

Networking California for Sickle Cell Care Announces Newest Clinic at Arrowhead Regional Medical Center

SAN BERNARDINO, CA – Recently Networking California for Sickle Cell Care (NCSCC) celebrated the grand opening of an adult Sickle Cell Disease treatment center at Arrowhead Regional Medical Center (ARMC). ARMC is the 12th clinic to join NCSCC, the state's first and only network of comprehensive Sickle Cell Disease (SCD) clinics, and the second SCD clinic to offer multi-disciplinary care to adults living with SCD in San Bernardino County and its surrounding areas.

"Providing Sickle Cell Disease care requires not only medical expertise, but also empathy, patience, and a commitment to advocating for our patients. We're talking about a complex, chronic condition that affects not only the physical health of our patients, but also their social health and well-being," said Ziad Khan, M.D., Oncologist and Hematologist, ARMC and City of Hope. "Our team is dedicated to working collaboratively with every patient, and their families, to develop a treatment plan that addresses all the aspects



Curt Lewis, Grants Program Director, U.S House Representative Pete Aguilar (CA-31), Diane Nugent, M.D., Founder and President, Center for Inherited Blood Disorders, Mary Brown, President and CEO, Sickle Cell Disease Foundation, Erin Managbanag, MBA, Healthcare Program Administrator, Arrowhead Regional Medical Center, Assemblymember Eloise Gomez Reyes (D-Colton), Andrew Goldfrach, Chief Operating Officer, Arrowhead Regional Medical Center and, Joe Baca, Jr., San Bernardino County Supervisor.

of our patients' lives and ensures the best quality of life."

There are approximately 7,000 adults living with SCD in California. San Bernardino County is one of the most affected communities in the state having the second-largest population affected by this disease, following Los Angeles

County. The ARMC clinic aims to serve the estimated 530 known individuals living with the disease who reside in San Bernardino County. The clinic provides comprehensive hematology and infusion treatments and is staffed by physicians and mid-level practitioners from City of Hope.

Additionally, the clinic will staff dedicated RN care managers, a social worker, and program coordinator to oversee the clinic and patients served.

"I am proud to support the establishment of not only one but two Sickle Cell Disease clinics in our district," said Majority Leader

Eloise Gomez Reyes (D-Colton). "The clinic at ARMC is a testament to the importance of investing in the health and well-being of the community and how we can make a real difference in the lives of adults living with this long-neglected disease. It's the perfect example of a program that is making a direct impact to improve health equity in our state."

The NCSCC model of care, a full collaboration between community and health care services, is helping those living with SCD, for the first time, experience continuity of care and the prevention of devastating complications that result in avoidable emergency room visits or hospitalizations due to pain or severe anemia. In only 3 years, NCSCC has reduced emergency department treatment and release visits by 11%, hospitalizations by 20%, and total length of hospitalization stays (days) by 50%. When NCSCC is fully operational, savings in reimbursable health care costs will exceed \$50 million annually.[1]

"Three years ago, our goal was

to open five clinics in the state. Today, Networking California for Sickle Cell Care proudly welcomes ARMC as the 12th clinic to join this historic network," said Mary Brown, President and CEO, Sickle Cell Disease Foundation. "We'd like to thank ARMC for recognizing the incredible need to improve sickle cell care and coordination. Through these partnerships, adults with Sickle Cell Disease who have been neglected for far too long finally have access to wrap around support services with their health care providers and community health workers. These efforts undoubtedly save lives."

The adult sickle cell clinic at ARMC is located at 400 N. Pepper Avenue, Colton, California and is now accepting patients. If you or a loved one is in need of care, or if you are interested in learning more about NCSCC, visit <https://sicklecellcare-ca.com/about/> or follow @TheNCSCC on Facebook and Twitter.

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Action Required: Medi-Cal Renewal Process Is Underway Across California

By: McKenzie Jackson, California Black Media

STATEWIDE – Californians enrolled in Medi-Cal should keep an eye out for a yellow envelope in their mailbox over the next 14 months.

The Medi-Cal eligibility of over 15.4 million Golden State residents is under review for the first time since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic in March 2020.

If a Medi-Cal beneficiary does receive the yellow envelope, they must provide their current contact information to health care officials as soon as possible to retain their



Medi-Cal coverage, noted California Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) Assistant Deputy Director Yingjia Huang.

"It is critical that they do it by the due date that is on the packet that will come," she said. "If that is not completed by the due date, there

is a possibility that you will lose your coverage from Medi-Cal."

Huang was one of several speakers featured during an April 12 online media briefing held to notify Medi-Cal members of the health coverage eligibility check, which began on April 1. The media teleconference was organized by California Black Media and Ethnic Media Services in partnership with DHCS.

Medi-Cal is California's version of Medicaid, the federal government-funded health insurance program. Administered in conjunction with states, Medicaid is designed for people

with limited incomes. The insurance covers services such as dental care, prescriptions, and medical and preventive care.

The Families First Coronavirus Response Act, enacted in 2020, directed Medicaid programs nationally to keep everyone enrolled during the pandemic. The annual redetermination process was suspended due to the severity of the worldwide health

emergency. However, federal agencies declared the emergency over last month. So now, 80 million Americans are in the process of having their Medicaid eligibility checked by their states' health department.

According to DHCS figures, 1,066,215 African Americans in California have Medi-Cal. Over 2.6 million Whites are enrolled in the program, as are 7.4 million

Latinos. Over 2.8 million people who did not provide a race or ethnicity are insured by Medi-Cal and the number of Asian/Pacific Islanders enrolled is over 1.4 million. By ethnicity, people of American Indian/Alaskan Native descent account for the lowest number of enrollees at 55,851.

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