



Maternal and Child Health Access

Our next Monthly Meeting is scheduled for this Thursday, Sept. 19, 2019

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

Guest Speaker: Pina Hernandez
Outreach Manager | PHFE WIC
Find out when and where the new WIC
Card will roll out!



It's coming!

The California WIC Card

Public Charge Update and Discussion

Legislation on the Governor's Desk

Updates

CLICK HERE TO
RSVP

Public Charge

As everyone in the health and social services world knows, the Trump administration released the final public charge Rule on the use of certain public benefits by those seeking legal permanent residency. While the use of Medicaid does not apply to pregnant women and children in the final Rule, that fine point is lost on many if not most, and families are questioning and dropping out of many programs not included in the Final Rule. It is impossible for families to keep up and many seem to think, "When in doubt, get off the benefit or don't apply in the first place" despite the need.

There are good materials out and MCHA will provide an update on what we've found most useful and why.

Here is the [link to the press release](#) about the lawsuit, which has a link to the complaint/filing itself:

The complaint is also now available online [here](#).

In addition to La Clínica de la Raza, the suit was brought by [African Communities Together](#), the [California Primary Care Association](#), the [Central American Resource Center](#), the [Council on American Islamic Relations - California](#), [Farmworker Justice](#), the [Korean Resource Center](#), the [Legal Aid Society of San Mateo County](#), and [Maternal and Child Health Access](#). The plaintiffs are represented by the [National Immigration Law Center](#), [Asian Americans Advancing Justice - Los Angeles](#), the [National Health Law Program](#), and the [Western Center on Law and Poverty](#).

From our meeting July 18, 2019 (see materials on [MCHA website](#)): no meeting in August

Guest Speakers:

Guest speakers: Cordelia S. Hanna, MPH, CHES, ICCE, CLE, CBA | CEO & Executive Director, The Association for Wholistic Maternal and Newborn Health

**Program Director, Health Net Community Doula Program
Felicia Francis-Edwards, CD and Nashuwah Abdulmaged, CD**

Health Net Community Doula Program

MCHA was pleased to invite speakers from this groundbreaking program to inform attendees of the doula program roll-out and to encourage referrals into the program. The program was created as part of the Association for Wholistic Maternal and Newborn Health, which offers: support and education for pregnancy & early parenthood and services for pregnant women & new mothers, which includes childbirth preparation classes, doula labor support, postpartum doula support and breastfeeding education and support. Networking, training for maternity care professionals and trainings, conferences, networking meetings, advocacy and policy are also part of the Association's work. The pilot program addresses high rates of cesarean section births, maternal and infant mortality, low birth weights and prematurity and aims to increase rates of breastfeeding initiation and duration as well as increase maternal satisfaction with the childbirth experience.

The pilot is to enroll 150 women to be paired with 10 doulas, mostly African American. In July, there was a lot of space still available to enroll. This project is part of a movement to address birth in the community - a community doula program that works with populations not generally supported this way, from the same cultural background or with lived experience and trained in the social determinants of health and works in a public health setting. Cordelia Hanna explained what a doula is and does - a Greek word that means "Woman-servant". They are professional childbirth companions providing non-medical support. They do not replace the medical care provided nor the support of family members or partners. The American College of Obstetrics and Gynecology recently came out with the statement that: "Evidence suggests that, in addition to regular nursing care, continuous one-to-one

emotional support provided by support personnel, such as a doula, is associated with improved outcomes for women in labor". Ms. Hanna explained the need for the program in Los Angeles County, what the doula's Scope of Practice is and how they work with providers. She also discussed upcoming Fathers' Support Groups and Childbirth Education Classes available to all in the community, before turning the discussion over to the two doulas present, Felicia Francis-Edwards, CD and Nashuwah Abdulmaged, CD. Questions centered around how to refer clients, how best to support them and why doula support is so important for African American women. To refer women to the program, you may:

Call (626) 388-2191 ext. 1 or Email: inquiry@motherbabysupport.net

Visit website at: <http://motherbabysupport.net>

Twitter: #blackmamasandbabiesmatter | Facebook: @happymamashealthybabies

See slides [here](#) and program brochure [here](#)

ICE Raids and Community Fear - (short videos shown at meeting)

We Have Rights is a national immigrant empowerment campaign that is providing critical information to communities threatened by Immigration & Customs Enforcement (ICE) and engage the broader American public in an urgent conversation about immigrant justice in our country.

In direct response to community need, ACLU has joined forces with Brooklyn Defender Services to create and distribute a series of powerful and informative videos based on true stories to provide real life action points for what to do series of videos "We Have Rights" addressing what to do if interacting with ICE: When ICE is Outside our Doors; Inside Our Homes; In Our Communities, In Our Streets; If ICE Arrests Us.

The [videos](#) are viewable in: English, Spanish, Urdu, Arabic, Haitian Creole, Russian and Mandarin (see links at end of English video listing).

If you need help finding an attorney, you can call 311 and learn more about the City of Los Angeles's Justice Fund and other resources that offer legal support.

East Los Angeles Women's Center's HIV/STI Services

ELA Women's Center navigators are certified sexual assault and domestic violence advocates that can address HIV vulnerabilities of survivors, as well as provide updated referrals to social support, mental health and substance use treatment, housing, etc. The services are free. Please contact Karla (323) 526-5819 kmorales@elawc.org or Alejandra (800) 400-7432 alejandra@elawc.org to learn more about a program to screen women, at your agency, for which they can receive \$10-25 in Target cards.

New since meeting:

Opposing the Federal Administration's Expanded Detention of Migrant Children

On Sept. 3, Los Angeles County's Board of Supervisors unanimously voted to send a five-signature letter to the Secretary of the United States Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) expressing the County's vehement refusal to identify or assist in identifying any County property that would be used for the detention of migrant children and/or families, and urge that the Federal Administration instead dedicate its time and resources toward efforts that would expedite the reunification of migrant children with their parents, relatives or sponsors in the United States. See the motion [here](#)

As part of the reporting, Channel 52 (Telemundo) spoke with our Director of Celia Valdez about fear in the community and Public Charge - see the clip [here](#):

California Releases Pregnancy-Associated Mortality Review Findings on Maternal Suicide (2002-2012)

[An in-depth review of maternal deaths offers key insights to improve care and reduce preventable maternal suicide](#)

*The California Department of Public Health's Maternal, Child and Adolescent Health Division, the California Maternal Quality Care Collaborative (CMQCC) and the Public Health Institute (PHI) announce the release of the **California Pregnancy-Associated Mortality Review (CA-PAMR): Pregnancy-Associated Suicide from 2002 to 2012** Report.*

Suicide during pregnancy or within a year after pregnancy is a tragic event that has a profound impact on the children and families left behind. Maternal suicide, while rare, is a sentinel event that serves as a call to action for public health professionals and maternity care clinicians. Between 2002 and 2012, suicide accounted for 4.3% of all deaths among California women who were pregnant within the prior year (based on linked administrative data).

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Key findings from the CA-PAMR report on pregnancy-associated suicide include:



51% of suicide cases had a good to strong chance of preventability with missed opportunities to intervene.



The majority of women (83%) died in the late postpartum period, 43-365 days following the end of pregnancy: 36% died between 43 days and 6 months and 47% died more than 6 months postpartum.



Mental health conditions were highly prevalent: 62% of women had reported mental health conditions before becoming pregnant and 25% had new onset conditions noted during or after pregnancy. Nearly a quarter of women (23%) had a reported family history of mental health conditions.



Depression (54%), psychosis (24%), and bipolar disorder (17%) were the most prevalent conditions identified. Substance use, including alcohol and tobacco, was a common co-occurring condition with all mental health disorders.



Nearly one-third (32%) of women used illicit drugs (i.e. methamphetamine, cocaine, heroin) or abused prescription opioids during or after pregnancy; heavy alcohol use was noted in 17% of women. Substance abuse was identified as a precipitating factor to the suicide in 29% of women.



Approximately 85% of women had one or more psychosocial stressors documented (e.g., interpersonal conflict with partner, financial hardship, exposure to violence as a child or adult).

For a more detailed look at the methodology, findings, and recommendations, read the full report available online now.

CDPH

[Report](#) (PDF)

[Fact Sheet](#) (PDF)

[Video](#) (YouTube)

BACKGROUND

The California Pregnancy-Associated Mortality Review (CA-PAMR) is a statewide examination of pregnancy-associated deaths, or deaths while pregnant or within a year after pregnancy, using enhanced surveillance methodology and in-depth case reviews by a multidisciplinary committee of clinical experts in maternal, perinatal and public health.

“Since 2008, California has sustained a decline in maternal mortality and in 2013 the California maternal mortality rate was 7.3 deaths per 100,000 live births, nearly half of the 2008 rate.”

CA-PAMR was launched in 2006, when the California maternal mortality rates were at their peak, to investigate the rise in maternal mortality rates as well as the widening racial/ethnic disparities and identify improvement opportunities. Since 2008, California has sustained a decline in maternal mortality and in 2013 the California maternal mortality rate was 7.3 deaths per 100,000 live births, nearly half of the 2008 rate.

Reviews of maternal deaths are based on vital statistics and hospital data, which are used to identify cases, and are typically available within three years of their public release. Reviews of obstetric-related deaths from 2008-2016 are currently underway.

For more information about the California Pregnancy-Associated Mortality Review (CA-PAMR) and to read the report, visit [CDPH's website](#) or [CMQCC's website](#).

Maternal Suicide Webinars From the CA Pregnancy-Associated Mortality Review

Join us on September 18 at 12pm PST to learn about pregnancy-associated suicide in California. The California Pregnancy-Associated Mortality Review (CA-PAMR) project team conducted the largest, to date, in-depth case review of deaths from suicide among pregnant women and among those who were pregnant within the prior year. This webinar will highlight the key findings, quality improvement opportunities, and recommendations for prevention. While rare, pregnancy-associated suicide is a tragic event that serves as a call to action for public health professionals and maternity care clinicians.

Objectives:

- To describe the epidemiology of suicide in the perinatal population
- To show findings from in-depth case reviews of pregnancy-associated suicide in California, between 2002 and 2012

To discuss quality improvement opportunities and recommendations for suicide prevention in the perinatal population

[Register here for Sept. 18](#)

New benefit for children's dental!

Pediatric dentists often receive denials to treat deterioration of natural teeth in children with a laboratory processed crown, based on the rationale that these treatments are a benefit solely for adults. In response, MCHA reached out to the Medi-Cal Dental Program and presented the a real-life case of a 13 year old child who was in need of a laboratory processed crown, but was denied due it be an uncovered benefit for children. While the child's family could've requested the treatment through EPSDT, which would've required more information and time to approve, we instead presented the impact this could have on a child and requested the Medi-Cal Dental program to expand the laboratory processed crown benefit to all children. They agreed, changed the policy, and issued a provider bulletin indicating the new criteria and covered benefit.

LA Care Announces New Residency Program!

At a July 23rd luncheon, L.A. Care Health Plan announced a new program as part of its \$31 million Elevating the Safety Net initiative.

L.A. Care is committing more than \$5.2 million to establish 14 new residency positions at five medical facilities. Some of the funding will also go to new faculty positions. This comes in the wake of a recent report that found California faces a shortage of 8,800 primary care physicians by 2030.

L.A. Care's Elevating the Safety Net Residency Support Program has awarded grants to:

- Adventist Health White Memorial Charitable Foundation
- AltaMed Health Services Corporation
- Charles R. Drew University of Medicine and Science
- Children's Hospital Los Angeles
- David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA

Elevating the Safety Net launched last year with three initial programs - a physician recruitment program, a physician loan repayment program and a medical school scholarship program. Since the launch, 72 recruitment grants have been awarded, 52 new physicians have been hired and 18 physicians have received loan repayment grants.

In addition to announcing the new residency program, L.A. Care held the luncheon to celebrate eight new L.A. Care scholars. Each will receive up to \$350,000 to complete medical school. Four will attend the Charles R. Drew University of Medicine and Science and four will attend the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA.

Watch this [KABC news story](#) for live coverage of the event.

Higher air pollution exposure during second pregnancy may increase preterm birth risk, NIH study suggests

Pregnant women who are exposed to higher air pollution levels during their second pregnancy, compared to their first one, may be at greater risk of preterm birth, according to researchers at the National Institutes of Health.

Read the full News Release [here](#).

How we vote will change - Experience the Future of Voting in CA

On September 28 & 29, Los Angeles residents will have the opportunity to try out the new voting experience that is launching in March 2020.

You're invited to visit a vote center and cast your ballot in a mock election, using the new experience the new voting system, Voting Solutions for All People (see more details below!). Select locations will have live DJs, surprise celebrities, food trucks and chances to win L.A. experiences!

All Los Angeles residents are invited to participate in this mock election, regardless of age or voting eligibility. [Let us know you're planning on participating in this mock election here!](#)

Beginning with the March 2020 elections, Los Angeles County will introduce a new voting system called Voting Solutions for All People (VSAP). With VSAP:

- Countywide vote centers will replace traditional polling places, allowing voters to vote anywhere in the county
- In-person voting will be extended to 11 days
- A new ballot marking device will offer accessible voting in 13 languages
- Same Day Registration will be offered at every vote center through Election Day
- And more!

[Learn more about VSAP and the Sept 28-29 mock election here!](#)

SAVE THE DATE

Monday, Sept. 23, 2019, 9-4:30: Fourth Annual Vivian Weinstein Leadership Day: Best Practices in Early Childhood At the California Endowment.

Registration: <https://www.idaofcal.org/Session> Topics: * Trauma-Informed Care *

Restorative Justice (in Early Childhood) * Dealing with Challenging Behaviors * Policy Update * Home Visiting * Connecting with Fathers

Tuesday, October 29: BEYOND SILOS: DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND HEALTH CARE PARTNERSHIPS At the California Endowment. The DVHC Leadership Council, Los Angeles County Department of Public Health, Office of Women's Health, and the Domestic Violence Council invite you to save the date for this premiere symposium!

The symposium is open to anyone with an interest in innovative cross-sector collaboration between the health and domestic violence (DV) sectors to promote prevention and early identification of DV. We highly recommended this conference for all public health professionals and DV advocates who would like to learn more about improving the safety net for survivors and their health needs, and promoting systems change across Los Angeles in a way that better addresses DV as a public health issue.

Registration link coming soon!

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Jennifer Haddad Bell, Program Consultant, at (661) 713 9979 or jbelle@jenesse.org.

RESOURCES

Opioids and Pregnancy

The MCAH Communications and Outreach Unit is pleased to share our latest consumer education campaign toolkit, Opioids + Pregnancy. These materials have been created to educate women of reproductive age, with special emphasis on women who are pregnant or thinking of becoming pregnant. A snapshot of these resources can be found below. Download printable components of the campaign toolkit here or view the full version on our [web page](#).

Census Awareness Flyers

LA County is starting to raise awareness about Census 2020 and has produced flyers. They would love your help in sharing them and getting out the word. See [English](#) and [Spanish](#) - we will ask about other languages.

MHSA Fiscal Year 2018/2019 Presentation Available for Public Review

The Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health (LACDMH) has posted its quarterly update of MHSA program allocations for Fiscal Year 2018/2019. The presentation includes information about LACDMH's budget and spending for MHSA component activities and projects.

The presentation is available for viewing/downloading at the below link.

- [MHSA Presentation 2018-19 MHComm 072519.pdf](#)

The public is invited to review this presentation and provide feedback by emailing director@dmh.lacounty.gov or by direct mail to:

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