



PAC/LAC was founded by a community pediatrician in response to a 1979 March of Dimes directive (Towards Improving the Outcome of Pregnancy – TIOP) recommending the creation of a perinatal regionalization system to increase optimal outcomes of pregnancy and childbirth. Regionalization in these terms refers to a system of consultation, referral, and transport of high-risk, maternal or neonatal patients from hospital to hospital based on the level of care each is capable of providing, as determined by licensing and designating bodies.

Prompted by the March of Dimes report, the State of California Department of Health Services (DHS) Maternal Child and Adolescent Health (MCAH) branch created a statewide program, entitled the Regional Perinatal Programs of California (RPPC), and expanded the program throughout the state. Due to the geographic size and magnitude of births in the Los Angeles Region, the DHS created seven sub-regions each covering specific geographic areas and each representing networks of care (consultation, referral, and transport) from low-risk newborn primary care and maternity centers to high-risk tertiary care facilities with tertiary, high-risk, Level III sub-specialty hospital present within each sub-region. Three RPPC funded organizations, including PAC/LAC, served Los Angeles, Ventura, and Santa Barbara counties working collaboratively with each other to fulfill the scope of work as detailed by now California Department of Public Health, MCAH RPPC contract. PAC/LAC's RPPC regions have expanded to Riverside, San Bernardino, Inyo, and Mono Counties.

PAC/LAC's sub-regions were led by a volunteer Council of physicians and nurses that coordinated activities and developed projects to meet the specific need of each sub-region. In 1995 sub-regional Councils were dissolved due to the high degree of difficulty in maintaining numerous voluntary groups. Additionally, because of the proliferation of hospital systems and the changing healthcare environment, coordinating activities based by sub-region was no longer an effective way to meet the needs of the health care system.

In 1981, PAC/LAC was incorporated a non-profit corporation, 501(c)(3) to improve perinatal outcomes in Los Angeles, Ventura, and Santa Barbara counties by promoting cooperation among persons and institutions providing perinatal care and developing and supporting a regionalized perinatal health system to include education, referral transport, and data evaluation. PAC/LAC

A membership structure was created to best meet the mission of the organization, to raise community awareness of PAC/LAC's services, and to provide services to dedicated healthcare professional and hospitals. Fee-based membership benefits included discounts to PAC/LAC educational events and on-going technical assistance and support to access to medical guidelines (obstetrical and neonatal) developed by community experts under the management of PAC/LAC. In 2014, membership terms changed to reflect our appreciation and recognition of our Perinatal Teams; in our regions, all hospital staff are recognized members and entitled to all PAC/LAC membership benefits.

Since the inception as a non-profit organization, PAC/LAC has been governed by a volunteer Board of Directors who are members of the Corporation. By 1995, there were 64 perinatal and neonatal healthcare providers and advocates serving on the Board of Directors with quarterly meetings as a forum for medical experts to share information on the personal and public health needs of the community. An Executive Committee, comprised of nine officers of the Board, met monthly and offered hands-on leadership and guidance to the three PAC/LAC staff and Program Director who implemented the operational activities of the Corporation.

In July 1996, PAC/LAC By-Laws and the mission statement were revised with the intent of expanding the reach and visibility within the community. PAC/LAC has strengthened its presence in both the public and personal health sectors of maternal and child health. From this time forward, the Board of Directors assumed the leadership and governance of the organization and dissolution of the Executive Committee occurred. This paradigm shift in awareness guided PAC/LAC from an “RPPC state project” to a non-profit corporation that has, as one of its roles, the implementation of an RPPC contract. The shift also required renaming leadership staff to Executive Director to indicate the broadened capacity of the organization.

Since March of 2006, with the assistance of a Certified Public Accountant, fiscal operations are performed in-house. Prior to this financial accountability was monitored through a fiscal intermediary, California Family Health Council, Inc. (CFHC). Non-statutory benefits (medical, dental, life insurance) are purchased as an affiliate of CFHC.

PAC/LAC’s mission is to *positively influence the health of women and their families* and is carried out by our work to ensure that all mothers and children throughout our regions have access to optimum health care. PAC/LAC’s extensive history has established us as a leader in perinatal healthcare and as a trusted resource for maternal and infant healthcare needs.

For over four decades, PAC/LAC has held a contract with the California Department of Public Health as an RPPC. In 2014, PAC/LAC expanded the RPPC scope to include the hospitals from the Southern Inland Counties Region and in 2019, expanded to include all hospitals in LA County. PAC/LAC now serves 88 hospitals throughout Los Angeles, Ventura, Santa Barbara, Mono, Inyo, San Bernardino, and Riverside counties.

PAC/LAC is an accredited provider of continuing education for Physicians, Nurses, Licensed Clinical Social Workers (LCSW), and Certified Health Education Specialists (CHES). PAC/LAC remains a reliable community leader in perinatal education. The 26th annual PAC/LAC conference will be held in 2023 addressing the most pressing issues and innovations in perinatal healthcare. Additionally, since 1985 PAC/LAC has produced Guidelines of Care to provide healthcare professionals with best-practice tools and guides at their fingertips.

PAC/LAC continues to build strong, reliable relationships with not only hospitals but also community organizations, collaboratives, and public entities. With funding from First 5LA, PAC/LAC, Los Angeles Best Babies Network (LABBN), and Maternal and Child Health Access (MCHA) work collaboratively as the Family Strengthening Oversight Entity for the Welcome Baby Program coordinating professional development with 13 Welcome Baby Teams and 3 Home Visitation Programs delivered by 41 agencies across LA County.