



December 16, 2022

Upcoming Events

Classical Chinese Music

- Saturday 12/17 from 2pm to 3:30pm
- Location: Chinatown Library
- Address: 2100 S. Wentworth Avenue

LEGO at the Library

- Thursday 12/29 from 4pm to 4:45pm
- Location: McKinley Park Library
- Address: 1915 W. 35th Street

Contact info@maha-us.org if you would like more info on any event!



Narcan (Naloxone) reverses an opioid overdose and is easy to use. Learning how to administer it and carrying Narcan with you can be life saving!

MAHA can help you learn to administer Narcan through a quick training, email us at carorojasbec@maha-us.org for more information. MAHA also is now a Narcan distribution site.

To find other sites where you can access Narcan for free, [click here!](#)

MAHA is also working with Rush University Medical Center to visit



Opioid deaths in Chicago on pace to reach similar levels

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Opioid-related deaths in Chicago this year are on pace to match those in 2021, when the city saw a record number of people die from overdoses.

[Read more
chicago.suntimes.com](http://chicago.suntimes.com)

In 2020 and 2021, opioid-related deaths in Chicago surpassed deaths due to homicides and traffic crashes combined. Opioid-related deaths have increased since 2020, which had 1,302 opioid-related deaths. In 2021, Chicago had 1,428 deaths due to opioid-related overdoses, and 2022 is on track to match that statistic according to the Chicago Department of Public Health and Cook County's medical examiner's office.

While opioid-related overdoses are "treatable and largely preventable" as Chicago's public health commissioner Dr. Arwady explains, not enough attention has been focused on this issue.

Stigmas associated with opioid use and substance use disorders have largely impacted the attention and help this issue received today. Therefore, it is important to reduce these stigmas by increasing awareness and accessibility of aid. Greater funding supports for opioid treatments in

the Pilsen Food Pantry (learn more about them [here!](#)) a couple times each month to distribute Narcan kits. This food pantry helps so many in need access food, clothes, and more! Currently the food pantry is facing some issues, help them keep the pantry on Throop Street by signing this [petition!](#)

hospitals and communities and increased mental health funding can all help decrease substance use disorders and overdose fatalities.

Naloxone or Narcan can help reverse an opioid overdose and is life saving. Chicago's health department has begun increasing naloxone accessibility throughout the city as well as distributing fentanyl test strips to avoid overdoses due to fentanyl.

Navigator Q&A: Open Enrollment



Did you miss the Dec. 15th deadline for enrollment?
Not to worry! There's still time to #GetCovered in 2023.

Applications for the Affordable Care Act will still be taken up until
January 15, with coverage beginning on February 1, 2023.

Make sure to schedule your appointment ASAP!
Please call 312-225-6806 for more information



MAHA'S YEAR IN REVIEW



MAHA Coordinators Mimi Tsang and Carolina Rojas-Becerra presented e-cigarettes and vaping at Hernandez Middle School.

SUBSTANCE USE PREVENTION

MAHA has become a Narcan distribution site with staff trained to reverse opioid overdose using Narcan. Coordinators have presented 111 workshops to students, parents, and teachers in English and Spanish through various partner schools in the McKinley Park Area on topics ranging from substance use to mental health.

COMMUNITY HEALTH

Our team conducted 11 health screening events (screened a total of 632 people) and 24 vaccination events (vaccinated a total of 950 people for free).

EMPLOYMENT

In our Community Development Block Grant Program, we enrolled 20 clients (served approximately 35 clients for the whole year) and placed 16 of them into employment. Through our milestone Smart Match Employment Program, we served 55 clients and placed 32 clients.



Mimi Tsang and Andrew Piotrowski distributing information about MAHA's programs at BPNC Playstreets event.

GAMBLING

Compiled community survey of over 1,300 local residents to demonstrate widespread opposition to the construction of a new casino near the Chinatown neighborhood. The survey results were later shared with representatives of Chicago's City Council, ultimately leading to the selection of an alternative site for the casino.

EMPLOYMENT: CHINESE RESTAURANT UPSKILLS TRAINING

Our first 12 week training program included 18 students and was completed in November. Currently, our second training class has 34 students, and is set to be completed in January.

NAVIGATOR PROGRAM

MAHA's Navigator team provided essential benefit enrollment services to community members throughout the year. Thus far in 2022, we have assisted with applications for 1,211 Medicaid healthcare plans, 470 Marketplace insurance plans, 544 Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) applications, and 324 Low-Income Household Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) applications.

MENTAL HEALTH CLINIC

Our Mental Health team has been hard at work providing workshops and mental health services. We have served 285 clients up to November, with 56 clients receiving psychiatric service. We partnered with 4 CPS schools in the neighborhood who actively refer students to our clinic.



Photo of students from first Chinese Restaurant Upskills training class.



Lola Wang, LCSW (right), Eli Lu (not pictured), and MAHA's Ailin Chang, LSW (left) presented cultural and gender identity workshop in English and Mandarin to parents, teachers, counselors at James Ward Elementary.

THANK YOU to our wonderful partners who help make all of MAHA's work and achievements possible!



Midwest Asian Health Association
[Visit our Site](#)

