

Our next monthly meeting is scheduled for this Thursday, Sept. 20, 2018 - RSVP today!



Maternal and Child Health Access

MCHA Monthly Meeting

<i>Where?</i>	<i>Speaker/Topic</i>
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	Nona Randois, Attorney at Law California Director Alliance for Justice/Bolder Advocacy "Advocacy and Lobbying for Nonprofits - Your Rights and Restrictions" Health Coverage and Program Updates

While we don't require reservations to attend our monthly meetings we do recommend to RSVP so we know you're coming...

[Click here to RSVP!](#)

From meeting July 21, 2018 (No meeting in August; see July materials on our website

[HERE](#))

Guest Speaker: Frank Tamborello, Executive Director, Hunger Action LA (HALA)

Frank is always a font of information and did not disappoint this time either! HALA meets monthly if these topics are of interest to you. Frank covered:

- **Federal level:** Threats to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), or CalFresh in California, nationally exist in the form of the Farm Bill, which the House of Representatives have loaded down with work requirements in order to cut \$20 billion from the program. Farm states are eager to pass the bill by Sept. 30; it failed in May and Senators wanted to pass as is, without the changes that affect participants. So the battle is in the House. 75% of the bill is for SNAP, only 25% for agriculture directly. 40 million adults getting food aid are working, but at temporary, part-time and/or low-paid jobs, and still need food assistance. **SNAP caseloads fell in June 2018 by 1.9 million over previous June, the lowest level since December 2009.** Eleven of the twelve states with the greatest percentage one-year caseload declines in June 2018 had three-month time limits on SNAP benefits for able-bodied adults (aged 18 to 50) without dependents

who do not work sufficient hours each week. HALA says: Stay tuned for more news and alerts on the Farm Bill. The Food Research and Action Center (FRAC) has many resources. See <http://frac.org/action/snap-farm-bill>

- **State level:** "Market Match" doubles Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT) card benefits, up to \$10, for the purchase of fresh fruits and vegetables at participating farmers' markets! See the list on our site. Market Match is an outstanding program. SB 845, the Human Services Budget Bill, includes the statutory language from [SB 900 \(Wiener\)](#) and includes full funding for pilot implementation, including EBT programming upgrades to support CalFresh Fruit and Vegetable financial incentives; grants for local entities to implement pilot projects; and funding for the fruit and vegetable purchase incentives, expected to come to \$9 million in total. Since the budget includes the policy and funding goals from SB 900, that legislation that Frank described is no longer needed to move forward this year. The CalFresh Fruit and Vegetable EBT Pilot will provide CalFresh shoppers in selected pilot locations with a dollar-for-dollar match to purchase California-grown fresh fruits and vegetables. The Department of Social Services will begin planning for the implementation of this initiative later this year. The funding will remain for pilot implementation for three years. Thanks for California Food Policy Advocates for this information; see [CalFresh Fruit and Vegetable EBT Pilot](#)
- Thanks to decades-long advocacy, Supplemental Security Income (SSI) recipients will FINALLY be eligible for CalFresh beginning June, 2019 and by August, 2019. Prior to this change, individuals receiving SSI were given a \$10 monthly supplemental SSI/SSP benefit, but they could not receive CalFresh benefits and their income was not counted in the benefit calculations for CalFresh households. Elimination of this policy results in approximately 370,000 households becoming newly eligible for CalFresh benefits, with an additional 45,000 households receiving an increase in federal CalFresh benefits. One-third of those recipients are in Los Angeles! Much work must be done to implement this change, and to ensure that newly-eligible SSI recipients can get enrolled in CalFresh. Unfortunately the state says this benefit can't be 'switched on' automatically, but there is a lot to do up to that point to make the process as seamless as possible. The budget creates a "hold harmless" provision to provide supplemental food assistance for households that would be negatively affected by the policy change. State-level stakeholder meetings are taking place; at least one will be in Los Angeles and Sacramento meetings may be attended by webinar [HERE](#).
- **Los Angeles:** The People's Guide is available! Published since the late 1970s, the Peoples Guide has become the standard guidebook of public social services for people working in the field, people in need of help, and those just helping their neighbors. For more info Check out the Peoples Guide +PDF at hungeractionla.org/peoplesguide. Place your order now at orders@hungeractionla.org. The Guide is \$1.25 per copy and one copy free for low-income persons. Inquire at info@hungeractionla.org for pricing on large bulk orders.

Board of Supervisors votes on Temporary Rent Freeze - it passes!

On Tuesday, Sept. 12, the Board passed Sheila Kuehl's motion, co-authored by Supervisor Solis, directing County agencies to draft an ordinance within 60 days to temporarily limit rent increases and evictions without just cause in unincorporated areas. It is temporary in order to

allow time to construct a permanent ordinance. The measure limits rent increases in unincorporated areas to 3% annually and allow landlords to evict tenants only with justification.

Read: [L.A. County approves temporary rent stabilization policy](#)

The Right To Restore Rent Control Will Be On November Ballot

A new **Proposition 10** will be on the November 6, 2018 ballot. It does NOT impose rent control! Please correct that when you hear it. The measure would repeal the state law that currently prevents cities and other communities from creating rent control ordinances and could be the first step to bringing relief for renters in California. From the Prop 10 Campaign: **we're inviting you to [join the movement today to Rise Up for Rent Control and win Yes on Prop 10!](#)**

New MIHA Data Brief Now Available: Symptoms of Depression During and After Pregnancy

Did you know?

- One in five California women who recently gave birth experienced symptoms of depression during or after pregnancy, according to the MIHA survey. That translates to about 100,000 women a year.
- All women are at risk for depression during or after pregnancy; however, Black or Latina women, women who have low incomes or those who have experienced hardships in their childhood or during pregnancy are at heightened risk.
- Depression during pregnancy is likely to lead to depression after the baby is born and is associated with serious risks to mother and infant. Though not all women with symptoms of depression will be diagnosed with clinical depression, routine screening for depression and appropriate care should be provided to women during prenatal care.

These key points and much more information drawn from the Maternal and Infant Health Assessment (MIHA) survey are now available in the inaugural [MIHA Data Brief, Symptoms of Depression During and After Pregnancy](#). This publication can serve as an informational resource for efforts to improve maternal mental health in California.

Listening to Mothers - Finally!

Listening to Mothers in California is a statewide, population based survey in California replicating a national survey that has been conducted for several years. More than 2,500 women share their attitudes and experiences of childbirth. Led by the National Partnership for Women and Families, the project was funded by the California Health Care Foundation and the Yellow Chair Foundation. The results reveal what is and isn't working with maternity care in the Golden State. See [HERE](#) and www.nationalpartnership.org/LTMCA. In addition, the latter includes an interactive digital version of the full survey report.

The many survey resources for diverse stakeholders and interests include:

- * Data snapshot presenting survey highlights and slides from the data snapshot that others are welcome to use
- * Full survey report and interactive digital version of this report for a more comprehensive window on survey results
- * Issue briefs on experiences of Asian and Pacific Islander, Black and Latina mothers

- * Fact sheets on care team and place of birth, cesarean birth and maternal mental health
- * An infographic on overused and underused maternity care practices
- * Brief videos on disparities, optimal care and maternal mental health, plus a composite video
- * Background resources, include a fact sheet about the survey, an overview of survey methodology and the questionnaire in English and Spanish
- * Press release
- * Forthcoming later in September: webinar recording and slide deck
- * Forthcoming in June 2019: publicly available dataset and codebook for interested researchers
- * Forthcoming in 2019: several articles making deeper dives with adjusted analyses on core survey topics

More Than 7 Million Californians Are Living in Poverty, New Census Figures Show

On Sept. 12, the US Census Bureau released new national and state-level figures for the Supplemental Poverty Measure (SPM). The SPM significantly improves on the official poverty measure by better accounting for the cost of living as well as for the various resources (including noncash benefits like tax credits and food assistance) that help families to cover basic expenses.

A new Budget Center analysis discusses the latest SPM data, which show that an average of 7.5 million Californians - about 1 in 5 - struggled to make ends meet between 2015 and 2017. California's poverty rate of 19.0% puts it among the highest of all 50 states, in a statistical tie for first with Florida (18.1%) and Louisiana (17.7%).

US Senate passes PREEMIE Act!

Now Congress is about to consider renewing the only federal law dedicated to preventing and treating preterm birth, and **we need your help to encourage every Representative to support it.**

The statistics are staggering:

- One in 10 babies in the US is born preterm.
- Babies born to women of color are more likely to be born too soon.
- Preterm birth and its complications are the leading causes of infant death in the US and globally.
- Preterm birth rates have edged up for the past three consecutive years.

And California got a "B" grade in 2016, [with nearly 12% of African-American births in CA premature between 2012-14!](#)

The March of Dimes makes it easy to act - click [HERE](#) to to send a letter and to learn more about the PREEMIE Act!

Minorities Much Less Likely to Access Mental Health Care, State Data Suggests

White people enrolled in Medi-Cal access mental health treatment at about twice the rate of other ethnic groups, even though they make up fewer than a quarter of plan enrollees, new state data suggests. Note: These data are publicly released quarterly; we can all see these discrepancies and request additional data be published.

Between July 2016 and June 2017, approximately 38 out of every 1,000 patients receiving mental health services through Medi-Cal managed care plans were white, a quarterly report released by the Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) shows. That's almost 25 percent

more than the number of black Medi-Cal enrollees who sought those services, and more than double the number of Hispanics, Asians and Pacific Islanders who got mental health treatment, the report indicates.

The discrepancy is even more significant when taking into account the ethnic breakdown of people enrolled in Medi-Cal, the public health insurance plan for low-income people in the state. Out of the 10.9 million people enrolled in Medi-Cal managed care plans during the 2016 to 2017 fiscal year, less than a quarter - or 2.2 million - were white. Meanwhile, Hispanics made up half of all enrollees, but had the second-lowest rate of access to mental health treatment.

Keck Medicine of USC to Lead a \$27M Study on Prostate Cancer in Black Men

The Keck School of Medicine of USC will lead a nearly \$27 million study on why African-American men were more likely to die from prostate cancer. The Boyle Heights medical school announced July 17 it would lead the multi-institutional RESPOND study, the largest of its kind, funded by the National Cancer Institute, National Institute on Minority Health and the Prostate Cancer Foundation. Researchers will look at the role of social stressors and genetics to explore why African-American men were at greater risk of developing more aggressive forms of the disease, and were more likely to die from it.

They hope to recruit 10,000 black men nationwide to participate in the study. "Not only are African-American men twice as likely to develop prostate cancer, but they are more likely to have an aggressive, more lethal form of the disease, and we don't know why," said Christopher Haiman, a professor of preventive medicine at the Keck school and principal investigator in the study. "It's a health disparity that needs to be addressed."

Recruitment for the RESPOND study will begin in September 2018. For more information, go to respondstudy.org.

Bayer to stop selling Essure birth control device in US

Bayer will no longer distribute or sell the Essure permanent birth control device in the United States after December 31, 2018 the company [said Friday](#). Essure, the only non-surgical permanent form of birth control for women marketed in the US, is inserted into the fallopian tubes, where scar tissue forms and builds a barrier to block sperm from reaching -- and fertilizing -- a woman's eggs. The company's decision follows the US Food and Drug Administration's patient safety action [in April](#), when it ordered that sales and distribution of Essure be restricted, FDA Commissioner Dr. Scott Gottlieb [said Friday](#) after the Bayer announcement. "The device has been associated with serious risks including persistent pain, perforation of the uterus and fallopian tubes, and migration of the coils into the pelvis or abdomen," according to Gottlieb. From [HERE](#):

Resources/Opportunities:

Jenesse's "Raise Your Voice for Peace" Talent Contest Offers Emerging Youth Artists a Chance to Compete for \$3,000 and Chance to Perform at GRAMMY Museum.

Contestants may enter the contest by uploading their performances of original or cover songs that have an **uplifting** or **socially empowering** message. Submissions will be accepted until **Sunday, October 14, 2018 at 11:59 pm PDT** at [HERE](#) Songs will be judged by a panel of entertainment professionals - **the Top 5 contestants** will perform at **the grand finale event** at the GRAMMY Museum in Los Angeles on **Saturday, November 10, 2018** for a chance to win \$3,000, record a demo and more. Runners-up will receive swag bags full of prizes.

MCHA's training webinar - Medi-Cal Non-Medical Transportation Benefits

Non-Medical Transportation, Non-Emergency Medical Transportation, Emergency Medical Transportation - they're all covered by Medi-Cal, but what are the differences, and how can home visitors help families access the services they need? In this [webinar](#), Brigid Sweeney of [Maternal and Child Health Access](#) shows home visitors how to help families find their way and avoid bumps in the road; see also the lists of resources under the webinar including our latest flyer, FAQs and state information. Thanks to the [Los Angeles County Perinatal and Early Childhood Home Visitation Consortium for hosting!](#)

Los Angeles County launches program to ensure families have access to safe and affordable financial services

Although the kick-off activities occurred over the summer, consumers can learn more about the program and the available accounts by visiting dcba.lacounty.gov/bankon/. BankOn Los Angeles County offers multiple checking accounts that include features such as free check cashing services, no overdraft fees and unrestricted customer service.

The County of Los Angeles Board of Supervisors created the Center for Financial Empowerment to lead regional efforts to build stability and household wealth L.A. County residents with low to moderate incomes. For more information on the Center for Financial Empowerment and its programs, visit dcba.lacounty.gov/financial-empowerment. Follow the Center for Financial Empowerment on Twitter @LACountyCFE.

Save the Date:

[Check out our Center for Health Equity draft Action Plan!](#)

Over the next couple of months, the Center for Health Equity (CHE) will host a number of community forums to invite feedback on their draft Action Plan. Please see the attached event flyer advertising 6 of 8 geographically-focused convenings. Please note, CHE is still in the process of confirming dates and venues for events in SPA 2 and SPA 6, as well as a number of meetings focused on specific populations. Stay tuned for more information! Please disseminate the current event information to your colleagues and constituents, and register for a forum in your neighborhood or service area. We would love to have community leaders, agency staff, County departments, and other stakeholders across sectors and areas of interest/expertise at each event.

Current dates include:

San Gabriel Valley September 6th 9:00am - 11:30am https://jointhemovement_spa3.eventbrite.com/	East LA Area September 20th 9:00am - 11:30am https://jointhemovement_spa7.eventbrite.com/
Metro LA Area September 25th 9:00am - 11:30am https://jointhemovement_spa4.eventbrite.com/	South Bay Area September 27th 9:00am - 11:30am https://jointhemovement_spa8.eventbrite.com/
Antelope Valley October 4th 1:00pm - 3:30pm location and registration pending	West LA Area October 18th 9:00am - 11:00am https://jointhemovement_spa5.eventbrite.com

San Fernando Valley

October 3rd

9:00am - 11:30am

https://jointhemovement_spa2.eventbrite.com/

Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and
Queer/Questioning (LGBTQ+) Forum

October 9th

6:00pm - 8:00pm

https://jointhemovement_lgbtq.eventbrite.com

Can't attend? Email comments, recommendations and letters of support to lachealthequity.ph.lacounty.gov. Check back here for more events or join the listserv at lachealthequity@listserv.ph.lacounty.gov.

Maternal and Child Health Access

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STAY CONNECTED:

