as one July 21: See [here](#).

Potential Effects of Public Charge Changes on Health Coverage for Citizen Children

A new analysis explores the potential effects of a Trump Administration proposal to allow the federal government to take into account use of health, nutrition, and other non-cash programs when making public charge determinations. The brief focuses on potential health coverage losses for children with a noncitizen parent, and presents three Medicaid/CHIP disenrollment scenarios. ([News Release](#), [Issue Brief](#))

From the California Department of Public Health:

California Attorney General Files Suit Over Dangerous Levels of Lead in Toddler Formula

Two toddler formulas, which are not California WIC authorized formulas, were named in a lawsuit by the California Department of Justice (DOJ). On Thursday, June 7, the DOJ announced that it is pursuing a [lawsuit against two companies](#), Nutraceutical Corp. and Graceleigh Inc. DOJ testing on Peaceful Planet Toddler Supreme and Sammy's Milk Free-Range Goat Milk Toddler Formula found dangerous levels of lead.

The California Department of Public Health's MCAH Division is sharing this information with local health jurisdictions to alert participants that these formulas are a possible health hazard. A similar communication is going out to all WIC agencies to alert WIC mothers and caregivers.

It is important to repeat that these two toddler formulas are not California WIC authorized formulas.

Action

Advise mothers/caregivers to not purchase or use these formulas. If these formulas are in the home of mothers/caregivers, advise them to drain and rinse already opened cans and save any cans in case there is a recall or refund offered. If participants have ingested these formulas, please advise the participant to contact their pediatrician. Lead poisoning is harmful, especially to children and pregnant women. Since there are no visible symptoms of lead poisoning, the only way to find out if a person has lead poisoning is by a blood test.

For further information, please contact the [California Department of Public Health Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Branch \(CLPPB\)](#).

For more information go to the DOJ website, at [State of California - Department of Justice - Office of the Attorney General](#).

Apply now for Women's Policy Institute-State Class of 2019!

Are you an advocate or activist in the areas of criminal, economic, reproductive, trauma or health justice? Are you looking to get more experience with advocating for policies that create systemic change at the state level? We are happy to announce that we're accepting applications for the [2018-19 cohort of our Women's Policy Institute-State Fellowship!](#) WPI-State is open to cisgender and transgender women, non-binary and genderqueer people, and transgender men.

[Sign up for our first informational webinar now!](#) It will be held on Friday, June 22, at 11am Pacific time. Don't wait, the deadline to apply to the 2019 WPI-State class is Tuesday, July 24, at 12pm. We encourage you to check out our [FAQs](#) and email us at wpi@womensfoundca.org with any questions or concerns or to discuss your application.

SAVE THE DATE:

Tuesday, June 26 and Wednesday, June 27: Census 2020 meetings will be held in the **San Gabriel Valley (June 26)** or the **San Fernando Valley (June 27)** to begin planning efforts in

our County. Meetings will take place in Long Beach and South LA also. To RSVP please contact IFamiliarMiller@calfund.org (Inés Familiar Miller).

- * San Gabriel Valley, El Monte Community Center, June 26 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
- * San Fernando Valley, San Fernando HS Social Hall, June 27 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
- * South Los Angeles, Holman Methodist Church, August 1, 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
- * Long Beach, Long Beach Convention Center, August 2 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Over \$34B in Federal Medical Assistance Percentage (FMAP) funding for California is based on Census counts. We all need these resources to serve our communities and ensure access to health.

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STAY CONNECTED:

