

Academic Rigor on a Legislature's Timeline



Letter From The Director

Welcome to CHBRP's Winter Newsletter.

I hope that this new year is healthy, prosperous, and fulfilling for all of our readers.

Winter is often an eventful and unpredictable time of year for the CHBRP team. Activities ramp up externally and internally, and final preparations are rushed to completion as we dive into analysis requests that arrive, often without any notice. Despite even the weather's attempts at disruption, we have been back in the Capitol a lot more frequently in recent weeks and will continue doing so over the next few months. We have been delighted to meet in person, again. In recent weeks we have been meeting with new legislators and staff, and I have been deeply touched by the warm welcomes and demonstrated interest in CHBRP.



The pace of change feels like it has been dialed up in recent years, while complexities, disruptions, and stresses in health care amidst a lingering global pandemic have remained stubbornly hard to solve. Coupled amidst sharp gyrations in our economy and the state's finances, we have focused considerable effort to make CHBRP's work more accessible to people wherever they may be, and even more usable (and useful) when they need it. What do I mean by this? Communication mediums, how people collaborate, and how legislators, staff, and stakeholders collect and use information have changed rapidly and continue to change. Attention spans have been challenged even further, as we contend with incredible volumes of

information, and new staff and legislators may find themselves considering complex health policy topics for the very first time. We have been working to respond proactively to this changing landscape in several concrete ways. We are thrilled to announce the rollout of CHBRP's completely redesigned website today. With a terrific small web design firm called **Black Antelope**, we created a modern, well-designed, flexible platform (from technical capabilities to design) that will support our evolving needs well into the future. For our users, CHBRP's new website will make it easier to find resources, track legislative requests and reports, and connect with us. The new website will also help us showcase ongoing work to make other CHBRP resources available in bite-size formats, including short video pieces over the coming year.

As a small nod to the changing world, we have also modernized our logo. We look forward to your reactions! We will be rolling this out throughout the year as we update our many resources and materials, templates, etc. We'll be developing short virtual polls and surveys over the year to get your input, so please share your thoughts!

CHBRP will be hosting two Virtual Legislative Briefings via Zoom this season. The first one will be on February 2nd from 10:00-11:00 am. We welcome legislators, legislative and agency staff, advocates, health plan staff, students, and the public to our annual legislative briefing. A free registration link can be accessed, [here](#). Later in February, we will post information about the additional virtual briefing.

Finally, CHBRP has received three requests from the Legislature to analyze introduced bills, thus far. We anticipate numerous more requests will arrive in February.

Until next time,

Garen

Updates from CHBRP



New logo, new website!

This morning, CHBRP announced it's updated website and logo! This modernized and improved website will help CHBRP's users find and access all of our work. With a more robust platform with greater capabilities, it will also allow for better navigation, recognition of our work, and future enhancements and offerings.

Let us know your thoughts by emailing info@chbrp.org. We'll be transitioning other materials on our website to the new format over the coming year.

[Take a look!](#)

CHBRP's Requests

Thus far, the Legislature requested that CHBRP analyze three bills:

- **Assembly Bill 85** (Weber): Social Determinants of Health: Screening and Outreach
- **Senate Bill 70** (Wiener): Prescription Drug Coverage
- **Senate Bill 90** (Wiener): Health Care Coverage: Insulin Affordability

CHBRP will likely receive additional requests to analyze bills in the coming weeks. Requests will be announced via our listserv.

Interested parties are encouraged to provide relevant scientific evidence and information to CHBRP's staff within 14 days of announcing the legislative request by emailing info@chbrp.org.

As these bills move through Committees, CHBRP publishes an "Amendments Update" document ahead of key hearings that will indicate the portions of CHBRP analyses that remain relevant after amendments are made to analyzed bills. This is available on CHBRP's website under Completed Analyses, and CHBRP will also notify readers when a new version is posted via our email listserv.

[See all requests](#)

Register for the Virtual Legislative Briefing

CHBRP is hosting our annual legislative briefing via webinar on **Thursday, February 2, 2023 from 10:00-11:00am PST**. You are warmly invited.

[Register Now!](#)



Free Upcoming Webinars

CHBRP's colleagues from other organizations host various webinars, here are a few that may interest our readers:

- **UC Center Sacramento presents:** "Nowhere to Go: Advancing Structural Solutions to Homelessness" with Dr. Enrico Castillo (UCLA) on February 8, 2023, at 12:00 PM. For more information and to register [click here](#).
- **UCLA's Center for Health Policy Research presents:** the 2023 E.R. Brown Symposium "Addressing Gun Violence as a Public Health Epidemic" on February 13, 2023 at 10am. For more information and to register [click here](#).
- **UC Center Sacramento presents:** "Applying a Public Health Perspective to Improving Prison Conditions" with Dr. Brie Williams, MD, MS (UCSF) on March 1, 2023, at 12:00 PM. For more information and to register [click here](#).

Task Force Spotlight

Each newsletter, CHBRP features two Task Force members and the important work they do outside of CHBRP. See more information about all of our Task Force members on CHBRP's website

Danielle Casteel, MA

Danielle Casteel is a project manager and evaluation research associate at the Health Services Research Center at the University of California, San Diego Department of Family Medicine and Public Health. Her responsibilities include managing and assisting with the center's health-related clinical trials and mental health program evaluation for county-funded programs. Additionally, Casteel serves as a senior evaluator on the evaluation team for the Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health Innovation Program and manages a sports medicine clinical trial examining the effects of external counter-pulsation treatments on concussion symptoms.



As a task force member and a medical effectiveness lead within CHBRP, Casteel enjoys the real-world aspect of her work and the goal to provide unbiased and academic-level research for policy decisions. Through the work she has done with CHBRP, Casteel solidified her interest in health policy. Casteel was introduced to CHBRP through a supporting role for UCSD's Medical Effectiveness team in 2014 and through the mentorship of her colleagues, she has been able to take on more of a lead role in the analyses.

Casteel is grateful for the opportunity to work on so many diverse projects during her career so far at UCSD and for the skills and experiences she has gained. For CHBRP specifically, she is proud of the personal growth and unique skill set I've gained from the experience from year to year.

Marykate Miller, MS

Marykate Miller is a research analyst for the UC Davis (UCD) Center for Healthcare Policy & Research. Serving as a project manager, Miller's projects are focused on varying topics including smoking cessation, opioids, and breastfeeding practices among first-time mothers. In her clinical research work, Miller enjoys the diversity of researchers and teammates around her, working with and learning from faculty who are passionate about their field of research, and partnering with them to ensure their study is successful in meeting its goals. In her systematic review work, Miller enjoys learning deeply about a topic, whether it is breast cancer screening, electronic cigarettes, or substance use stigma in healthcare.



Regarding her role within CHBRP, Miller collaborates with UCD faculty to provide public health analyses on proposed legislation and also contributes to the medical effectiveness team. Miller finds her work exciting due to the consideration of scientific evidence in legislative decision-making regarding healthcare. Miller acknowledges the hardship of reviewing scientific literature but believes that it's great to be able to leverage all the diverse knowledge and expertise across academia to give legislators as much information as possible, to help them make informed decisions.

After graduating from UC Davis with my bachelor's degree in Psychology, Miller spent six years working at the MIND Institute. There she worked both in clinical research and directly with families in navigating the complex web of health insurance to access appropriate services for children with neurodevelopmental disorders. Miller found health policy through a longing to understand the network of services and larger healthcare systems. Ms. Miller pursued a joint UCSF/UC Hastings my master's program in health policy & law. From there, she moved to the Center for Healthcare Policy and Research to focus on health services research. Miller is most proud of the work she conducts with an array of lifelong learners who, like herself, want to better understand the larger picture of our complex healthcare system, and how it can be improved upon.

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