

Our next monthly meeting is scheduled for this Thursday, February 21, 2019 - RSVP today!



Maternal and Child Health Access

MCHA Monthly Meeting

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

Tiffany Romo, MPH
Sr. Public Health Analyst
Los Angeles County Department of Public Health

City and Community Profiles for Service Planning Areas - how to access and use the data

Dental Health Month - updates

Eligibility and Enrollment updates

[Click here to RSVP!](#)

Note: CalFresh Benefits for March will come all on one day, March 1:

CalFresh benefits for March will be issued on a single day, Friday, March 1, 2019, rather than the normal staggered issuance cycle of the first through the tenth of the month. This change will help with the effects of the early issuance of February benefits and the resulting gap in food assistance. Counties will continue all other CalFresh operations as usual.

From our meeting Jan. 17, 2019 (see materials on [MCHA website](#)):

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Governor Newsom's Proposed Health Care Budget - Nancy M. Gomez Senior Consumer Advocate/Community Organizer, Health Access

Nancy explained that Governor Newsom unveiled a \$209 billion budget that boosts funding for public schools and health care programs and includes significant one-time spending to combat the state's homelessness epidemic and prepare for future natural disasters. The budget contains additional funding for health care, early childhood programs and housing,

but is prudent in also providing additional funding to the state's "rainy day fund" and safety net reserves.

As noted in our previous mailing, Newsom's budget proposes a working families tax credit more than double the size of the existing tax break, assisting those who earn up to \$15/hr (EITC). CalWORKS recipients will receive a monthly increase. Funding of \$500 million would be set aside for housing and homelessness. Paid Family Leave would be extended to six months.

Nancy showed us graphs of current state expenditures and 2019-20 proposed expenditures, as well as 2019-20 Health and Human Services proposed spending. Her slides also contain an important breakdown of the remaining uninsured and how many could be in Medi-Cal or subsidized Covered CA, for example, as well as in higher income categories and undocumented adults.

Nancy provided additional details about Governor Newsom's proposals for health:

- Invest \$200 million to expand Medi-Cal to all income eligible young adults up to age 26, regardless of immigration status.
- Increase and expand additional affordability assistance to low- and middle- income individuals and families purchasing insurance in Covered California.
 - The additional funding would help individuals making \$30,350 - \$48,560 and create new subsidies for individuals making \$48,560 - \$72,840.
 - Newsom's budget will propose that the income cap be raised so that individuals earning up to \$72,840 and families of four earning up to \$150,600 could qualify for lower premiums.
 - The proposal would be funded by re-instituting the ACA's individual mandate to have coverage at the state level, as other states have done, which has helped to lower premiums.
- Use Proposition 56 tobacco tax dollars to allow for additional investments in access, screenings, and other health care system improvements
- Issued an Executive Order establishing a California Surgeon General to better inform public health options and opportunities. Dr.
- Issued an Executive Order creating a large-scale single-purchaser system for prescription drugs to help drive down costs. Under the current system, Medi-Cal and state agencies separately negotiate prescription drug prices. Under the order, the state would become the largest single purchaser of prescription drugs.
- Sent a letter to Congress and the President, asking them to empower states to transform their health care systems - a first step towards establishing a Medicare-For-All mode

Nancy discussed the Care4All Coalition, which is urging coverage for all undocumented adults, and provided information about membership and weekly calls (see materials posted). SB 29, sponsored by Sens. Ricardo Lara and Maria Elena Durazo and AB 4, sponsored by Assembly Members Joaquin Arambula, Rob Bonta and David Chiu, both bills called "Full-Scope Medi-Cal for Income-Qualified Undocumented Adult", would cover undocumented adults in Medi-Cal. It is estimated that about 1.2 million undocumented adults would be eligible. Nancy ended with "ways to help" and resources - websites and fact sheets we have posted.

Confusing Notice Regarding Non-Medical Transportation Services

In recent weeks the Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) sent a [notice to Fee-For-Service \(FFS\) Medi-Cal beneficiaries](#) explaining Medi-Cal's Non-Medical Transportation (NMT) benefit. The purpose of the notice was to explain what the benefit is and how Medi-Cal beneficiaries access the benefit. However, the notice does not explain well how NMT differs from Non-Emergency Medical Transportation (NEMT). Additionally, the notice incorrectly states that there are NMT providers listed at [HERE](#). Currently, there are **no NMT providers listed at this link**. Eventually there should be providers listed at this link, but in the meantime, FFS Medi-Cal beneficiaries or their advocates should email DHCS-Benefits@dhcs.ca.gov to request NMT transportation. Medi-Cal managed care plan participants continue to contact their member services or the plans special transportation number. For additional details about the NMT benefit and how to access it, please read [MCHA's NMT Fact Sheet](#).

Updated Federal Poverty Level (FPL) Chart for Modified Adjusted Gross Income (MAGI) programs available!

The MAGI FPL income guidelines have increased starting January 1, 2019 through December 31, 2019 and MCHA's updated chart is available at this [HERE](#). The Los Angeles County Leader Replacement System (LRS) has been updated with these new FPL percentages. However, the state CalHEERS system will not have the updated FPL percentages until April 1, 2019, which is when the Non-MAGI program numbers are updated.

This means that until April 1, 2019, there may be individuals who are eligible for MAGI Medi-Cal programs, but are denied eligibility because CalHEERS has not been programmed with the updated FPL numbers. These would be people with income just a little over the income limits for Medi-Cal on CalHEERS - check their income on our chart and see if they should be in Medi-Cal. Currently people can't get into Covered CA so it's important to check and see if people are unfairly denied!

Luckily, there are ways to help clients in this situation! To help clients who were incorrectly denied Medi-Cal, you'll have to communicate with the advocate liaison in the case carrying district. For instructions about this process:

1. Use MCHA's [Communicating with the Department of Public Social Services](#) (DPSS) template.
2. To find the appropriate advocate liaison to email, please visit [the latest advocate liaison list](#).

Pregnant women in the workplace:

Forty years ago, Congress amended civil rights law to cover pregnant women, giving them federal protection against being fired, reassigned, docked pay or denied benefits based on their condition. The Pregnancy Discrimination Act of 1978 required employers to allow women who are pregnant the same leaves of absence they'd give an employee on leave for sickness or disability. It was a landmark piece of legislation. But it hasn't stood up very well in an era when many more women are in the workplace.

Read more [here](#):

And, even though this study is from 2015, not sure things have improved. Governor Newsom's proposal for paid family leave can't come too soon!

Since we live in the only industrialized country that doesn't mandate paid family leave, [nearly 25% of mothers go back to work within two weeks of giving birth](#). To give you a sense of where human mothers fall on the legal protection hierarchy, it's illegal to separate a dog from her newborn pups [before eight weeks in several states](#).

New bacterial infections protocol for infants

A new protocol could help emergency room physicians to rule out life-threatening bacterial infections among infants up to 2 months of age who have fevers, potentially eliminating the need for spinal taps, unnecessary antibiotic treatments or expensive hospital stays. Researchers from the Pediatric Emergency Care Applied Research Network (PECARN) developed the protocol from a study of more than 1,800 infants seen at 26 emergency departments around the country.

Read the full Media Advisory [here](#)...

From Black Women for Wellness - Take a survey on consumer product use!

Dear partners, collaborators, colleagues, and diverse women of California,

We ask for a few minutes of your time to complete this research survey. Black Women for Wellness is partnering with the Urban and Environmental Policy Department at Occidental College and we're conducting a study to document consumer products use by women in California. We are interested in hearing from all premenopausal women (18-50 years old) so we can better understand what women are buying, the products they use regularly (as well as those that are occasional use), and how consumer products may be impacting women's health. Please click here to take the survey and feel free to pass it on to other women in California.

[English](#) - [Spanish](#)

We very much appreciate your time. If you would like to add your name to a list to receive updates on the study or to learn more, please visit our website at takingstockstudy.org.

Resources/Opportunities:

LensCrafters Gift of Sight program- free exam and glasses for kids and parents. Included here is a [sample letter for referral](#). It has to be faxed to the LensCrafters you want to use. The referral letter needs to be faxed with:

- name, birthdate and telephone number of client
- Agency tax ID number
- Short description of what we do at MCHA
- Short description of situation and need of client

- Thank you

Then it is faxed to Lenscrafters to the attention of the person in charge of Gift of Sight. There may be a longer wait if client needs an exam. See [list of some of the LensCrafter stores](#). If you don't see the city you need, search LensCrafters to find the closest store for your client.

Materials/Reports: [Food Insecurity: Better Information Could Help Eligible College Students Access Federal Food Assistance Benefits](#)

GAO-19-95, December 21

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STAY CONNECTED:

