About the Office of Women’s Health

- Who we are
- What we do
- Current and future projects
- Takeaway points
Diversity of Women in LA County

- Estimated 3.8 million adult women
- Over 68% are women of color¹
- 46% are foreign-born; 39% speak language other than English¹
- Over half of women are living at less than 200% FPL¹
- Aging population – number of women 65+ years expected to double from 2000 to 2050
  - By 2030, 1 in 5 Americans will be age 65 or older²

¹ 2011 LA County Health Survey
² 2010 U.S. Census Bureau
Creation of the Office of Women’s Health

• 1997: the Los Angeles County Commission for Women convened a Health Care Summit on Women’s Health
• Summit purpose: Develop strategies and solutions to improve the quality of women’s health
• 1998: The Office of Women’s Health was established to serve as a focal point for strategic planning to make county programs and policies more responsive to women

How OWH Fits into the County Structure

• OWH is one of 39 programs in the LA County Department of Public Health (DPH)
• Our Office is part of DPH’s “Health Promotion Bureau” along with...
  ▪ Children’s Medical Services
  ▪ Chronic Disease & Injury Prevention
  ▪ Maternal, Child, & Adolescent Health
  ▪ Substance Abuse Prevention & Control
• As of November 5, 2015, DPH was integrated with the Department of Health Services (DHS) and Department of Mental Health (DMH) under the “Health Agency”
Mission of the Office of Women’s Health

To improve the health status of women in LA County by...

• Providing education and promoting resources, programs, and policies that are helpful and responsive to women
• Promoting health equity
• Increasing access to culturally competent, comprehensive health services

Women’s Health Policy Council

The Women’s Health Policy Council (WHPC) serves as advisers to the Office of Women’s Health (OWH).

• Consists of community leaders, clinicians, service providers, health advocates, public-sector representatives, and private-sector representatives
• 13 current council members
OWH Programs

Over the past 17 years, our Office’s projects and priorities have evolved as the needs of women in LA County have changed.

- Cervical cancer was the first initiative chosen due to high incidence of this preventable condition among women of color.
- In addition to educational and multimedia campaigns targeting high-risk multicultural populations, a 1-800 Hotline was established, offering appointments for Pap tests and breast exam/mammograms in several languages.
- A mobile van provided direct multilingual preventative services.

OWH improves the health status of women

The office uses a multipronged approach, working at the...

- Systems/Policy Level
- Community Level
- Individual Level
OWH: Working at Systems/Policy & Community Levels

OWH improves the health status of women

Some of our key initiatives working at the Systems/Policy and Community levels:

- Women’s Health Data Report & Data Dissemination Project
- Healthy Aging/Purposeful Aging
- Violence Against Women
- Breast and Cervical Cancer (state/national efforts)
Women’s Health Data Report

Data Dissemination Project
Healthy Aging

Los Angeles Alliance for Community Health & Aging (LAACHA)

- A strategic alliance to increase the reach of effective, evidence-based community health interventions that address chronic diseases, caregiving and fall prevention

- OWH is a founding member and part of the Steering Committee

- Alliance Goals:
  - Expand program access
  - Increase the referral network into evidence-based lifestyle programs
  - Solidify the LAACHA Steering Committee Leadership and Member Committees to maximize organization impact
Violence Against Women Workgroup

- DPH collaborative to work across programs and determine the best public health approach to prevent and address domestic violence
- Viewing domestic violence as a social determinant
- Working towards a cultural shift: Normalizing conversations between providers and clients about relationships to serve as a prevention and early detection intervention.
- Landscape analysis, expert interviews, DPH Strategic Plan, Board of Supervisors Committee, interventions, trainings, sustainability

Breast & Cervical Cancer

- Served on California Dialogue of Cancer panel to develop 2016-2020 CA state cancer plan
- HPV Vaccine
  - Research (as Community/Public Health partner)
    - NIH grant to test community-based interventions
    - EMR based interventions
    - School based clinics
  - LA County HPV Community Advisory Board
- Every Woman Counts program
- Monitoring of breast and cervical cancer legislation
OWH improves the health status of women

- Building and participating in community partner networks and fostering collaboration.
- Key collaborations:
  - Advancing Women’s Health Equity and Financial Literacy
  - Lesbian/Bisexual Women’s Health Collaborative
  - Reproductive Health and the Environment
  - Women and Health Care Reform Coalition
  - Health Care Consumer Protection Partnership

OWH: Working at the Individual Level
OWH improves the health status of women  (cont’d)

Some of our key initiatives working at the Individual level:
• Multilingual Women’s Health Hotline
• Enrollment into a research study to increase HPV vaccine receipt among underserved high-risk adolescents (cervical cancer prevention)
• Heart Disease Risk Assessment
• Evidence-Based Lifestyle Program Assessment
• Health Outreach (health fairs, outreach at Latin American Consulates)

OWH Multilingual Services

At the heart of OWH is the ability to address significant barriers to care by providing multilingual services to at-risk populations: African American, Latina, Chinese, Korean, Vietnamese, and Armenian women.
Women’s Health Hotline 1-800-793-8090

• The Women’s Health Hotline has handled tens of thousands of calls over the years
• Hotline operators speak 7 languages: English, Spanish, Cantonese, Mandarin, Korean, Armenian, and Vietnamese
• Hours: Monday-Friday, 8 am-6 pm

Services
Information and referrals for health, mental health, social services, and health coverage
• Family planning/Pregnancy
• Doctor appointments
• STDs
• Dental/Vision
• Immunization
• Housing/Food
• Health coverage and insurance
• Lifestyle Programs
An exciting new campaign will use the existing Women’s Health Hotline to promote lifestyle programs. This campaign is called *LA Healthline*.

Systems | Community | Individual
New Campaign: LA Healthline
Linking the Community to Lifestyle Programs

- Exciting new project to improve health of LA County residents through enrollment in lifestyle programs
- Workshops are evidence-based and focus on...
  - Chronic diseases (high blood pressure, heart disease)
  - Self-management (diabetes, chronic pain)
  - Caregiving
  - Fall prevention
- Will use Hotline to assess clients and enroll those who qualify in workshops

Takeaway Points

- OWH works at various levels (from policy to individuals) to promote health equity throughout Los Angeles County.
- We believe collaboration not only brings richness but is essential to our work.
- LA Healthline (1-800-793-8090) is a free, multilingual resource for health, mental health, and social service referrals.
  - 7 languages: English, Spanish, Cantonese, Mandarin, Korean, Armenian, and Vietnamese
Thank You!

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