



California LGBT Health and Human Services Network

December / 22 / 2017

Network Call Follow Up

Thank you for joining us on our call this month. As promised you can find the contact information for our state LGBT Caucus below. Rodney and Alina are great resources if you would like to suggest a bill and/or find out what bills the caucus will be supporting this legislative session.

California Legislative LGBT Caucus

[Website](#) (bill suggestion form and general information)

[Rodney Nickens](#)

[Alina Hernandez](#)

The January Network call has been canceled

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The Network Listserv is available for member use to share information about upcoming LGBTQ events, campaigns, sign-on letters, share resources, and find partners for collaboration.

[You can post directly by emailing the listserv.](#)

BEFORE THE BALL DROPS, DON'T DROP THE BALL.

Having health insurance is **THE LAW**.
Without it, you risk a **\$695 PENALTY**.



ENROLL TODAY at Healthcare.gov



#Out4MentalHealth

[Liaisons Wanted](#)

[Write a Blog Entry](#)

[Covered California Social Media Tool Kit](#)

Covered California extended the enrollment deadline to Dec 22nd, TODAY, to enroll for coverage starting Jan 1st

LGBTQ people are 2.5x more likely to experience depression or anxiety. And use substances at 2-4x the rate of the general population. Luckily, all plans through Covered California cover preventative health, mental health, and substance use treatment.

- Health plans and prices change each year - and the amount of financial help you can get may change too.
- 80% of LGBT people want to meet with an assister that understands LGBT-specific issues. Consumers can get free in-person LGBT friendly help from an expert using Out 2 Enroll's [Locator Tool](#).
- LGBTQ people are protected from discrimination in health care and health insurance. [Section 1557](#)'s non-discrimination protections are still in place.
- Health insurance is better than ever for transgender people who can expect more and demand more. Trans consumers should enroll and expect that transition-related care will be covered.

You may have questions about the federal tax law that was just passed this week. Covered California wants to assure you that the benefits related to your Covered California coverage, including

financial help to reduce monthly premiums, has NOT changed for 2018. The penalty also remains in effect for 2018 coverage. The only change is the tax penalty will no longer be in effect beginning in 2019. Throughout 2018 you will still have access to the same quality, affordable health coverage from Covered California.

What does this mean?

- For 2018, individuals who can afford health insurance but choose not to enroll for coverage will be [required to pay a penalty](#).
- [Financial help](#), for those who qualify, to help lower the cost of health coverage through Covered California REMAINS IN PLACE.
- Quality health care, [health benefits](#) and consumer protections such as Pre-Existing Conditions REMAIN IN PLACE.
- For individuals who do not buy insurance because it would be "unaffordable" for them, in 2018 they will not be required to pay a penalty.

Visit www.coveredca.com now through January 31st to find a plan that fits your budget and covers the care you need.

Upcoming Events

Jan 13 - [Surrogacy Conference & Expo](#) - San Francisco
Jan 25-28 - [Finding Freedom: LGBTQ Symposium](#) - Palm Springs
Jan 26 - [Adult Residential Facility Stakeholder Engagement](#) - Woodland
Feb 17 - [SoCal LGBTQIA Health Conference](#) - Los Angeles
Mar 03 - [AIDS Walk and Health Fair](#) - Ventura
Oct 19-20 - [Improving OUTcomes Conference](#) - Sacramento

News and Resources

- [Covered California extended the enrollment deadline](#) to December 22nd to get coverage starting January 1st.
- [GOP Leaders Aim Budget Cuts at the Bottom](#)
- [Supporting your trans loved one through family gatherings](#)
- How to check in with loved ones regarding their [mental health during the holidays](#)
- [All LGBT City Council makes history in California](#)
- [27% of CA adolescents identified gender nonconforming](#)
- The LGB community is an identified subpopulation with [significantly higher tobacco use](#).
- [Queer American Sign Language signs](#)
- Being [queer and undocumented](#)
- [In the cake case, LGBT people of color have the most to lose](#)



No matter where you live in California



You can #GetCovered at CoveredCA.com
November 1- January 31

#Out4MentalHealth

<http://www.californiaqgbthealth.org/>

STAY CONNECTED

