Medi-Cal Core Team  
(Outreach & Education Subcommittee)  
May 11, 2018  
11:30am - 1:00pm  
Location:  
Merced County Department of Public Health  
260 E. 15th Street, First Floor Classroom, Merced, CA 95341  
AGENDA

1. Welcome, Introductions
2. Community Health Worker Position Preview
3. Business Survey Review
4. I AM MEDI-CAL Campaign: Review Infographics, Business Infographic Brainstorming, And Outline For Video
   4.a. I AM Medi-Cal Campaign Stories
      Documents:
      I AM MEDI-CAL CAMPAIGN - FIDEL LOS BANOS RESIDENT.PDF  
      I AM MEDI-CAL CAMPAIGN - SUA MERCED RESIDENT.PDF  
      I AM MEDI-CAL CAMPAIGN.PDF
5. Meeting Schedule / Updates / Announcements

Next Meeting: June 8, 2018

Support for the Maintain Medi-Cal and Improve Community Health Campaign is provided by The California Endowment.
I AM MEDI-CAL

Fidel's Story

I woke up laying on the left side of my body, along the warm brown leather seat, covered in shards of glass, with a bloody right elbow, and a strange numbness throughout my body. My legs and my fingers were unresponsive and my arms felt extremely heavy. I had been in a terrible car accident.

I had suffered a spinal cord injury and I became a quadriplegic at the age of fourteen. The intervertebral disk between my fifth cervical vertebrae and sixth cervical vertebrae made contact with my spinal cord during the impact and impaired my spinal cord's function.

The realization that I may never walk again was the most difficult thing to accept, but the love and support of family, friends, and the hospital staff kept me strong, motivated, and positive. Overall, I was in the hospital for three months learning how to adapt to my body and how to manage it.

At the age of 18, I enrolled in Medi-Cal and in the Supplemental Security Income Disability program. These programs were, and continue to be, a crucial assistance for me. The healthcare coverage and the monthly income support my disability and my living expenses. Things can get ridiculously expensive when you live with a chronic disability.

For myself, Medi-Cal provides medical supplies, such as catheters; it also covers my medications, unexpected surgeries, dental, some medical equipment, and eye care. In 2012, I needed surgery to remove a bladder stone. I had to stay in the hospital for two weeks. Medi-Cal covered all of the expenses. There's no way I could have afforded the cost of the surgery on my own.

I am Medi-Cal is a campaign under the Health Care Consortium. The Consortium has worked to gather these stories to highlight the importance of Medi-Cal. Fidel's story is one of many that will be showcased.
Sua's* Story

28, Merced Resident

In 2010, I had flu-like symptoms that were getting worse every single day. I then started having severe abdominal pain so I took myself to the emergency room. Since I did not have insurance, I paid $200.00 out of my own pocket to cover the upfront fee. I was then released home and was told that I just had a bad case of the flu. A few days later, the pain in my lower abdomen became unbearable. I went back to the emergency room and from there, they did some testing and diagnosed me with pelvic inflammatory disease. I was admitted and stayed for 4 days. As much as I was relieved of the pain, I was worried about the amount of money I would owe once I left.

On the second day of my stay, a nurse introduced me to a social worker. The social worker explained to me that since I was 20 years old, I may qualify for Medi-Cal. She went over the paperwork and told me that Medi-Cal will contact me. When I was released from the hospital, I was handed my emergency room bills, I became extremely overwhelmed with stress. How was I going to pay for all of this when I did not make enough to pay for it? Even the minimum amount was too much for me!

About a month after stressing over my medical bills, I received a letter from Medi-Cal stating that I was eligible for health coverage. A week afterwards, the hospital sent me a letter stating that my expenses were paid for by my insurance - Medi-Cal. I am and will always be grateful for Medi-Cal. I do not know what I would have done if they did not help me pay for my medical expenses.

*changed name for privacy
"Through Medi-Cal my son was able to get his heart surgery."
-Teng, 28, Merced resident

"I was able to receive medical attention and have Medi-Cal cover my first pair of hearing aids. For an immigrant like me, it was as if God blessed me a new pair of ears."
-Merced resident, 52

"Medi-Cal saved my daughter's life... able to get through with the hernia removal surgery. She is currently 11 years old now."
-Dos Palos resident, 42

"As DACA recipient, I didn’t know what to do but panic. Thanks to Medi-Cal, I was able to heal properly and get back to work."
-Dos Palos resident, 22

"My provider ... treated me with respect."
-Gena, 58, Homeless resident

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