

MEET EACH NEED WITH DIGNITY



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Los Angeles County's Top Healthcare Official Headlines MEND Conference on Poverty

***Nonprofit agency executives, poverty experts, healthcare professionals, funding groups from across
Los Angeles take part in the 6th Annual MENDING Poverty Conference***

PACOIMA – MEND - Meet Each Need with Dignity - the largest multi-service, poverty relief agency in the San Fernando Valley, and Valley Nonprofit Resources will host the 6th annual MENDING Poverty Conference June 13 in Pacoima.

The theme of this year's conference is "Healthcare Reform for Low-Income Individuals - Included or Invisible?" The conference will be held at the MEND Center, 10641 N. San Fernando Road.

Delivering this year's opening keynote address will be **Jonathan E. Fielding, M.D., M.P.H. director and health officer of the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health**. Dr. Fielding is responsible for the full range of public health activities for more than 10 million county residents. He also is a professor of health services and pediatrics and co-director of the UCLA Center for Healthier Children, Families and Communities. He received his M.D., M.A. and M.P.H. from Harvard University, and his MBA from the Wharton School. He is a nationally-known expert on and has published more than 150 scientific articles and edited several textbooks about public health issues such as prevention, economics, financing, and health promotion for children and families.

The conference was established to provide agency executives, poverty experts, media and fundraisers from across Los Angeles with a gathering place to discuss important issues facing nonprofit organizations working to improve low-income communities. Past themes include 'Where are the Jobs?' 'Not-For-Profits can Do More with Less,' 'Getting People Out of Poverty' and 'Finding Solutions: Action and Advocacy in Hard Times.'

Robert K. Ross, M.D., president and CEO of The California Endowment, will give opening remarks. Ross' organization is a health foundation established in 1996 to address the health needs of Californians. During his tenure at The California Endowment, the foundation has focused on the health needs of underserved Californians by championing the cause of health coverage for all children, strengthening the capacity of community health centers, improving health services for farm worker and ex-offender populations, and strengthening the pipeline for bringing racial and ethnic diversity to the health professions. Dr. Ross was named by Capitol Weekly as one of California's most influential civic leaders in health policy in 2006.

Jason Silva,of Health Net, Inc., will deliver the lunchtime keynote address.

Three workshops focused on meeting the healthcare needs of those living in poverty will be held from 10:30 a.m. to noon:

The Health Home Model: Innovative Services for Low Income Individuals is sponsored by The California Endowment. Katie Murphy, of Neighborhood Legal Services of Los Angeles County, will moderate and the panel will be composed of Mark Ghaly, Los Angeles County Department of Health Services; Diane Factor, Worker Education & Resource Center; and Jim Mangia, St. John's Wellness Center

The Health Homes for Enrollees with chronic conditions option of the Affordable Care Act offers an opportunity for California to address chronic and complex health conditions, including social determinants of health that lead to poor health outcomes and high costs among Medi-Cal beneficiaries.

The Affordable Care Act and Worksite Wellness Programs for Nonprofits is sponsored by Kaiser Permanente and will be moderated by the healthcare organization's Amy Wiese. The panelists will be Luis Pardo, Worksite Wellness LA; Peter Sepsis, MS, MPH, Kaiser Foundation Health Plan; and Joel D. Hyatt, M.D., Southern California Permanente Medical Group

This workshop will focus on health work tools available for employers, how to partner with health providers to achieve better health outcomes, and how to encourage healthy behavior changes through awareness, information and education. It will include information on the Affordable Care Act and the new incentives created to support healthier workplaces.

Challenges of Providing Healthcare to the Invisible is sponsored by the UCLA Center of Civil Society. Jocelyn Guihama from the center will moderate and panelists are Leo Estrada, UCLA School of Public Affairs; Giev Kashkooli, United Farm Workers of America; America Bracho, Latino Health Access; and Antonio Vega, AltaMed

This workshop will examine what shifting demographics mean for California and how communities are addressing the challenge, both locally and at the national level. It will address the Affordable Care Act and how 30 million Americans, some of the most vulnerable in the community, will remain uninsured—still unable to get the coverage they need.

Conference sponsors include:

The Honorable Richard Alarcon, Bank of America, The California Endowment, The California Wellness Foundation, Facey Medical Group, Health Net, Inc., Kaiser Permanente, LA Care Health Plan, Mission Community Hospital, Neighborhood Legal Services of Los Angeles County, Northeast Valley Health Corporation, Pacific Federal Insurance Corporation, Southern California Edison, Valley Presbyterian Hospital, Wells Fargo, and The Honorable Zev Yaroslavsky.

To download the full brochure and registration for the MENDing Poverty Conference, please visit: www.mendpoverty.org or contact Maggie Torres at 818-686-7350. For media inquiries, including requests for interviews or a press pass to attend the conference, please contact Dariel Miller at dariel@mendpoverty.org or 818-686-7335.

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About MEND:

MEND-- Meet Each Need with Dignity, which serves as many as 49,000 poverty-level clients each month while remarkably keeping operating costs to less than 6%, is the largest, most efficient and most comprehensive poverty-relief organization in the San Fernando Valley. MEND takes a holistic approach to relieve the effects of poverty by providing basic human needs while giving their clients the tools, education, training, support and opportunities that foster self-reliance.

MEND was born as a volunteer-powered organization four decades ago in a garage in suburban LA, and today benefits from the assistance of more than 4400 volunteers (and only 29 paid staffers) to implement its vast array of programs that provide food; clothing; medical, dental and vision care; job training; classes for adults in English as a second language, literacy, computers, office skills, sewing and parenting; math, reading and science tutoring for kids; showers and other services for the homeless; a home garden training program for 72 families in 2013; and a Christmas Basket Program for 1400 pre-screened families in need.