

Maternal and Child Health Access



Monthly Virtual Meeting This Thursday, May 19, 2022 - 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:

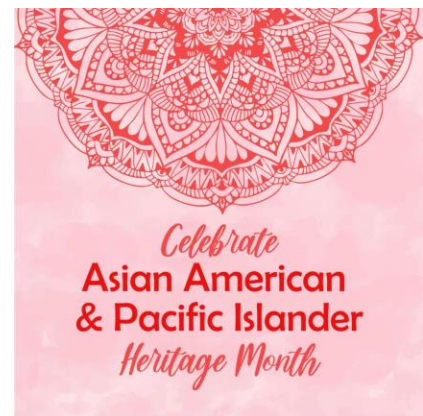
**MoNesha La Violette, RN
Welcome Baby, MCHA**

"Black Maternal Health"

**Governor's May Revise and
state budget updates**

**Medi-Cal Post-pregnancy
extension**

May marks the beginning of Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) Heritage Month in celebration to recognize the historical and cultural contributions of individuals and groups of Asian and Pacific Islander descent to the United States. This year's theme is Advancing Leaders Through Collaboration. The month of May was chosen to commemorate the immigration of the first Japanese to the United States on May 7, 1843, and to mark the anniversary of the completion of the transcontinental railroad on May 10, 1869. The majority of the workers who laid the tracks were Chinese immigrants.



The AAPI umbrella term includes [cultures](#) from the entire Asian continent—including East, Southeast and South Asia—and the Pacific Islands of Melanesia, Micronesia and Polynesia. Since their immigration to the United States, they have faced racism, xenophobia, bias and violence. During [World War II](#), from 1942-1945, people of Japanese descent were incarcerated in [internment camps](#) across the nation. Discrimination has also been exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic, with AAPI people of all ages and cultures being verbally and physically harassed and murdered in cities across the United States. AAPI Heritage Month 2022 commemorates the victims of the 2021 spa shootings along with all other Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders who have been lost to anti-Asian violence during the pandemic and throughout history.

Notes from Monthly Meeting April 21, 2022

Guest speaker: Lizeth Castillo, Managing Attorney Peace Over Violence - Legal Advocacy Project
"Domestic Violence - Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) and other updates"

Ms. Castillo spoke about both the history and current application of a wide range of immigration and family law issues and their intersection. The Violence Against Women Act is a cumulative set of acts and continues to build on itself. Originally private civil rights law allowed people to sue their attacker under civil litigation. VAWA was passed in 1994 intended a federal right along these lines, to sue, but this was lost in 2000 as "unconstitutional". The original VAWA authored by then-Senator Joseph R. Biden, was the first federal legislation acknowledging domestic violence and sexual assault as crimes and provided federal resources to encourage community-coordinated responses to combating violence against women. Up for renewal every five years. There is a new and emerging context in civil litigation. Electronic surveillance was added and it also includes new economic justice provisions and strengthens access for survivors of all genders by strengthening non-discrimination laws and creating an LGBTQ services program. The law also restores tribal jurisdiction, allowing tribes to hold non-Native perpetrators accountable, improves existing housing protections and increases access to

emergency and short-term housing, and creates dedicated investments in culturally specific service providers to ensure survivors of color are supported.

Ms. Castillo raised Denim Day for April 27, explained the Legal Advocacy Project's referral form (see MCHA website) for agencies to refer clients, and made reference to the "Know Your Rights" pamphlet in English and Spanish (posted) for people in federally-assisted housing.

Medi-Cal Post-Pregnancy Extension - Lynn Kersey

MCHA has created a [flyer noting issues and resources](#) (link flyer here) for the state's post-pregnancy Medi-Cal extension. An earlier version is posted on our website; this 5/1 version just allows links to be opened more easily, without punctuation that was getting in the way.

The flyer explains continuing coverage due to the pandemic and that old bills can be covered if someone was pregnant and denied care at any time from March, 2020. The flyer also explains implementation of the April 1 federal program that California has opted into for post-pregnancy extension and provides links to the state's All County Welfare Director's Letters and Medi-Cal bulletins. The issue with contradictory aid codes that appear when a Medi-Cal card is reviewed in the state's Automated Eligibility Verification System and descriptions in the state's Medi-Cal aid code list is explained.

But the important points to know are the following:

- All pregnancy coverage is for 12 months post-pregnancy, as the state says, "regardless of how the pregnancy ends" i.e. whether by abortion, miscarriage or stillbirth
- DPSS must know of the pregnancy - whether the person is undocumented or a citizen - to add on this 12 month extension. DPSS must be contacted.
- All Medi-Cal for pregnancy and 12 months post is full scope equivalent, "anything medically necessary", including mental health, substance use disorder, dental and vision, as the federal government requires this to approve the eligibility extension.

Please be the advocates for your clients to be sure they are getting continued care after the 60 + day postpartum period for what they need. Please call us for back-up on the post-pregnancy extension on our pregnancy line **844-868-0252** or main number: **213-749-4261**

CPSP in the Postpartum period!

Please urge state budget leaders to include funding to provide Medi-Cal's Comprehensive Perinatal Services Program (CPSP) benefit for the full 12 months following pregnancy, not just the first 60 days, to cover breastfeeding support, SDOH services, and other CPSP wraparound services.

Assembly Member, Arambula, Chair, Assembly Budget Subcommittee No. 1

Tel: (916) 319-2031 <https://a31.asmdc.org/contact>

Senator Talamantes Eggman, Chair, Senate Budget Subcommittee No. 3

Tel: (916) 651-4005 <https://sd05.senate.ca.gov/contact>

Older Adult Expansion in Medi-Cal (undocumented 50+) May 1, 2022! – Liz Ramirez

It's here! Liz reminded of the push to get eligible undocumented people into Restricted Medi-Cal to roll over into Full-Scope on May 1.

She explained the timeline for packets and choosing a health plan or requesting a Medical Exemption if someone gets care from a provider not affiliated with a health plan. She explained the ability to choose a managed care dental plan, but that most people are in Fee for Service (FFS) dental care and FFS is the default if one doesn't make a choice. Outreach materials are available in multiple languages.

See the state's Resource Page that now toggles to Spanish [here](#).

Clients will need help with the managed care packet and making a choice of plan and provider so that they are not defaulted. The first deadline date is June 23 for July 1 default if no choice is made, then the June enrollees will have a default date, etc. These clients are eligible for IHSS - if your clients experience problems with IHSS enrollment please contact us

New since meeting: Public Health Emergency May Be Extended

If the following timeline takes place, to extend the public health emergency until October, if it is likely that redeterminations would not take place until January, 2023 with packets to go out and time to respond

Biden administration likely to extend Covid-19 public health emergency - Politico

BY BEN LEONARD, MEGAN MESSERLY | 05/17/2022 05:31 AM EDT

The federal public health emergency will likely be extended through October after federal health officials failed to announce an expiration date on Monday.

HHS Secretary Xavier Becerra promised to give 60 days' notice before the emergency expires, a deadline that came and went without an announcement, signaling the likely extension. The move would keep intact expanded telehealth access, Medicaid coverage, data collection authorities and a plethora of other policies enacted at the beginning of the pandemic — giving state officials, industry leaders and health care advocates more time to prepare for the public health emergency's end. The three-month extension would relieve those who feared lifting the health emergency would bring a chaotic transition. They worried about the implications for a health care industry that has become accustomed to

pandemic-era flexibilities and massive shifts in the health insurance landscape with up to 15 million people at risk of losing their Medicaid coverage when the public health emergency ends. An HHS spokesperson reaffirmed the agency's pledge to give 60 days' notice in a statement Monday. [Read more...](#)

Formula Shortage Info



CDPH Health Advisory CDPH Advises Parents and Caregivers Against Making or Feeding Homemade Infant Formula to Infants

May 16, 2022

The California Department of Public Health (CDPH) issued a health advisory alerting the public to the potential health dangers of diluting infant formula or using homemade solutions in response to the infant formula shortage. CDPH provides recommendations for safe infant formula preparation, how to find infant formula in stores, and includes a variety of relevant resources. Providers should be aware of this situation and are encouraged to share this information with their patients.

Read the CDPH [Health Advisory](#).

See also fact sheet in [English](#) and [Spanish](#) - Helping Families Find Formula During the Infant Formula Shortage from HHS.

From WIC: What do you do if you can't find formula?

- Talk with your pediatrician and ask if they are able to get you a can from the local formula representatives or one of the charities that has some. Your local WIC office may also be able to suggest places to look.
 - Check smaller stores and drug stores, which may not be out of supply when the bigger stores are.
 - If you can afford it, buy formula online until store shortages ease. Purchase from well-recognized distributors and pharmacies rather than individually sold or auction sites.
 - Do not import formula from overseas, since imported formula is not FDA-reviewed.
 - For most babies, it is OK to switch to any available formula, including store brands, unless your baby is on a specific extensively hydrolyzed or amino acid-based formula such as Elecare (no store brand exists). Ask your pediatrician about recommended specialty formula alternatives available for your baby.
 - Check social media groups. There are groups dedicated to infant feeding and formula, and members may have ideas for where to find formula. Make sure to check any advice with your pediatrician.
 - It is NOT safe for your baby to water down formula or make formula at home.
- Here is an AAP Healthy Children website, English that toggles to [Spanish](#):

“Marriage Penalty” for disabled addressed in SSI Restoration Act! – Coalition on Human Needs

Did you know that for many Americans with disabilities, getting married could result in losing critical federal benefits, including health care?

That’s because, written into Social Security’s rules, is a “marriage penalty” that cuts or completely strips someone of their disability or Medicaid benefits if they were to marry. This marriage penalty has resulted in marriage rates among Supplemental Security Income (SSI) recipients to be half that of the general population.

These discriminatory policies have been on the books for years—many since 1972. They also limit the amount of money an individual can put into savings or own in assets. Thankfully, a group of advocates and members of Congress are working to change that.

The *SSI Restoration Act* (S.2065 and H.R.3824) and the *Marriage Equality for Disabled Adults Act* (H.R.6405) would end these marriage penalties for people with disabilities. These bills continue the fight people with disabilities have waged for 50 years for equal rights and to be able to live in their own homes and communities and live the same kinds of lives as everyone else.

[Click here to send a message to your members of Congress today to advance these critical pieces of legislation that would finally allow people with disabilities to get married and save money, just like everyone else.](#)

Medi-Cal Rx - blood pressure self-monitoring equipment.

This new policy allows fee-for-service beneficiaries to access self-monitors and cuffs much more quickly at local pharmacies rather than having to wait for Durable Medical Equipment (DME) providers to fill orders. The policy also allows Medi-Cal health plans to bill blood pressure self-monitors and cuffs as pharmacy supplies, expanding current payment options for the plans (plans can also prescribe as DME if they have relationships w/DME that work for them).

Making it easier to access the items for self-monitoring blood pressure for all Medi-Cal beneficiaries will help address hypertension, a dangerous condition that disproportionately affects African Americans. We underscore the extreme risk of maternal mortality associated with this issue: approximately 40% of pregnancy-related deaths are from conditions that often manifest as hypertension, including stroke and other cardiovascular conditions. (Creanga 2017).

May 9, 2022

MCRxSS Announcement

A new alert, [Addition of Blood Pressure Monitors and Blood Pressure Cuffs to Medi-Cal Rx](#), has been posted to the Medi-Cal Rx Web Portal on 5/9/2022.

If the above link does not take you to this document, simply copy and paste the following link into your browser to access the Bulletins and News page: <https://med-calrx.dhcs.ca.gov/provider/pharmacy-news/>

For more information, contact MediCalRxEducationOutreach@magellanhealth.com.

SAVE THE DATE

Monday, May 23, 9 AM – 11 AM Highlighting Innovative Maternal Mental Health Prevention Programs – Maternal Mental Health Leadership Alliance (national organization) to spotlight evidence-based programs proven effective at preventing and mitigating symptoms of postpartum depression. Register [here](#)

Thursday May 26, 7:30 AM – 4:30 PM PACLAC Quality of Life for Families XXV: Environmental and Social Factors Impacting Perinatal and Neonatal Outcomes

Tickets \$125 if by May 18, then \$140. Hilton Los Angeles North/Glendale

Register [here](#)

Thurs May 26, 2 PM Radio sin Fronteras/jornaleros – Facebook Live –Celia Valdez, Director of Health Navigation for MCHA, is interviewed on the Older Adult Expansion - <https://www.facebook.com/RadioJornalera>

Friday May 19, 3 PM – California Black Health Network

Clinical Trials and the Black Community: *Past, Present, and Future*

Join CBHN, in recognition of **World Clinical Trials Day**, for a conversation with **Jeri Lacks** and **David Lacks Jr.** – of the Henrietta Lacks Family – about their grandmother's legacy, what the family has done over the years to ensure greater protection for patients in clinical trials, and the Henrietta Lacks Enhancing Cancer Research Act of 2019 and what it means in addressing health disparities.

Register [here](#)

• **May 25 at 12 PM PT** — Health4Life Series on Healthy Aging: **What You need to Know About How to Keep It Moving!**

- **June 16 at 12 PM PT** — Health4Life Series on Breast Health: **Women, Wisdom, and Warriors**
 - **July 14 at 12 PM PT** – Health4Life Series on Mental Health: **The Impact of Intergenerational Trauma on the Mental Health and Well-being of Black Youth**
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Thursday June 2, 2022 AT 6 PM – 7 PM Featuring MCHA's Welcome Baby's Denise Cervantes! Ask All Your Questions! Pregnancy and Birth, the Real Deal - A Live AMA

Weds June 8, 9:30-10:30 Pacific Time Virtual Congressional Briefing – MMHLA, Shades of Blue and 20/20 Mom

Building Systems of Support for Maternal Mental Health – focusing on initiatives and legislation to address maternal mental health at the national, state and local levels.

Register [here](#)

Scholarship Application for Breastfeed LA Lactation Education Specialist Program Spring 2022 (Spring: May 24, 31, June 7, 14, 21, 28)

[APPLY HERE](#)

Are you looking to expand your career options? BreastfeedLA has an opportunity for you! We are looking for candidates that have shown a strong interest in lactation and are involved in their communities. BreastfeedLA strongly encourages people of color, women, LGBTQ+ individuals, those with disabilities, and those from working-class backgrounds to apply to further their lactation education.

RESOURCES

MATERNAL MENTAL HEALTH HOTLINE

Individuals experiencing MMH conditions have a new resource:

A National 24/7/365 Maternal Mental Health Hotline.

The MMH hotline -- staffed by Postpartum Support International -- provides voice and text support in both English and Spanish



The MMH Hotline is staffed by licensed and credential mental health, medical, and community-based providers, as well as certified peer specialists.

Hotline staff will provide confidential support, information, brief intervention, and resources and referrals.

The Hotline is available for pregnancy, postpartum, and post-loss support.

Read the [announcement](#) from the Department of Health and Human Services.

1-833-9-HELP4MOMS

(1-833-943-5746)

Everytable: Could you or your parents, grandparents, neighbors or other loved ones benefit from fresh, ready-to-eat meals delivered every week? The City of Los Angeles Department of Aging and Everytable have partnered again to roll out the senior emergency meal program to meet the nutritional needs of the City's older adult community.

If you're 60 years of age or older, live in the City, and want to enroll, please call (213) 202-5669 or email seniormealprogram@lacity.org. This program is provided at no cost to you and will end on June 30, 2022.

Not sure if you live within LA City boundaries? Check your address at <https://neighborhoodinfo.lacity.org>

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](#)

Maternal and Child Health Access

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