

Maternal and Child Health Access



Monthly Virtual Meeting

This Thursday, June 16, 2022 - 10:00 am to 12:00 pm

Where?

This is a virtual meeting



10:00 AM to 12:00 PM

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

Speaker/Topic:

Update on the Crisis in
Infant Formula

Sagrario Nielsen MS RDN
Deputy Director
Nutrition Services &
Projects
PHFE WIC

Health Budget, Policy, and
Legislation Updates

Notes from Monthly Meeting May 19, 2022

**Guest speaker: MoNesha LaViolette, RN, Welcome Baby,
MCHA “Black Maternal Health”**

MoNesha presented on the state of Black Maternal Health in California, part of the work she is doing for her Master's in nursing. As a maternal health audience, we are all too familiar with these statistics: Black women are more than three times likely to die from pregnancy-related complications than white women, regardless of income or

education. Non-Hispanic blacks/African Americans have **2.3 times the infant mortality rate as non-Hispanic whites**. Non-Hispanic black/African American infants are four times as likely to die from complications related to low birthweight as compared to non-Hispanic white infants. President Biden himself said, “The inequities that Black mothers face are not isolated incidents but, rather, the byproduct of systemic racism in our society that has festered for far too long.”

MoNesha made the very important point that the baseline health level must be good going into pregnancy, to reduce risk levels. Many birthing hospitals have implemented hemorrhage protocols, which have greatly improved maternal mortality. The hospital where MoNesha works in addition to MCHA has recently acquired Magnet status – a quality measure that is nurse-driven. Their C-section rates are down, recovery is enhanced, nurses get moms up and moving to prevent clotting and they have changed their pain management protocols because “you don’t move if you are in pain”. She sees telehealth as both a blessing and a curse in patient care, because many symptoms need physical assessment. She encouraged everyone working with pregnant patients to “if you see something, say something” and to say, “I’m going to request that ____ be documented in the patient record” whatever it is, and recounted her own growth in that advocacy area. We all learned the acronym CUS in order to Take Back Power in situations – Concern, Uncomfortable, Safety and you could add another S for Situation. Here are the CUS steps: 1: **State your** Concern. 2: State why you are Uncomfortable. 3: State that this is a Safety issue. See [here](#) for one write-up of the steps.

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

It’s here!

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 – they do NOT need a Social Security Number and should not be told they need an ITIN- an Individual Taxpayer Identification Number – if they are not paying taxes!! Please let us know if you have undocumented clients experiencing problems with getting IHSS – whether they are children, young adults or more likely, 50+ newly enrolled. From the state’s materials:

“Full scope Medi-Cal provides comprehensive health care including medical, dental, mental health, family planning, foot care, hearing aids, and vision care (eyeglasses), **including services to help you remain in your home such as InHome Supportive Services** if you need assistance with daily activities. Full scope MediCal also covers treatment for alcohol and drug use, medicine your doctor orders, and more.”

New since meeting: Asset Limit Changes

On **July 1, 2022** the asset limit for Medi-Cal programs for people who are 65 or older or disabled is increasing. These changes apply to things owned, which can be counted for Medi-Cal eligibility. These items include bank accounts, cash, second vehicles and homes, and other financial resources. The previous limits were \$2,000 for one person, and \$3,000 for a couple. The new limits are \$130,000 for one person, and an additional \$65,000 for each additional family member.

If your clients believe they may be eligible for Medi-Cal once the new limits start, they are encouraged to apply. If they are already in a Medi-Cal program which has asset limits, you will be able to keep more than you could before. Please contact your local county Medi-Cal office if you have any questions.

State Budget Update

The Assembly and State Senate have passed their version of the 22-23 state budget. A budget deal must be reached with Governor Newsom, who has said he cannot support the legislative budget. Much of the funding in the legislative version may be changed to meet more of what Gov. Newsom included in his budgets in January and May.

Here are a few highlights:

- The legislature's **gas/inflation rebate** provides \$8 billion for the Better For Families (BFF) Rebates plan to provide relief to Californians from the impacts of high gas prices and other growing costs due to inflation. The BFF rebates provide \$200 per taxpayer and dependent for taxpayers with up to \$250,000 annual income for joint filers and \$125,000 for single filers. In addition, provides a rebate for families enrolled in the CalWORKs program and the Supplemental Security Income/State Supplementary Payment (SSI/SSP) program and to additional low-income Californians.
- Medi-Cal For All, Regardless of Immigration Status would expand **access to Medi-Cal ages 26 through 49** beginning no later than January 1, 2024. This is the Governor's date, not the 2023 date the legislature has been proposing
- **No Child In Deep Poverty.** Increases CalWORKs grant levels beginning July 1, 2023 to lift all CalWORKs families out of deep poverty.
- Provides \$31 million to **reduce share of cost requirements for seniors and persons with disabilities** by increasing the Medi-Cal Maintenance Need Income Level.
- Includes \$53 million total funds (\$19 million General Fund) in FY 2022-23 and \$89 million total funds (\$31 million General Fund) ongoing and trailer bill language to **reduce premiums to zero for Medi-Cal programs** under the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) and the 250 Percent of Federal Poverty Level Working Disabled Program. This would include for MCAP.
- Provides \$10 million in 2022-23 and \$20 million ongoing to provide **continuous Medi-Cal coverage for children zero to five years of age.**

- Approves the Governor's proposed \$304 million **restoration of the state premium subsidy program in Covered California** and adopts trailer bill language to further improve affordability for lower income enrollees.
- **Approves of the Governor's proposals to protect access to reproductive health care**, including:
 - \$20 million one-time General Fund for clinical infrastructure within HCAI to provide scholarships and loan repayments to a variety of health care provider types that commit to providing reproductive health care services.
 - \$20 million one-time in grant funding to HCAI to assist reproductive health care facilities in securing physical and information technology infrastructure and to enhance facility security.
 - \$40 million General Fund one-time, available over six years, for HCAI to award grants to reproductive health care providers to offset the cost of providing care to low-and-moderate-income individuals who do not have health care coverage for abortion care services.
 - \$15 million General Fund one-time for the California Reproductive Justice and Freedom Fund for the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) to award grants to community-based reproductive health, rights, and justice organizations to conduct medically accurate and culturally competent outreach and education on sexual health and reproductive health issues.
 - \$8 million total funds (\$5 million General Fund) to expand the Family PACT program to include coverage of the Human Papillomavirus vaccine for individuals age 19 through 45.
 - \$1 million General Fund one-time for CDPH to develop and maintain a website providing accurate and updated information to the public on the right to abortion care under state law, information about reproductive health care providers, and options for coverage for reproductive services including state-funded coverage and programs.
 - o \$1 million General Fund one-time for CDPH to research the unmet needs for access to reproductive health care services.
 - A ten percent Medi-Cal rate increase for alternative birthing centers.
 - A modification to the Medi-Cal telehealth billing requirements to remove requirements for in-person follow up visits and ultrasounds, when not clinically indicated.
 - Includes additional investments to protect and expand access to reproductive health care, including: \$21 million for reproductive health workforce programs at HCAI.
 - \$15 million ongoing to increase funding for abortion providers in Medi-Cal.
 - o \$20 million one-time for the Los Angeles County Abortion Access Safe Haven Pilot Program.
 - \$20 million one-time for targeted recruitment and retention resources and training programs for health care providers that serve patients at a reproductive health provider location.
 - \$20 million over three years to support the CA Abortion Support Fund, which will provide grants for non-profit organizations and health care providers that assist patients with overcoming barriers to abortion care.
 - \$10 million one-time to backfill lost federal Title X Family Planning funds.
 - o \$49 million over three years to support innovative and impactful syphilis and congenital syphilis prevention and control activities at CDPH.

- \$1 million one-time to allow certified nurse midwives to participate in the Song-Brown program at HCAI.
- Eliminates all remaining Great Recession-era (“AB 97,” 2011) Medi-Cal provider rate reductions, and adopts trailer bill to effectuate these restorations.
- Provides \$31 million to reduce share of cost requirements for seniors and persons with disabilities by increasing the Medi-Cal Maintenance Need Income Level.

TODAY CPSP Heard in Senate Health

[AB 1930](#) will be heard on **Wednesday, June 15, 2022**, in the Senate Health Committee. The hearing starts at 1:30.

AB 1930 extends Medi-Cal’s Comprehensive Perinatal Services Program (CPSP) benefit for an additional 10 months postpartum, to align with Medi-Cal’s new 12-month postpartum eligibility.

To get in phone line to give a very short statement of Support (the Committee is strict on being short), members of the public can **Dial 877-226-8163, ACCESS CODE: 648862**. You will be muted and placed in a “waiting room”.

When they ask for public comment in support of AB 1930, press 1-0. Do that only once. After a while, the Operator will come onto your line and give you a number and then put you back on mute.

Then your number will be called out and your line will be opened up so you can say you support AB 1930. Even just saying “I agree with what other supporters of AB 1930 on CPSP have said today” is fine. **THANK YOU!**

Court injunction will require county to process all emergency CalFresh applications in three days

Los Angeles, CA – In a major victory in the fight against hunger, the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors voted today to enter into a permanent injunction for a case filed in Los Angeles Superior Court, Hunger Action Los Angeles, et al. v. County of Los Angeles, et al., requiring the county to process and approve emergency CalFresh applications in a timely manner. The injunction will impact thousands of vulnerable families experiencing dangerous food insecurity in Los Angeles County each month.

Read more [here](#):

Congratulations and THANK YOU - WCLP, NHeLP, HALA, CAN and PILP!!

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://medi-calrx.dhcs.ca.gov/provider/pharmacy-news/>

For more information, contact MediCalRxEducationOutreach@magellanhealth.com.

***Please note: Internet Explorer is no longer a supported web browser. Please utilize Chrome, Microsoft Edge, or another supported web browser when clicking on links for the Medi-Cal Rx Web Portal.

COVID-19 Tenant Protections Resolution

What is the County's COVID-19 Tenant Protections Resolution (Resolution)? The County's COVID-19 Tenant Protections Resolution (formerly the LA County Eviction Moratorium), which went into effect March 4, 2020, extends certain protections to residential and commercial Tenants affected by the COVID-19 pandemic in Los Angeles County. On January 25, 2022, the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors voted to extend the Resolution through December 31, 2022, unless repealed or further extended by the Board.

Who is covered by the Resolution? The Resolution applies to residential tenants, commercial tenants and mobile home space renters in unincorporated Los Angeles County, **as well as cities in the County that do not have a moratorium in place.** It also established the County's temporary emergency tenant protections as the baseline for all incorporated cities within the County. **This includes incorporated cities that have their own local eviction moratoria, to the extent the city's moratorium does not include the same or greater tenant protections as the County's Resolution.** Please contact your city or call DCBA at 800-593-8222 for more information.

[Read More...](#)

**Interagency Council on Child Abuse and Neglect (ICAN) –
Child Protection Priority Hotline for Medical Professionals**

DCFS has implemented the Child Protection Hotline Priority line for Medical Providers. This will assure medical providers who suspect child abuse or neglect are able to immediately connect with the hotline.

The process is:

- The medical personnel call the Hotline 1-800-540-4000 and within the first 10 seconds of calling, press * (star) and will be prompted to enter a code, which is 3247 (DCFS). Once the code is entered, the caller will then hear a greeting and will have these options:

- Press 1 for Safely Surrendered baby
- Press 2 for Substance exposed infant
- Press 3 for Child Fatality or critical condition
- Press 4 for all other inquiries (Child Report – Medical queue)

Pressing any of these options will give them top priority.

“Medical Provider” is any licensed provider or provider in training who delivers medical care in LA County to children. This can include physicians, advanced practice providers (nurse practitioners, physician assistants), nurses (including specialized nurses such as SANE/SART nurses), medical students, nursing students, emergency medical services practitioners (EMS), and social workers calling on behalf of a medical team or medical social worker in a medical setting.

Please let MCHA know if you need the original of this letter emailed to you.

SMILE California hosts FB webinars for Medi-Cal Members!

Smile, California is hosting Facebook Live presentations for Medi-Cal members in two languages, one in English and one in Spanish. The **English** presentation will be held on **Tuesday, June 21st, 2022, at 1:00 p.m.** The **Spanish** presentation will be held on **Wednesday, June 22nd, 2022, at 1:00 p.m.** A *Smile, California* Member Outreach Representative will deliver the *Smile, your Medi-Cal benefits include dental!* presentation. A Provider Relations Trainer will assist with answering audience questions.

Together they will:

- Discuss the Medi-Cal Dental Program
- Inform viewers about the covered services available for members of all ages
- Answer questions about Medi-Cal dental benefits

Participants who stay for the entire duration of either presentation will be entered to win one of two **\$50 gift cards.**

SAVE THE DATE

Thurs June 23, 9-10 Pacific Time "Confronting Pregnancy Criminalization"

Panelists from Physicians for Reproductive Health, Association of Prosecuting Attorneys

and Partners for Justice. Those who register for the presentation will receive the multidisciplinary guide at the start of the webinar. Register [here](#).

Weds June 24, 9 AM -12:30 PM - Breastfeed LA presents: The Ultimate Marathon: Supporting Mothers Who Want to Breastfeed in the NICU Register [here](#):

Tues, June 28, 2022, 10-11 AM WEBINAR: Telling the story of racism in American healthcare

In this webinar, we'll discuss strategies and examples for telling stories about inequities, disparities and racism in health care systems. We'll take inspiration from the team behind STAT's "Color Code," a series exploring medical mistrust in communities of color across the country. Register [here](#)

RESOURCES

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>

The Health Consumer Alliance's Health4All Older Adults fact sheet is now available in all Medi-Cal threshold languages. You can find all of the languages [here](#) & hyperlinked below:

- [English](#)
- [Spanish](#)
- [Vietnamese](#)
- [Traditional Chinese](#)
- [Simplified Chinese](#)
- [Korean](#)
- [Arabic](#)
- [Tagalog](#)
- [Hmong](#)
- [Thai](#)
- [Lao](#)
- [Farsi](#)
- [Russian](#)
- [Hindi](#)
- [Armenian](#)
- [Punjabi](#)

- [Cambodian](#)
- [Japanese](#)

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.

- [Administrative Assistant – Training and Benefits](#)
- [Health Care Navigator/Enrollment Specialist - Health Coverage](#)
- [Programs](#)
- [IT Support Technician](#)
- [Health Programs and Benefits Trainer](#)

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