

## Maternal and Child Health Access



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**Monthly Virtual Meeting**  
**Thursday, June 15, 2023 - 10:00 am to 12:00 pm**

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### 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:

Sharon L. Rapport  
Director, California State Policy  
Corporation for Supportive  
Housing (CSH)  
The Housing Benefits in Medi-  
Cal's CalAIM Program

Aaron Lester  
Outreach Specialist  
CA State Treasurer

The ScholarShare Investment  
Board/CalKIDS Program –  
Savings for Kids

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June is **PRIDE** month!

**Notes from Monthly Meeting May 18, 2023 ([website](#))**

**Speaker: Lucy Quacinella, Multiforum Advocacy Solutions –  
California's State Budget and the May Revise**

Lucy provided a comparison between the January governor's budget and the May Revise, and some additional federal and state considerations. As context, the Governor "revises" financial projections in May, typically after April tax revenues are in. However, this year, the tax deadline is extended 'til October, so the projections really are more tentative. We took in less by April 15 than anticipated. But our \$31.5 BILLION dollar deficit is after we've funded additional state reserves of \$37.5 BILLION – our budget is strong, overall.

The good news? NO cuts in health care! The undocumented adult expansion stays – we will have near universal coverage in January! 0-5 Continuous eligibility stays for 2025 and Share of Cost calculation changes stay (non-MAGI enrollees won't have a SOC if their income is at or below 138%. and if over 138%, the SOC doesn't go back to 0%; instead is the difference from 138%).

More funding has been added to cover higher costs for the 50+ populations higher uptake, sicker patients who have delayed care, higher rates paid to health plans, etc. The state will increase taxes on managed care plans while also paying them more to improve access, quality and equity over 8-10 years and funding increases primary care, maternity and non-specialty mental health – the part of mental health that health plans are supposed to take care of in-house.

The May Revision keeps the Governor's proposal to move \$333.4 million from Covered California reserves to the General Fund, with related trailer bill language. Where did these reserves come from? The law imposing penalties for not getting insurance ("individual mandate") has led to the build up of Covered California's reserves, which are supposed to be used to lower consumer costs. The Legislature wants to use the reserves to lower cost-sharing. For example, hospital deductibles for Covered California's Silver Plan have doubled from \$2,500 to \$4,750. And advocacy groups have fought this with the legislature. Stay tuned.

Additional budget sections: Since implementation started a bit later than originally anticipated, a trailer bill would extend the timeline for the Doula Stakeholder Workgroup to 12/31/2023 and program evaluation to 6/30/2025. The May Revision proposes to extend the expenditure authority of the Medical Interpreter Pilot Project for 12 months, from June 30, 2024 to June 30, 2025. The Newborn Hospital Gateway trailer bill, requiring hospitals to enroll newborns now within 72 hours, from 24 originally, has been amended to include MCAP-linked newborns, in addition to those whose mothers had Medi-Cal for the delivery.

See slides posted on the MCHA website and thank you, Lucy Quacinella!

**Make sure people get "full breadth" Medi-Cal during pregnancy and for the year after!**

Please let us know of any questions or issues you have with aid codes and/or providers not accepting Medi-Cal after the 60+ day postpartum period. Encourage your clients to use their Medi-Cal – to get their eye and dental exams, mental health screenings and

treatments, and whatever else is needed. MCHA can help! See our newest resource, [“Make sure people get “full breadth” Medi-Cal during pregnancy and for the year after”](#) to know when to report a pregnancy. Clients post-pregnancy who are renewing Medi-Cal may not be protected from discontinuance and may not get their full 365 day eligibility if the County/Medi-Cal does not know they were pregnant!

## From Chronic Stress to Consistent Self-Care

Luz Chacon Wellness and Worksite Wellness LA have partnered to provide a six-week employee wellbeing program for health and social service professionals. This can be facilitated remotely or in person. The program is grant-funded/free to organizations. Contact Luz and [luz@luzchacon.com](mailto:luz@luzchacon.com) or 323-472-7927.

## LA County Medical Debt Report Findings & Recommendations



Dear community members & partners,

We are excited to share our report [Medical Debt in LA County: Baseline Report and Action Plan](#) (English) and [Deuda Médica en el Condado de Los Ángeles: Informe de Referencia y Plan de Acción](#) (Spanish).

The report highlights how widespread and burdensome medical debt is in communities across Los Angeles County. Based on our analysis and input from community members, organizations, and healthcare leaders, the report proposes an action plan to prevent and relieve medical debt.

The report findings have been covered in the [LA Times](#), [California Healthline/KFF](#), and [LAist/KPCC](#). You can share the report findings on your social media through DPH's posts on [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#), or [Facebook](#), or by sharing one of the media articles above.

For more information and actions to take on medical debt visit [our website](#) to share your story, get help and get involved.

We will continue to share new information as it becomes available. If you have any questions or updates to share through the listserv, reach out to our team at [HCCP@ph.lacounty.gov](mailto:HCCP@ph.lacounty.gov).

Thank You,

## Spread the word! The National Maternal Mental Health Hotline number has been changed.

It is now:

**1-833-TLC-MAMA (1-833-852-6262)**

The [National Maternal Mental Health Hotline](#) celebrated its first birthday on Mother's Day, providing a 24/7 lifeline with free confidential support for pregnant and new mothers in English and Spanish.

We congratulate [Health Resources and Services Administration](#) and [Postpartum Support International](#) for this milestone!

Below are some Hotline highlights from **HRSA**:

[Over 12,000 help-seekers contacted the Hotline in its first eleven months of operations — 70% of contacts were phone calls and 30% of contact were text messages.](#)

[Over 75% of help-seekers were calling for themselves, with the majority identifying as calling in the postpartum timeframe.](#)

[The top three reasons help-seekers contacted the Hotline were because of feelings of depression, anxiety, or feeling overwhelmed.](#)

## HHS Releases Report to Increase Language Access for Persons with Limited English Proficiency

Office for Civil Rights issues report to reduce barriers and increase access to persons with limited English proficiency

Last week, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Office for Civil Rights (OCR) released a report summarizing the progress the Department has made on improving the provision of meaningful access to language assistance services to persons with limited English proficiency (LEP). The report also identifies steps to continue and strengthen this work across HHS moving forward.

Effective communication is critical in health care and human services, where miscommunication may lead to misdiagnosis, improper or delayed medical treatment, and barriers to necessary services and programs.

Read the Report:

- In [English](#):
- En [Español](#):
- [用中文](#):

Read the Press Release:

- En [Español](#):
- [用中文](#):
- [AND](#)

[Read more...](#)

## Rise in Uterine Cancer Among Latinas

In 2018, Hispanic women had the highest uterine cancer rate among young reproductive-aged women between ages 35 and 39 — a rate 50% higher than white women, according to the [study of more than 840,000 uterine cancer patients](#), published in the journal Gynecologic Oncology.

Cases have been rising a steady 4% each year since 2001. Read about it [here](#).

## CDPH Health Advisory Bicillin® L-A (Benzathine Penicillin G) Shortage - June 2, 2023

Bicillin has been used for decades against syphilis - it is still the treatment of choice.

It is heartbreaking that this disease has been on the rise for some time and that infants and pregnant people are included in that increase.

The California Department of Public Health (CDPH) has issued a health advisory today regarding a national shortage of long-acting penicillin G benzathine injectable suspension products (Bicillin® L-A). **Benzathine penicillin G is the recommended, first-line treatment for syphilis, and the only recommended treatment for pregnant people and infants with syphilis.** This is of considerable concern as California, including LA County, continues to see significant increases in syphilis, including syphilis in pregnant persons and congenital syphilis in infants.

CDPH recommends prioritizing Bicillin® L-A for pregnant people with syphilis infection or exposure, infants with congenital syphilis infection or exposure, and patients with contraindications to doxycycline. Guidelines for prioritization and conservation of shortage drugs is included in the CDPH advisory. Health care providers can monitor the Bicillin® L-A drug shortages on the [FDA Drug Shortages webpage](#).

In LA County, for further information or consultation assistance, please contact the LACDPH Sexually Transmitted Diseases Provider Consultation line at 213-368-7441 Monday through Friday from 8 am-5pm.

[Read the CDPH Health Advisory](#)

**#SaveThePillows**



Did you know that nursing pillows are used nationally **more than 2.5 million times per day** for breastfeeding?



No pillow, including boppies, should ever be used with a sleeping or unsupervised infant, but boppies are used with hopefully alert breast and bottle-feeding parents and caregivers.

You may want to read about this and join in - or not. [March for Moms](#) brought this to our attention.

The Breastfeeding & Infant Development Support Alliance is a growing community of manufacturers, retailers, breastfeeding advocates, maternal health advocates and healthcare professionals committed to ensuring the safety and continued availability of products used by parents and caregivers in support of breastfeeding and infant development.

The stark reality is that Infant Feeding Support products – lovingly called nursing pillows by moms, caregivers, and healthcare representatives – are under threat by the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC). Despite progress in developing an ASTM safety standard for these important products, the CPSC released its [2023 Performance Budget Request to Congress](#) with a line item on page 29 to *Expand Scope of Infant Pillow Ban*. This published intention demonstrates the CPSC's willingness to preemptively take regulatory or enforcement action against safe, important products.

Given these risks, the Alliance has a singular goal: Protect the future of Infant Feeding Support products.

The Alliance calls on the CPSC to recognize the value of infant feeding support products. The Alliance also invites the CPSC to work with members of the Alliance, as well as other recognized stakeholder organizations to promote breastfeeding and to support infant development through the safe use of these important products.

We're joining #BFIDSA in this fight to save nursing pillows! **You can play a big part too by sending a letter using the link below to get the attention of lawmakers by June 15th!**

[\*\*SUPPORT #SAVETHEPILLOW\*\*](#)

## June is Men's Health Month

Throughout June, Men's Health Month aims to encourage boys and men to make healthy lifestyle choices.

On average, men die about five years earlier than women and have higher mortality rates from serious diseases, including heart disease, lung cancer, and HIV. Men are also less likely to speak up about mental health problems like depression. It's important that men talk to their health care providers about what types of preventive medical tests and activities they need to stay healthy. Men also face unique health problems that don't affect women, like prostate cancer.

To take charge of overall health, it is important to speak openly with one's primary care provider and don't wait until one is sick to schedule a visit. An annual appointment will allow someone to discuss any new symptoms or concerns. Make sure to:

- Get prostate health checked. Prostate cancer is one of the most common forms of cancer in men. All men are at risk for prostate cancer, and the risk increases with age. Early detection is crucial. To learn more about screening for prostate cancer, visit [Prostate Cancer Health Tips/CDC](#).
- Get testosterone levels checked. This male hormone peaks during the teenage and young adult years. It naturally declines with age, but lower than normal levels can be connected to diabetes, heart disease, and depression.
- Get cholesterol checked. Having high blood cholesterol can lead to plaque buildup in the arteries, putting you at risk for heart disease and stroke. Since there are no symptoms associated with high cholesterol, it is important that you schedule regular checkups.
- Get blood pressure checked. A greater percentage of men than women have high blood pressure, and one's lifestyle choices can increase their risk for the condition. The good news is someone can turn high blood pressure around with simple healthy habits. Being physically active can lower one's blood pressure.

You can also find information on [Gay and Bisexual Men's Health](#), [Transgender People](#), and [Transgender Men and Transmasculine Veterans](#).

## Resources

**Free books for children! Dolly Parton's Imagination Library will soon be available to all children under five in California!**

Today (Fri June 9) Dolly Parton's Imagination Library expands to the state of California!! Sign your child up to receive FREE books mailed to them monthly until their 5th birthday!! California is the first state to partner with Dolly Parton's Imagination Library to offer a fully bilingual English/Spanish book option. Register [here](#): When I checked, there was not yet the ability to register for Los Angeles, so keep checking back!

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**Coalition for Economic Survival Tenants' Rights Clinic**  
**Every Saturday at 10 AM PT**  
**Via Zoom**

- Individual, one-on-one counseling
- Registration required no later than 5 PM on Friday
- Serving renters in the entire Southern California area
- Accommodations for Spanish and Russian speakers provided
- Request a registration link via email at [helpinglarenters@gmail.com](mailto:helpinglarenters@gmail.com)

## SAVE THE DATE

Tues. July 18, 10-11:30 AM The LA County CPSP Program in partnership with [Essential Access Health](#) will be hosting a LIVE webinar on Congenital Syphilis Prevention and Education.

This training will discuss contributing factors associated with the rise in syphilis and congenital syphilis, with a focus on Los Angeles County. Speakers will review best practices for syphilis testing, staging, treatment and congenital syphilis prevention. Interested in attending? Please register [here](#).

### Maternal and Child Health Access

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