

California Advocacy Network for Children with Special Health Care Needs

News, policy updates, resources, events, and advocacy opportunities

Children with Medical Complexity

Webinar: Using the Complex Care Core Competencies

Date Wednesday, January 27
Time 11 a.m. to 12 p.m. Pacific Time
Sponsor National Center for Complex Health and Social Needs
Details The [complex care core competencies](#) – the knowledge, skills, and attitudes needed by every complex care practitioner – were released by the National Center for Complex Health and Social Needs in October 2020. They are designed to provide a common framework for complex care organizations, programs, and teams across the country. This webinar will highlight how two organizations are using the competencies to develop their complex care workforce. Not pediatric focused but relevant. [Read more and register.](#)

Related: [A New Year's Resolution: Speak Up](#) – by Mark Humowiecki, Senior Director, National Center for Complex Health and Social Needs

Clinical Trial: Hospital Consultation from Outpatient Clinicians for Medically Complex Children

Children with medical complexity frequently experience care that is disrupted by emergency department visits and hospitalizations. The findings from this study suggest that a hospital consultation service from outpatient clinicians reduces serious illnesses, hospitalizations, and costs for high-risk children with complexity. [Read the abstract.](#)

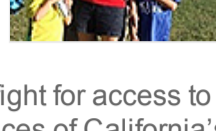
Network News

Grant Letters of Inquiry Due Soon

The deadline for Letters of Inquiry (LOI) for the Foundation's next grant cycle is **February 15**. We strongly recommend that potential applicants carefully review our program goals, priorities, and restrictions before submitting an LOI. [Read about the application process.](#)

Family Engagement

A Project Leadership Graduate in Action



Mark Strecker's journey to law school began with a fight for access to services for his two children with special needs. A 2016 graduate of Project Leadership, the Family Voices of California's family advocacy training program, he recently finished law school and plans a career assisting families like his who are struggling with obtaining disability resources. [Read his story.](#)

Webinar: The Fab 4 for a Family-Centered Telemedicine Appointment

Date Wednesday, January 27
Time 12 to 1 p.m. Pacific Time
Sponsor Family Voices
Details Speakers will describe the Family Voices telemedicine curriculum, which includes prerecorded webinars, customizable PowerPoints with speaker notes, and more supplemental materials to help achieve a family-centered telehealth experience. [Register.](#)



[Demystifying Telehealth – What Families of Children and Youth with Special Health Care Needs Need to Know](#) – from Family Voices of California in English, Español, and Chinese

Reminder: Opportunity to Present a Webinar at Family Voices Leadership Conference

January 27 is the due date for proposals to present a one-hour webinar at *Families as Partners Shaping the Future in Times of Crisis*, the Family Voices virtual leadership conference scheduled for June. Webinars on the topics of health equity, supporting families during the pandemic, telehealth, family and youth engagement, organizational development, communication strategies, and impacting policies are particularly welcome. [Read more and apply.](#)

Health Equity

Voices for Change: Revolutionizing Health Equity

Date February 9 – 11
Time 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Pacific Time
Sponsor California Pan-Ethnic Health Network
Details At this virtual conference, policymakers, elected officials, non-profits, and community organizations will share thoughts and expertise on health equity policy. The conference will feature reflections on the November election and where the new administration will take the country's health policies. Our Foundation is a sponsor. [Read about the sessions and register.](#) Fee (waivers available).

Pediatric Palliative Care

West Coast Virtual Summit: Pediatric Palliative Care – Reframing Hope

Date Tuesday, February 2
Time 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. Pacific Time
Sponsor George Mark Children's House
Details Speaker topics will include resilience during advancing illness, supporting hope, and more. The summit, which has received support from our Foundation, is geared toward physicians, nurses, psychosocial team members, leaders, and related health care professionals. Stanford Medicine Continuing Medical Education available. Fee. [Register.](#)

COVID-19 Information

Webinar for Families: COVID-19 and Building and Maintaining Support Networks in a Virtual Environment

Date Wednesday, January 27
Time 11 a.m. to 12 p.m. Pacific Time
Sponsors Association of Maternal and Child Health Programs Family and Youth Leadership Committee
Details An event for **families only**, to share their stories, experiences, challenges, and needs. [Register](#) to receive an agenda and login information. For more information write to mcrawford@amchp.org.

Our COVID-19 [webpage](#) offers additional information and resources.

- In response to an editorial in *JAMA Pediatrics*, three physicians describe the factors that should be taken into account when reintegrating children with disabilities into schools during the pandemic. Read [Children with Disabilities Must Be More Than an Afterthought in School Reopening](#).
- An article from the **National Academy for State Health Policy** outlines [State Strategies to Support the Health of Children with Special Needs in School During COVID-19](#), focusing especially on children of color and those living in poverty or in rural areas with limited access to technology.
- An update on the impact of the federal budget on children's health comes from a **Georgetown Center for Children and Families** article, [The End-of-Year COVID Relief Package: Medicaid and CHIP Highlights](#).
- The **California Department of Developmental Services** has updated its [COVID-19 Vaccine Frequently Asked Questions](#) (PDF), including information for Regional Center consumers and staff. The Department also has issued a letter confirming that [family members who care for individuals with certain health care issues are considered health care workers](#) (PDF) and are prioritized for COVID-19 vaccination.

California Children's Services

State Updates COVID-19 Guidance for CCS

The Department of Health Care Services in December updated its COVID-19 guidance, with the goal of providing temporary direction to County California Children's Services and Special Care Centers, and to ensure that CCS clients are able to access, without delay, medically necessary essential services. [Read the update](#) (PDF).

CCS Advisory Group to Meet

Date Wednesday, January 27
Time 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Pacific Time
Location Via WebEx
Details Find details on the [website](#) prior to the meeting.

Mental and Behavioral Health

Webinar: Meeting the Moment – Empowering Advocates to Support Youth Mental Health

Date Tuesday, February 2
Time 12 to 1:30 p.m. Pacific Time
Sponsor California Children's Trust
Details This interactive session will focus on the Medi-Cal mental health entitlement and present specific recommendations for how California can better fulfill its obligation to children and youth. Authors of a new report from the National Health Law Program, [Meeting the Moment: Understanding EPSDT and Improving Implementation in California to Address Growing Mental Health Needs](#), will be joined by national experts, including youth with experience and insights relating to California's mental health system. [Read more and register.](#)

Transition to Adult Care



Archived webinar: [Medicaid Managed Care Contract Provisions for Pediatric-to-Adult Transitional Care: Suggested Options and State Examples](#) – from Got Transition

National Policy

Lifespan Respite Care Program Extended

[HR 8906](#) became law on January 5, renewing support through 2024 for the Lifespan Respite Care Program, which helps states create coordinated systems of accessible, community-based respite care services for family caregivers of children and adults of all ages with special needs. [Read more.](#)

Resources

- Exceptional Parent Magazine* January Issue – [2021 EP Guide: Navigating Special Needs Resources](#)

In the News

- [Pandemic Could Hurt Home-Based Care for Kids with 24/7 Needs](#)
Disability Scoop, 1/20/21
- ['I've Tried Everything': Pandemic Worsens Child Mental Health Crisis](#)
NPR, 1/18/21
- [CDC Adds Down Syndrome to COVID-19 'Increased Risk' List](#)
Disability Scoop, 1/7/21

We'd like to hear from you

Let us know what's happening with your organization or family. Email newsletter editor Eileen Walsh at Eileen.Walsh@lpfch.org with your news or updates.

[Join the Network](#)

To see past issues, visit the [Network Newsletter Archive](#).

The California Advocacy Network for Children with Special Health Care Needs is a collaborative organized by the Lucile Packard Foundation for Children's Health. Through grantmaking, advocacy, and communications, the Foundation promotes a system of care that improves the lives of children with special health care needs and their families.

