

Maternal and Child Health Access



Monthly Virtual Meeting

This Thursday, April 21, 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:

Lizeth Castillo, Managing
Attorney

Peace Over Violence - Legal
Advocacy Project

Domestic Violence - Violence
Against Women Act (VAWA)
and other updates

April is Sexual Assault
Awareness Month

[Denim Day](#) is Weds April 27!

Health Coverage and Other
Updates

Notes from Monthly Meeting March. 17, 2022 (see [website](#) for
presentation slides)

Guest speaker: Sylvia Castillo, Director, Government
and Community Affairs, Essential Access Health

“Advancing Sexual and Reproductive Health Access and Equity in California”

Sylvia covered sexual and reproductive health issues and the future of abortion in first gave background as to which policies implemented in the pandemic were made permanent – Minor Consent Medi-Cal and Family PACT remote enrollment and eligibility, and obtaining pharmacy benefit of Depo Provera contraception for self-administration at home (subcutaneous) without a TAR request and which can be done through mail order or home delivery. The latter is at the discretion of Medi-Cal providers with consult and evaluation of appropriateness - to offer this alternative to their patients. What is more temporary is telehealth flexibilities until January 2023 and paying equally for phone and video appointments as for in-person visits. Sylvia covered several important sexual and reproductive health policy victories for STI screenings and treating partners.

Taking effect July 1, 2022 is Confidential Health Information for commercial health insurance plan dependents – see slides. Contraceptive Equity (SB 523) is now a two year bill.

Sylvia covered what the Governor's budget goals include in this area: more money for local health jurisdictions, covering abortion access (rather than charging \$1) in Covered CA and other commitment to abortion access, FPACT coverage for HPV – human papillomavirus.

For the Future of Abortion, Sylvia showed a sobering map with the states attempting to ban abortion and where the nearest states are that have abortion access. California has convened a council - [The Future of Abortion](#) - to identify barriers and plan for additional access needed. The council has come up with 45 recommendations in multiple areas. Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors has passed a motion to conduct abortion access analysis and our own Office of Women's Health has released a [report](#).

Two important bills! Time sensitive

Support Letters for **AB 1930 (Arambula)**, the CPSP bill are due **by Noon, Wednesday, April 20** to the Assembly Health Committee. The hearing is set for April 26, starting at 1:30 PM.

A [Sample Support Letter](#) and [background information](#) are attached.

AB 1930 would make Medi-Cal's Comprehensive Perinatal Services Program benefits available throughout the [12-month postpartum period](#), not just the first 60 days. The federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) [recommends that states include wraparound nonmedical supports](#) in implementing 12-month postpartum coverage. The bill would also allow reimbursement for the nonmedical supportive services of Comprehensive Perinatal Health Workers when provided in a person's home or elsewhere in the community away from a medical site.

Please don't hesitate to let me, Lynn Kersey lynnk@mchaccess.org or Lucy Quacinella, lucyqmas@gmail.com, know if you have any questions, and thanks again for your support!

AB 2680 (Arambula) on Community Health Navigators. Community Health Navigators provide critical services to historically excluded, communities of color, and other hard to reach communities and essential assistance on outreach, enrollment, retention, and use of Medi-Cal benefits. Medi-Cal serves most of the state's low-income, communities of color, Limited English Proficient Californians. Without the support of Navigators many individuals and families lose out on opportunities to enroll in health care coverage or receive technical support on the Medi-Cal application process. Please help support us in this effort! This bill would provide critical support for organizations up and down the state, including the 17 that are funded in LA County, and for training efforts and technical assistance efforts such as what Donald, Liz and DeeDee do to help community agencies. We are at the forefront of enrolling for the May 1 Older Adult Medi-Cal Expansion, assisting people with extending pregnancy coverage and helping with the huge roll out of redeterminations that will take place after the end of the Public Health Emergency.

This bill will be heard in Assembly Health Committee on April 26th. We ask that supportive partners submit their Letters of Support through the California Advocates Portal by April 20th at 12pm. Copies of the fact sheet and sample support letter are below. Instructions on how to submit letters are included in the header of the sample letter of support. Please let Liz or Celia know if there are any questions.

- [AB 2680 Legislative Fact Sheet](#)
- [Community Fact Sheet](#)
- [AB 2680 Sample Letter Support](#)

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

It's nearly here! The "Transition Population" of adults who are or will be 50 years old/older in May, 2022, and currently have Restricted Medi-Cal should have gotten their first letters with information about the upcoming change to full-scope Medi-Cal May 1, 2022. Please help and encourage potential Medi-Cal enrollees to enroll in Restricted Medi-Cal both so that 1) they'll be informed with mailings and 2) when the switch to Full-Scope Medi-Cal happens, their BIC card can be used for full benefits! See CHOI enrollers – [Community Health Outreach Initiative](#) – if you need to refer someone for assistance.

MCHA, Vision y Compromiso and Neighborhood Legal Services of Los Angeles are conducting another webinar in Spanish on May 2 (flyers to go out soon). See these community-friendly flyers about the benefit in [English](#) and [Spanish](#). Simplified [Chinese](#) and [Armenian](#). See also a statewide [webinar](#) advocates presented and a flyer about the expansion from the [Health Consumer Alliance](#), also in multiple languages under "[Health4All Older Adults](#)"

New since meeting:

Public Health Emergency Extended

Renewal of Determination That A Public Health Emergency Exists

As a result of the continued consequences of the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic, on this date and after consultation with public health officials as necessary, I, Xavier Becerra, Secretary of Health and Human Services, pursuant to the authority vested in me under section 319 of the Public Health Service Act, do hereby renew, effective April 16, 2022, the January 31, 2020, determination by former Secretary Alex M. Azar II, that he previously renewed on April 21, 2020, July 23, 2020, October 2, 2020, and January 7, 2021, and that I renewed on April 15, 2021, July 19, 2021, October 15, 2021, and January 14, 2022, that a public health emergency exists and has existed since January 27, 2020, nationwide.

This means **no negative actions** for Medi-Cal and MCAP - No cut off of Medi-Cal unless a person requests it, moves out of state or dies - are likely until at least about July 16 (April 16 + 90 days for latest PHE Extension). We'll know for sure about 60 days before (about May 16) because the feds promised the states at least 60 days notice.

For CalFresh, the extension is significant because it means that the administrative flexibilities that have made it easier for people to get CalFresh during the pandemic will remain available (e.g., options to waive the telephonic signature and interview at intake and recertification; temporary student exemptions), as well as CalFresh emergency allotments which have boosted participants' benefits by at least \$95/month.

End the Epidemics Coalition is now online!

Visit us: <https://eteca.org/>

[End the Epidemics](#) is a statewide coalition that advocates for anti-racist policies and funding priorities to eliminate health inequities and end the epidemics of HIV, STIs, viral hepatitis, and overdose in California.

Please visit our new [coalition website](#) to learn more about:

- Our mission, history, and accomplishments
- Our 2022 budget and legislative priorities
- The HIV, STI, viral hepatitis, and overdose epidemics
- How to become a member organization

REGISTER FOR ETE VIRTUAL WEEK OF ACTION

Join the End the Epidemics Coalition for our [2022 Week of Action](#). Taking place April 25 - 29, advocates from across California will mobilize virtually to urge legislators to address the HIV, STI, viral hepatitis and overdose epidemics in our state. Now more than ever, it's crucial that our elected leaders invest in our public health infrastructure and in local organizations serving vulnerable communities. Together we can raise our voices united

in the fight to bring health justice to those disproportionately impacted by these epidemics. [REGISTER ASAP](#).

WEEK OF ACTION EVENTS

- Virtual meetings with legislative offices
- Advocacy Training
- Understanding Racial Justice Workshop
- Virtual Happy Hour celebration

Babies die as congenital syphilis continues a decade-long surge across the U.S; Congenital Syphilis Rates Are Highest in the West and South

For a decade, the number of babies born with syphilis in the U.S. has surged, undeterred. Data released Tuesday by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention show just how dire the outbreak has become. In 2012, 332 babies were born infected with the disease. In 2021, that number had climbed nearly sevenfold, to at least 2,268, according to preliminary estimates. And 166 of those babies died.

About 7% of babies diagnosed with syphilis in recent years have died; thousands of others born with the disease have faced problems that include brain and bone malformations, blindness, and organ damage. For public health officials, the situation is all the more heartbreaking, considering that congenital syphilis rates reached near-historic modern lows from 2000 to 2012 amid ambitious prevention and education efforts. By 2020, following a sharp erosion in funding and attention, the nationwide case rate was more than seven times that of 2012.

“The really depressing thing about it is we had this thing [virtually eradicated](#) back in the year 2000,” said William Andrews, a public information officer for Oklahoma’s sexual health and harm reduction service. “Now it’s back with a vengeance. We are really trying to get the message out that sexual health is health. It’s nothing to be ashamed of.”

[Read more...](#)

[The Washington Post: Pregnant People At Much Higher Risk Of Breakthrough Covid, Study Shows](#)

The new study goes beyond what has previously been understood, suggesting that even pregnant people who are fully vaccinated tend to have less protection from the virus than many other patients with significant medical problems. “If you are fully vaccinated, that’s magnificent,” said a lead author of the study, David R. Little, a physician who is a researcher at Epic, a Wisconsin company that maintains electronic patient records for nearly 1,000 hospitals and more than 20,000 clinics across the country. “But if you are

fully vaccinated and become pregnant, you remain at higher risk of acquiring covid.” (Goldstein and Keating, 3/3221)

COVID updates:

The LA County Department of Public Health offers vaccines to individuals who are **homebound**. "You are eligible if you have difficulty leaving your home safely by yourself in order to get vaccinated against COVID-19." THERE IS NO LONGER A REQUIREMENT TO BE ELDERLY OR DISABLED TO RECEIVE THE VACCINE AT HOME. Self-referrals and referrals from organizations, agencies, providers, caregivers, family members, and loved ones are all welcome! For general questions about the homebound vaccination program, you can send an email to covidvaxhomebound@ph.lacounty.gov.

In addition to English, flyers can be found at [this link](#) in: Armenian, Arabic, simplified Chinese, traditional Chinese, Cambodian/Khmer, Farsi, Korean, Japanese, Russian, Spanish, Tagalog, and Vietnamese.

Test-to-Treat Program

- If you have COVID-19 and you are at [elevated risk](#) of getting very sick, you may be able to get a prescription for treatment medication.
- You are at elevated risk if you had/had cancer, have diabetes, or have any conditions listed [here](#).
- You can call a healthcare provider to ask about treatment medication or use the Test-to-Treat Program.
- The Test-to-Treat Program provides testing, evaluation, and treatment in one location. Find a Test-to-Treat site by calling (833) 540-0473 or visiting ph.lacounty.gov/covidmedicines.
- You can get tested at a site or bring results from a pharmacy, healthcare provider, or at-home test.
- If you test positive for COVID-19, a healthcare provider will let you know if you are eligible for treatment and talk to you about your options. Make sure to share any health concerns and current medication you are taking.
- If you qualify, you will get a prescription for COVID-19 medication.
- Fill the prescription and start treatment as soon as possible. **Don't delay**—these medications work best when they are given as soon as possible after symptoms start.

Yes, [testing and vaccine sites](#) have been cut but still possible to find - help clients! and tell them not to pay! Medi-Cal covers and COVID Uninsured Medi-Cal is still an option if not otherwise eligible for Medi-Cal

As a result, L.A. County has been forced to remove 25 community testing sites from the county's website, "as those sites were no longer able to continue to commit to providing tests free of charge to individuals who lacked insurance coverage," said Dr. Christina Ghaly, the county's Department of Health Services director. [There are still 200 testing sites](#) listed on the county's [coronavirus testing website](#).

<https://dhs.lacounty.gov/covid-19/testing/> To be on the county's list, the sites need to be willing to provide tests for free to everyone who arrives, regardless of insurance status.

SAVE THE DATE

Friday, April 22 from 1-3 pm, DHCS will have a stakeholder meeting **specifically pertaining to doula Medi-Cal reimbursement**. The DHCS Health Care Financing Team will be present at this meeting and will be sharing more about the DHCS process for developing reimbursement rates. See [Doulas To California: Pay Up If You Want Healthier Pregnancies Statewide](#).

Nikole Hannah-Jones: Teacher, Journalist and Creator of The 1619 Project
Wednesday, April 27 5:00-6:00 p.m. PT [Register today!](#)

Professor Nikole Hannah-Jones will join CalEndow Live on April 27 to discuss her life and career investigating racial inequality and injustice. Hannah-Jones is the Pulitzer Prize-winning creator of The 1619 Project, the groundbreaking journalistic initiative that places the consequences of slavery at the center of our national story. The 1619 Project is taught widely in California schools—but has been banned in many other states.

In a conversation moderated by California Endowment Board Member Torie Weiston-Serdan, Hannah-Jones will discuss The 1619 Project and the furious backlash that followed its publication. She will also share about her work to help educate the next generation of Black reporters at Howard University and describe her vision for the future of journalism.

Register today to reserve your space and submit a question for Professor Hannah-Jones!

This virtual event is free. Registration is required.
Closed captioning and Spanish interpretation will be available.

Join our free upcoming webinar!

EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT HPV AND PREGNANCY

Thursday, April 28, 2022
18:00-19:30 CEST (Geneva) / 12:00-13:30 EDT (New York)

[**REGISTER TODAY**](#)

[**STARTING TIME IN MY TIME ZONE**](#)

Join our upcoming webinar to learn everything you need to know about HPV and pregnancy. HPV lesion treatment is known to be associated with obstetrical complications and now HPV infection in pregnancy has also been linked to obstetrical complications. In this session, the speakers will review the literature to concentrate on new findings about HPV and pregnancy including the role of HPV vaccination.

April 28-29 Join Us at [Care Beyond the Clinic Walls](#) School-based health centers are key to building health and education equity for California's children and youth. The California School-Based Health Alliance's statewide conference at University of Redlands in San Bernardino from April 28-29 is a place for health care practitioners, educators, and advocates to connect and learn how to support students. It is just a week away and some scholarships to attend are still available: Contact at conference@schoolhealthcenters.org if you need one!

Sat May 14, 11 AM – 2 PM: United Way Centennial Festival
Exposition Park, South Lawn
700 Exposition Park Drive, 90037 [RSVP](#) for Free

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

[New UCLA CHPR policy paper outlines evidence-based strategies from local, state, and national leaders to help address the homelessness crisis in California](#)

California's homelessness crisis is unprecedented. In early 2020, more than 160,000 people experienced homelessness on any given day, representing a 40% increase since 2015. The health effects on individuals experiencing housing insecurity have been profound, including outbreaks of hepatitis A and typhus in communities experiencing homelessness, as well as the COVID-19 pandemic, which has further impacted our health system, broader community, and economy, and exposed how public health impacts housing and homelessness.

Lung Association Zeroing in on Healthy Air report released

On March 30, the American Lung Association released a new report, "[Zeroing in on Healthy Air](#)." The report shows the health and climate benefits of a widespread transition to zero-emission vehicles and non-combustion electricity.

"Zeroing in on Healthy Air" finds that switching to electric cars, buses and trucks and clean electricity could save 110,000 lives and bring \$1.2 trillion in public health benefits

across the U.S., plus more than \$1.7 trillion in climate benefits, over the next 30 years. The report also offers localized data, showing the benefits for each state and for major metro areas. *In California, we see the potential for \$169 billion in cumulative health benefits, over 15,000 lives saved and 440,000 asthma attacks avoided between now and 2050 (state fact sheet attached).*

This report finds that the transition to zero-emission vehicles and electricity is especially important for communities of color. The new report looked at the 100 U.S. counties with the highest percentage of people of color. These represent just 3 percent of all U.S. counties, but we found they could experience approximately 13 percent of all national benefits. This amounts to \$155 billion in cumulative benefits. As we advocate for policies at every level of government to accelerate the transition to zero-emission vehicles and electricity, we are pushing for equity to be central to those policies and investments. Benefits can and must be targeted to communities most impacted.

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.

- [CalFresh Administrative Assistant – Bilingual, Spanish](#)
- [Welcome Baby Outreach Specialist](#)
- [IT Support Technician](#)
- [Health Programs and Benefits Trainer](#)
- [Coordinator Oral Health Advocacy for Children and Pregnancy](#)

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