

## Maternal and Child Health Access



### Where?

**ONLINE!**



**MCHA Monthly Meeting  
Thursday, April 17, 2025  
10:00 am to 12:00 pm**

(After you register, look for the Zoom link in your registration confirmation email)

### Speaker/Topic:

**Joceline Hernandez, MS, RD,  
IBCLC  
Nutrition & Physical Activity  
(NUPA) Coordinator**

**Perinatal Programs Section -  
MCAH Division  
California Department of Public  
Health**

**"CDPH/MCAH Nutrition & Physical  
Activity (NUPA) Initiative:  
Tools & Resources"**

**Updates in Health Coverage**

**Black Maternal Health Week April 11-17  
April is: Minority Health, Alcohol Awareness, National Child  
Abuse Prevention, Sexual Assault Awareness & Prevention  
Month**

**Notes from Monthly Meeting February 20, 2025 (no meeting in March)  
[www.mchaccess.org/meetings.htm](http://www.mchaccess.org/meetings.htm)**

MCHA sent this to our networks on Dec. 17.

**Newborns are now defaulted into their mother's plans - read below!**

The following article was published by state DHCS on December 3, 2024: [Medi-Cal](#)

**[News: Update: Change in Procedure for Infants Enrolled Through the Newborn Gateway:](#)**

The article states that as of November 24, 2024, newborns whose mothers had Medi-Cal or MCAP for the delivery (making the newborn "deemed eligible", or DE) and who are enrolled into Medi-Cal with a separate number of their own through the Newborn Gateway (NG) will

be automatically defaulted into the mother's plan. These newborns will not have a primary care provider (PCP) when the default into the mother's plan occurs.

Neither the state nor the plan informs the family about any of this; families find out only after the newborn has been defaulted into the mother's plan.

Read more and what to do [HERE](#)

**New since last month:**

**Hooray for Welcome Baby!!**

### **Two-Year Welcome Baby Study Now Live**

A recent study of Los Angeles County's Welcome Baby home visiting program found that virtual visits increased participation and satisfaction, and families who participated were more likely to receive key health and parenting supports, leading to improved maternal confidence and stronger social-emotional outcomes for children. [Click here](#) to read the report.

### **From the Commonwealth Fund: Community-Driven Strategies to Improve Maternal Health**

Recognizing that the U.S. maternal mortality crisis is largely preventable, legislators at the federal, state, and local levels are committed to addressing it. On *To the Point*, Anne Morris Reid and colleagues discuss the importance of partnering with communities and involving people with lived experience in these efforts. Drawing on findings from a forum with maternal health stakeholders that included policymakers, funders, and practitioners, the authors discuss recommendations for developing a national strategy that encompasses related social needs. [READ MORE](#)

### **Dental Managed Care Transition in Los Angeles for July 1 – letters going to Medi-Cal recipients are incorrect!**

Please read the provider notice from the State Department of Health Care Services, below. Dental managed care choices in the two counties in California that have dental managed care, Los Angeles and Sacramento, are changing. California is ending Access Dental Plan in Los Angeles, and "California Dental Network" will now be a choice. For that reason, all dental managed care recipients, NOT fee-for-service dental recipients, will receive a letter advising them of their choices. Unfortunately, the 90-day warning letter that went out already in Los Angeles indicates that a plan must be chosen, and if one isn't, the state will put them in a plan by default.

Two issues:

- 1) Someone may legitimately need help staying with their provider, if they are currently in Access Dental, are in a course of treatment or otherwise need to continue with that provider, and their provider doesn't take another dental plan or fee-for-service: Consistent with federal law, Members must (a) have access to services consistent with the access they previously had, (b) be permitted to have continued access to services during a transition from dental FFS to DMC, or a transition from DMC plan to DMC plan, and (c) be permitted to retain their current Provider for a period of time if that Provider is not in the DMC plan's Network when the Member, in the absence of

continued services, would suffer serious detriment to health or be at risk of hospitalization.

2) All who receive a letter in LA need to know they can choose “regular” or fee-for-service dental in LA. Right now, if they do nothing, they stay in their plan, since Liberty and Health Net dental managed care is not affected by this change.

### **From: March 2025 Special Provider Bulletin Vol. 41 Num. 10**

During the week of March 31, DHCS mailed 90-day notices to approximately 350,000 Medi-Cal members in Sacramento and Los Angeles counties, notifying them of upcoming changes to the available Medi-Cal dental plans in their county. If the member must make a plan choice because their previous plan no longer serves the county, the member will also be notified of their continuity of care protections and other important information. Members will also receive a similar notice at 60 days, which will include a Medi-Cal managed care enrollment packet, and at 30 days prior to the effective date of the changes. Additionally, in May, Medi-Cal Health Care Options will launch an outbound call campaign to members who receive a Medi-Cal managed care enrollment packet. Representatives will review available Dental Managed Care plan choices, answer questions, and facilitate enrollment in the member’s chosen plan over the phone.

On January 31, 2025, DHCS provided go-live decisions to Dental Managed Care plans—Health Net of California, Liberty Dental Plan of California, and California Dental Network—that are scheduled to assume operations in both Sacramento and Los Angeles counties on July 1, 2025. The go-live decisions were based on DHCS’ assessment of the plans’ operational readiness deliverables, including network adequacy, systems testing, and specific quality improvement and oral health equity transformation components.

### **More Denti-Cal and Medi-Cal news – enrollees can’t be charged for missing an appointment**

[Volume 41, No. 10](#) of the Denti-Cal provider bulletin reminds dentists and Medi-Cal providers that they can’t charge a Medi-Cal enrollee for missing an appointment. The state offers to help the patient reschedule:

“Are you tired of Medi-Cal members missing an appointment with your dental office? If so, you can record the absentee member’s name and missed appointment in the Missed Appointment Notification form. Provider Website Application Medi-Cal Dental will follow up with the member to assist in rescheduling their appointment with your office.

**Reminder: Medi-Cal providers are prohibited from billing a Medi-Cal member for missed appointments.** For questions and support, please contact the Medi-Cal Dental Telephone Service Center (TSC) at (800) 322-6384. The call is free. Medi-Cal Dental representatives are available 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday to assist you and the Medi-Cal Dental Interactive Voice Response System (IVR) can navigate you to the services you need on the phone.”

However, the research that Liz has done seems to indicate [that Medicare providers CAN charge](#) for missed appointments – so beware if someone is Medi-Medi-it may be the Medicare that is being charged.

### **Even MORE Denti-Cal News: Bay Area Legal Aid wins settlement!**

## Medi-Cal Dental Coverage Case Settled!

Medi-Cal recipients who need replacement dentures will no longer encounter insurmountable barriers, thanks to a recent court-approved settlement in *Tesfai v. California Department of Health Care Services*.

Now Medi-Cal dental patients can get replacements when they are lost, stolen, or destroyed without needing to obtain a fire or police report or wait five years, effectively expanding access to dentures for the 14.7 million California residents enrolled in Medi-Cal. The Department of Health Care Services must also conduct a review of the last six months of denture denials, impacting approximately 10,000 people needing replacement dentures every year.

Dentures are an invaluable, life-sustaining prosthetic that are not only for the elderly. They contribute to nutrition and health, facial support, and self-esteem.

Read more about the case and the expanded coverage at the links below

[Read the FILING](#)  
[DHCH Denture Coverage Explainer](#)

## Special Enrollment - Covered CA and Kaiser Community Health Care Cov CA for DACA recipients (while we can) through Dec. 31, 2025!

For Kaiser, please select the “Determination by Covered CA of exceptional circumstances” qualifying life event (QLE) in Step 1 (Choose Special Enrollment Period) on the KP individual and families plan application and provide the date the QLE occurred on (1/7-3/8). Complete the remaining sections of the KPIF Application for Health Coverage as usual.

For Covered CA, more information about special enrollment, and how to enroll can be found on website [here](#). Also, please find the special enrollment fact sheet in multiple languages below, which can be shared across your networks:

[English and Spanish](#)  
[Chinese](#)  
[Korean](#)  
[Vietnamese](#)

Those signing up for coverage may be eligible for more financial help than ever before in 2025 with no deductibles in Silver cost-sharing reduction plans, and lower out of pocket costs when seeking care. Let us know if you can't find the special enrollment.

**MCHA can help – The Kaiser applications can be complex!!**

## Help Consumers with Periodic Data Matching Findings – for people who assist with Covered CA

Through a process called Periodic Data Matching (PDM), Covered California is required to check federal records twice a year to verify if a consumer enrolled in a plan through Covered California has Medicare eligibility, enrollment, or deceased status. If consumers do not respond and act within 30 days of the PDM letter ([NOD70A](#) or [NOD70B](#)) being sent, **they will automatically be discontinued from Covered California programs based on the data inconsistency.**

Notice ID “NOD70A” or “NOD70B” would have appeared on your [Daily Summary Email](#) for any affected consumers that you can contact to assist with taking the required action(s). To resolve any inconsistencies for each household member where a response is needed, sign in to the consumer’s application and either Agree or Disagree with any noted inconsistency.

## Comment on Behavioral Health Services Act County Policy Manual

DHCS today (4/7/25) released updates to the [Behavioral Health Services Act County Policy Manual](#) and opened the public comment period for Module 3. Comments and feedback will be accepted from April 7 through 25.

The policy manual updates prepare counties, behavioral health providers, and Tribal leaders for the first Integrated Plan and draft Integrated Plan submission in 2026. These updates, originally released for public comment in December 2024 as Module 2, include guidance about draft and final Integrated Plans, funding allocations, Medi-Cal payments, Full Service Partnerships, promoting access to care, early intervention programs, and workforce education and training.

As part of an updated planning requirement, counties must now submit a draft Integrated Plan by March 31 of each three-year planning cycle beginning in 2026. The draft Integrated Plan will also include exemption and transfer requests, which allow counties to adjust Behavioral Health Services Act funding allocations to reflect local needs, in accordance with DHCS guidelines. Final Integrated Plans will be due on June 30, 2026.

Draft Module 3 provides clear guidance on Integrated Plan submission and approval processes, budget templates, Integrated Plan templates, and measures for population goals. It will support counties as they prepare to submit their first Integrated Plans in 2026. Comments on Module 3 can be left through the DHCS public comment digital platform and will be accepted from April 7 to 25.

After each public comment period, modules will be analyzed and finalized before being integrated into the final policy manual, which will ultimately be organized by topic rather than module.

The policy manual is essential for creating a coordinated, efficient framework that meets the behavioral health needs of Californians across diverse communities.

DHCS invites Californians interested in shaping the future of behavioral health care to [view](#) the draft Module 3 policy manual and provide input. To learn about the feedback submission process, please watch this [instructional training video](#). For specific questions about the final policy manual, please email [BHTinfo@dhcs.ca.gov](mailto:BHTinfo@dhcs.ca.gov). For public comment-related inquiries, please email [BHTPolicyFeedback@dhcs.ca.gov](mailto:BHTPolicyFeedback@dhcs.ca.gov).

This effort is part of [Mental Health for All](#), California’s bold initiative to expand treatment, housing, and culturally responsive care while strengthening the behavioral health workforce.

## Women’s Foundation California – Policy Fellowship!

[Dr. Beatriz María Solís Policy Institute \(SPI\) Local](#) is a six-month fellowship for organizers, advocates, and changemakers ready to turn community insight into political power—power that can bend policy toward justice.

If you live or work in LA County and are ready to shape policy on climate justice, immigration, housing security, and TGI wellness and justice—[this is your invitation to apply](#). [Forward this](#). You know a leader—we just need to reach them.

[Support the movement.](#) Your donation helps fellows gain the tools and training they need to drive real change.

[Final applications are due Thursday, May 8, 2025, at 10 AM.](#)

## Resources

### **New Midwifery School Opening!**

We are thrilled to confirm that [Commonsense Childbirth School of Midwifery](#), a direct entry, MEAC accredited, licensed midwifery school is expanding its reach and starting a satellite school in California! As a result, they will be hosting an in-person information session on Thursday May 8, 2025 from 10am-12pm in Los Angeles. Join President and Founder Jennie Joseph, LM CPM along with Program Director Zul Ruiz Gines, LM to learn more about the school, admissions, expectations, and the opportunity to pursue the calling of midwifery. The session is geared towards prospective students and preceptors but others are welcomed. Attached is a flyer with registration link. Location details will be provided after you register. We anticipate this being a well-attended session so please reserve your space ASAP.

You can register [here](#).

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### **Fighting Senior Poverty Through Law**

**Justice in Aging** recently released two new resources related to older immigrants. The first, [Understanding Critical Connections between Immigration and Older Adults](#), identifies connections between older adults and immigration. Unfortunately, discussion of immigration policy leaves out older adults. This resource highlights those connections and explains why policymakers and advocates who care about aging should care about immigrants in our communities. As [a recent California Healthline article](#) explains, aggressive and restrictive immigration policies disrupt the direct care workforce.

The second, [Threats to Older Immigrants in Health Care, Economic Security, Housing and Elder Rights](#), examines major actions under the Trump Administration that impact older immigrants. The resource looks at both actions taken to date and those that are forthcoming or anticipated in the key programs and services that older immigrants rely on.

These resources come as we approach the end of the first 100 days of the new Administration. Now is a critical time to reflect on the important connections between older adults and immigration, acknowledge existing threats and impacts of the new Administration on older immigrants, and prepare for upcoming policies that will affect older immigrants in our communities. Policies should support older immigrants, ensuring their needs are met and recognizing their invaluable roles and contributions.

**We are available to answer questions from our advocacy network on specific legal issues facing your older adult clients.** Please reach out to [info@justiceinaging.org](mailto:info@justiceinaging.org) to request assistance. We cannot provide legal advice representation to individuals.

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### **COMMUNITY GRANT PROGRAM-** fire-affected households 'til Apr 30!

Thanks to a generous \$1 million grant from the REALTORS® Relief Foundation (RRF), financial assistance is offered to households affected by the California wildfires. Eligible households may receive up to \$1,000 to help cover housing-related costs. See more:

Who Can Apply?

This program is available to full-time residents who meet the following criteria:

- U.S. citizens or individuals legally admitted for residence in the U.S.

- Experienced displacement or damage to their primary residence due to the wildfires.

#### What Does the Grant Cover?

Eligible applicants may receive financial assistance for one of the following housing-related expenses:

- Mortgage Payment Assistance – If your primary residence was damaged by the disaster.
- Rental Assistance – If you are displaced and need temporary housing.
- Hotel Reimbursement – If you incurred temporary lodging costs due to displacement.

Important: This grant does not cover expenses such as home equity loans, clothing, appliances, vehicles, or other non-housing-related costs.

#### How to Apply:

- Complete the online application using the link below.
- Submit required documentation to verify wildfire-related displacement or damage.
- Applications are processed on a first-come, first-served basis until funds are fully allocated.
- Deadline to apply is April 30, 2025.
- Visit our [FAQ page](#) to learn more.

Confidentiality Notice: All submitted information will be kept confidential and used solely for eligibility verification.

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#### **Advocates for Youth is currently recruiting for next year's Youth Activist**

**Network!** Applications are due May 1st. This is for young folks ages 14-24. The year kicks off with an all-expenses paid activist institute in Washington, D.C. in early September 2025 and ends in June 2026. We offer a \$1200 stipend for the year. Each council works on different issue areas related to young people's reproductive and sexual health (listed below). Please note that some are for Black and Brown young people only.

- **Know Your IX (student survivors)**
- **Muslim Youth Leadership Council**
- **Student Organizing on college campuses**
- **Young Women of Color & Nonbinary Organizers for Reproductive Justice (YWOC)**
- **YouthResource: LGBTQ+ Youth of Color Leadership**
- **Engaging Communities around HIV Organizing (ECHO): for young people living with HIV**
- **Racial Justice in Sex Ed Youth Advisory Council for young people of color**
- **Free the Pill Youth Council: expanding birth control over the counter**
- **Abortion Out Loud**

[See the website for more information and application](#)

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#### **[Women are paving the way in construction: here's how to break barriers and access free training](#)**

Clad in boots, vest, safety glasses, gloves, and a helmet, Amanda Cordova never imagined she would work in construction. Previously, she was a manager at a deli in a supermarket, until one day a friend, already working in the sector, told her that the construction industry needed more women. She hesitated, but her curiosity was stronger, so she decided to give it a chance.

Today, two years later, Amanda works as a laborer on the Section 2 of [Metro's D Line Subway Extension Project](#). She has learned how to use tools, install pipes, cut steel with a torch, and

demolish walls. She also operates a 60-foot platform truck to move materials. “I have to put a cushion on the seat because I’m only 4’11” ... but nothing stops me,” she says with a smile.

Although nerves were initially her biggest challenge, Amanda says that her confidence grew as she learned, “I believe construction is a great opportunity, and women also have the skills for this.”

One of the biggest advantages of this program is that apprentices get paid while they train, eliminating the burden of student debt. As they develop their skills, they can also advance in their careers and earn higher wages. [Pay rates vary depending on experience](#), with apprentices earning between \$17 and \$57 per hour, while journeywomen can make between \$17 and \$67 per hour.

### **Learn more**

If you're interested in joining the construction industry, visit [Women Breaking Ground](#) — available in English, Spanish, and five other languages. Don't miss out! Start your career in construction and be part of the change that's transforming the industry.

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## **Grants for Soccer**

As we prepare to host the U.S. opening match for FIFA World Cup 26, we are proud to unveil a series of legacy programs in partnership with the [Play Equity Fund](#), designed to use the power of the World's Game to create lasting, meaningful impact across the Los Angeles region.

Under the theme '**Celebrate the Extraordinary**', these initiatives will elevate and engage Angelenos by supporting growing the game of soccer, inspiring future sports professionals, beautifying neighborhoods, and showcasing nonprofit organizations that are using soccer to uplift communities and foster connection, opportunity, and unity across the region.

The first of these initiatives, the 26 Champions Grant Program, will recognize 26 local nonprofits that are already making a transformative impact in underserved neighborhoods and communities facing challenges, including those recovering from the recent LA wildfires.

Each selected organization will receive a \$26,000 grant award, a professionally produced marketing video showcasing the organization, and public recognition of their work in the lead up to FIFA World Cup 26.

Only 501(c)(3) public charities or government entities, not individuals, based in Los Angeles County are eligible to receive the grant. These organizations must be using soccer to bring communities together, address physical, social, and emotional health challenges, or support the region's rebuilding efforts by using the game to create connections, joy, and recovery.

[Learn more and apply here.](#)

## **Save the Date**

**Thurs April 17, 10-5 and Fri April 18, 10-3:**

**Join us for the Alumni Scholars Club's annual Locks of Love** event to gather hair donations for the thousands of people experiencing medically-related hair loss from conditions like alopecia and cancer. Participants must have a minimum of 10 inches of hair to donate, which will be turned into wigs and make a difference in the lives of many.

Get a FREE haircut courtesy of Paul Mitchell Salon of Pasadena

Receive a custom Locks of Love tote bag

Donations go to [Locks of Love](#) and [Hair We Share](#) (see hair requirements)

A bag of already cut hair (in a hair tie) may also be brought in and donated the day of the event

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**Monday April 28<sup>th</sup> 8 AM – 4 PM – “Environment, Climate Change & Health” Annual Health Equity Symposium**

**UCLA-Kaiser Center for Health Equity – held at The California Endowment. Free**, all day and includes breakfast and lunch. The symposium will provide an opportunity to learn from leading experts at the intersection of the environment, climate change, and health. We hope to foster discussion, encourage networking, and inspire action towards impact mitigation strategies.

**Registration Required.** Please feel free to share with your colleagues and networks. For questions, please email [easosa@ucla.edu](mailto:easosa@ucla.edu). [Register HERE.](#)

**On Wednesday, May 21, 2025, 2-4 PM** - Department of Health Care Services' (DHCS) Medi-Cal Dental Services Division (MDSD) Medi-Cal Dental Los Angeles Stakeholder Meeting. DHCS will share updates and information on new and upcoming activities. Additionally, this meeting provides dental stakeholders with a forum to share input with the Medi-Cal Dental team that can help improve the delivery of oral health care services.

The meeting information will be posted on the [Dental Los Angeles Stakeholder Meetings \(ca.gov\)](#). Any additional materials will be posted on the webpage prior to the meeting or as soon as they become available.

Please email your questions to [dental@dhcs.ca.gov](mailto:dental@dhcs.ca.gov).

## EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

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

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

- [Welcome Baby Registered Nurse - Bilingual in English/Spanish](#)

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### Maternal and Child Health Access

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