

TACHC



The Heartbeat of Texas Community Health Centers

Weekly Wrap-up - June 12, 2009



Patient and Health Care Provider at Centro de Salud Familiar La Fe, El Paso

Upcoming events

OC3 Manuals Training:

The Medical Record: Proper Charting & Documentation
6/19/2009 9am -12noon CST, Webcast

Next Friday is the June OC³ Monthly Manuals Training. This session is the first in a series of three monthly manuals trainings that are geared toward the clinical staff as well as the administrative staff at the FQHC. This month's topic is *The Medical Record: Proper Charting & Documentation*. Presenters include members of the Texas Medical Board and Dr. Tim Barker of Heart of Texas Community Health Center. Registration is now open and available online at:

http://www.tachc.org/About/Events/Event.asp?E_GUID={6C9A39F6-84E4-402D-ABF1-DB899F8BCAFF}.

All upcoming events hosted by TACHC are listed here:
<http://www.tachc.org/About/Events.asp>.

Governance

TACHC Board Training Registration Now Open: TACHC will be holding two regional trainings for Board members of health centers this year. The trainings will provide new and seasoned Board members with the knowledge needed to protect and operate their health center efficiently and effectively. The topics that will be covered include: legal roles and responsibilities of FQHC Board members monitoring the management, governance, finance and health services of your health center understanding financial statements and key health center financial ratios, and techniques for health center fund raising & revenue development. The locations and dates for these trainings are: Houston - July 31st & August 1st and Dallas - August 7th & 8th. Registration is now available at <http://www.tachc.org/About/Events.asp> If you have any questions, please contact Erica Swanholm, TACHC's Community Development Specialist, at eswanholm@tachc.org.

Please Call Your Federal Legislators About Health Care Reform: Please see the first attachment to this email, which is a memorandum on this topic from Jana Blasi, TACHC Deputy Director. If you have any questions, you may contact her at jblasi@tachc.org.

Please Thank Your State Legislators Who Supported HB 2154: As you know, HB 2154, our expanded physician loan repayment legislation, passed this legislative session! It was a hard fight, and we need to be sure to thank the Representatives and Senators who helped move this bill through. Check out the second and third attachments to this email; they are the records of the final votes for passage in each legislative chamber. If your members are on the "Aye" lists, please call their offices to thank them! In the coming weeks, TACHC will be

working with health centers in key districts to plan media events for key legislators who were particularly instrumental in moving this loan repayment legislation through the process. Representatives Warren Chisum, Al Edwards, Veronica Gonzalez, Richard Raymond, Sylvester Turner, and Mando Martinez and Senators Juan “Chuy” Hinojosa and Jane Nelson were all leaders in advancing the cause of access to health care this session.

Health Care and Public Housing Conference: The National Center for Health in Public Housing, in association with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Health Resources and Services Administration, is hosting the *Health Care for Residents of Public Housing Annual Conference* from July 20 – 22, 2009 in Washington, D.C., at the Fairmont Washington Hotel, 2401 M Street NW, Washington DC 20037. This is the only national conference with a focus on federally funded Public Housing Primary Care programs and other health centers that provide services to residents of publicly subsidized housing. The Health in Public Housing Conference is a unique opportunity for clinicians, health care professionals, housing authorities, tenant associations, and others to share and learn effective practices to improve the health of residents of public housing. This is the only national conference with a focus on Public Housing Primary Care programs and other health centers that provide health services to residents of public housing. To view the agenda and to register, visit www.healthinpublichousing.org. The standard registration fee for the conference is \$280. Residents of public housing qualify for a special reduced rate of \$140. Registration increases after June 12th! Special conference rates at the Fairmont hotel are available until June 28th or until the room block has sold out. To receive a special conference rate, contact the Fairmont directly at 1-800-441-1414 and provide the group code of GPHOC9. Any questions, please contact Ashley Crews at acrews@nambco.com or (703) 812-8822 x 233.

Reports Due for Centers that Received ARRA Funds: The first report for New Access Point (NAP) and/or Increased Demand for Services (IDS) funds received will be due July 10, 2009. On June 10th, HRSA hosted a technical assistance call, after announcing the release of Program Assistance Letter 2009-08, "Health Center Quarterly Reporting (HCQR) for the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act." The link to the PAL is: <http://www.bphc.hrsa.gov/policy/pal0908/> This PAL describes the program specific HCQR requirements for Health Center grantees who received funds under ARRA, the process for submitting the HCQR in HRSA's Electronic Handbook (EHB) and technical assistance to support grantees in submitting the HCQR. The webcast replay is available by dialing replay number and entering replay pass code. **Replay number: 1- 800-695-0367 Replay pass code: 1212** The link to the power point presentation, which is available from this web page: <http://www.bphc.hrsa.gov/recovery/>.

Family Planning Claims Reprocessing Underway: TACHC Policy and CFO listservs received information this week regarding a large claims reprocessing effort underway at the Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) regarding Title V/XX family planning claims that must be reprocessed as Medicaid Women's Health Program (WHP) claims. DSHS has requested detailed information on the impact of this reprocessing on FQHCs and will be notifying providers by letter whether the organization will have any family planning funds recouped. This information should be available to centers in the next couple of weeks. If you have any questions, contact Katie Coburn at kcoburn@tachc.org.

Consider Applying for Family Planning Funds in the Upcoming Competitive Cycle: In the 2010/2011 state budget, lawmakers extended a provision that directs up to \$10,000,000 in Title V, X, and XX family planning funds. TACHC Policy, CMO, Clinician and CFO listservs received information this week on this matter. It is especially important right now because in the next few weeks, DSHS will be distributing its Request for Proposals for the next five-year competitive cycle. If you do not currently receive family planning funds and would like to expand that service at your health center, now is the time to take advantage of the \$10 million set aside for health centers. After this competitive cycle, no new providers will be able to compete for funds. If you have any questions, contact Katie Coburn at kcoburn@tachc.org.

2nd Annual Chief Medical Officer (CMO) Leadership Institute and Management Training: CMOs were informed on the TACHC CMO listserv this week that spaces are filling up quickly! Registration is now OPEN for the 2nd Annual CMO Leadership Institute and Management Training. The Institute will be held at the Hyatt Regency in Austin, Texas on July 24-26, 2009. Based on feedback and stated training needs of health center CMOs, the conference will combine leadership development with basic management and operation skills required of a CMO at a Community Health Center. Participants in last year's Institute indicated that this type of training should be viewed by health center leadership as an effective recruitment and retention tool as it focuses on issues specifically related to a CMO in a Community Health Center. Registration is \$300 before June 26th and \$350 after that. Registration is now open and available for your CMOs at <http://www.tachc.org/About/Events.asp>. For more information, please contact TACHC Interim Director of Clinical Affairs, Whitney Monge, at wmonge@tachc.org.

Technical Assistance Site Visits: The Clinical Staff is working with the Community Development Staff to provide on-site technical assistance to our new-start sites. TACHC staff will be visiting seven new health centers during the summer months in order to help ensure that their clinical and quality programs are in place in addition to their financial and operational programs. For more information, please contact TACHC Interim Director of Clinical Affairs, Whitney Monge, at wmonge@tachc.org.

OC³ Learning Session 1: The first learning session of the 2009-2010 OC³ Learning Year was held June 5-7th in Dallas. The event was a huge success with more than 50 health center employees representing nine health center teams attending the conference. The learning session was coordinated and facilitated by TACHC Clinical Staff, and Mark Murray and Mike Davies served as the expert consultants. Topics covered during this session included: How

to See and Do Access Differently, Measuring for Improvement, the Planned Care Model, and more. For questions about OC³, please contact TACHC Interim Director of Clinical Affairs, Whitney Monge, at wmonge@tachc.org.

New OC³ Web Portal Coming Soon: The TACHC IT staff has been working with a data consultant to build a new data warehouse for clinical teams who are participating in the OC³ learning year. This year's teams will soon be able to upload monthly OC³ reports via a web based portal. The new system will work for teams who have PECS, or an EHR, or who may be working in EXCEL. For questions regarding this new data project, contact Charlene Dailey, our Information Systems Specialist assigned to work on data with the TACHC clinical team at cdailey@tachc.org.

Recruitment and Retention



Recruitment of Sites for Assignment of National Health Services Corps (NHSC) Personnel: Through the Federal Register (<http://edocket.access.gpo.gov/2009/E9-12531.htm>), the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) announced an approximately 16-month funding cycle for new NHSC loan repayment applications and awards. The Federal Register notice details eligibility requirements for centers to receive assignment of NHSC personnel, assurances for the scope of practice requirements, and reporting requirements. Under the program, the Health Professional Shortage Areas (HPSAs) with the greatest shortage of medical, dental, and behaviorally health personnel (those HPSAs with scores of 10 and above) will automatically be given priority for NHSC personnel assignments. HPSAs with scores below 10 will be eligible to receive NHSC assignments only after priority areas have been addressed. The maximum total number of NHSC placements in each of the three provider categories (primary medical care, dental, mental health) is 15 for HPSA scores of 14-26, 12 for HPSA scores of 10-13, and 10 for HPSA scores of 0-9. Entities interested in being added to the priority listing must submit a Multi-year Recruitment and Retention Assistance application to: National Health Services Corps, 5600 Fishers Lane, Room 8A-30, Rockville MD 20857, fax 301-594-2721 before the submission deadline of 3/26/2010. For more information, please contact Cindy Ellis at the Texas Primary Care Office at 512-458-7518 or Cindy.Ellis@dshs.state.tx.us.

HRSA Now Accepting New Applications to Support Loan Repayment at for Providers at NHSC Sites:

Information about NHSC applications was sent to the TACHC Recruitment and Retention listserv this week.

NHSC is now accepting new applications to support loan repayment for educational debt for primary care medical, dental and certain behavioral/mental health clinicians who want to work at National Health Service Corps (NHSC) sites. Let current providers and the providers you are recruiting know about this funding for repayment of their education loans! Applications for loan repayment awards will be accepted until the funds are expended. In exchange for the loan repayment assistance, clinicians serve for two years with the Corps. The new funds, totaling almost \$200 million, are expected to support about 3,300 clinicians that will serve in health centers, rural health clinics and other health outpatient/ambulatory care sites that care for uninsured and underserved people. HRSA is encouraging fully trained primary health care clinicians who are dedicated to working with the underserved and have qualifying educational loans to apply for this opportunity. Primary health care clinicians interested in applying for the NHSC loan repayment program should visit <http://nhsc.hrsa.gov>. For more information, please contact Cindy Ellis at the Texas Primary Care Office at 512-458-7518 or Cindy.Ellis@dshs.state.tx.us.

New State Loan Repayment Application Available: Information about the new Children's Medicaid Loan Repayment Program was sent to the TACHC Recruitment and Retention listserv this week. Let current providers and the providers you are recruiting know that the application and instructions for this program are now available online at <http://www.dshs.state.tx.us/chpr/CMLRP.shtm>.

Provider Recruitment Training: Tuesday, June 9, an email was sent to the TACHC Recruitment and Retention listserv announcing online registration via the TACHC website for the two-part one hour webcast, "Enhancing Your Recruitment Efforts." The webcast will be led by Laura Screeney, Certified Medical Staff Recruiter and Professional Physician Recruiter, on Wednesday July 8 and Wednesday, August 5 from 12:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. The cost is \$25 for both sessions. Registration will close on Monday, July 6, 2009 at 5:00 p.m. You can access registration by going to http://www.tachc.org/About/Events/Event.asp?E_GUID={8C056148-0667-4828-A151-24AFB9ED33C8}.

Group Purchasing



Early Bird Registration Discount for 340Better Pharmacy Conference: The early-bird registration discount deadline for the 5th Annual TACHC 340Better Pharmacy Conference has been extended to June 29. This extension also applies to the TACHC room block at the Hilton for the group rate of \$159/night. The first registrant from a health center is \$375 and the second or more registrant is \$350. After the early bird deadline, the rates will increase to \$425 and \$400 respectively. For more information about the conference, registration, hotel reservations, and more, view the TACHC website at www.tachc.org/340Better or contact Lynn Ford, TACHC's Purchasing Program Coordinator, directly at lford@tachc.org.

List of LabCorp Tests Available: TACHC has had a contract with LabCorp in effect since 1/1/06 and is still in effect. There have been additions and deletions to the contract and an updated list of tests under contract is currently available. If you would like the most current list of tests available on the TACHC/LabCorp contract, please contact Lynn Ford at lford@tachc.org for the list.

Greater Bandwidth and Billing Consolidation for Center on the TACHC IT Network: The TACHC network switchover to the MPLS platform is now complete. Each health center on our network can now scale up bandwidth if necessary, to accommodate increased demand for bandwidth to service data transfer between sites, electronic health record implementation, telemedicine activity, or a multitude of other IT projects. Your center should now only be getting one AT&T bill for each site. If you have any questions about your AT&T bills, about connecting new sites to the network, or about options for increasing bandwidth, do not hesitate to call Lori Hooks, Director of Training and Technology, or Todd Radloff, Network Engineer, at TACHC at 512/329-5959.

OtherNews



New TACHC Members: On Thursday, June 11, the TACHC Board of Directors voted to accept the Membership Committee's recommendation to approve the following entities for Organizational Membership in TACHC: **Ellis County Coalition for Health Options**, Waxahachie, Executive Director Mackie Owens (upgraded from Interim to Full Membership), **Mt. Enterprise Community Health Center**, Mt. Enterprise, Executive Director Jill Cooley, and **Houston Area Community Services**, Houston, Executive Director Joe Fuentes (upgraded from Interim to Full Membership). Please help us welcome our new members!

New TACHC Training Website Coming Soon: Our new training website, the Community Health Learning Network is up and running. Soon, we will be issuing login information for access to archived manual trainings, and special video training modules on electronic health record implementation, customer service training for front line staff, infection control and other OSHA topics, and much more! Contact the TACHC Director of Training and Technology, Lori Hooks, at hooks@tachc.org for details.

Texas Association of Community Health Centers, Inc.

5900 Southwest Parkway, Building 3

Austin, Texas 78735

512-329-5959 www.tachc.org

If you would like to be removed from this mailing, please send a message to ccarson@tachc.org, and your name will be removed from our list as soon as possible.



Voting Record

Bill Number: HB 2154 (TX-81R)

Caption: By Edwards. Relating to the physician education loan repayment program.

Vote: H- 1497 Motion to Concur

Date: 05/29/09

View: [Switch to Alphabetical](#)

AYES - 122

Allen(D); Alonzo(D); Anchia(D); Berman(R); Bohac(R); Bolton(D); Branch(R); Brown, Betty(R); Burnam(D); Callegari(R); Castro(D); Chavez(D); Chisum(R); Christian(R); Cohen(D); Coleman(D); Corte(R); Craddick(R); Creighton(R); Crownover(R); Davis, John(R); Davis, Yvonne(D); Deshotel(D); Driver(R); Dukes(D); Dunnam(D); Dutton(D); Edwards(D); Eiland(D); Eissler(R); Elkins(R); England(D); Farabee(D); Farias(D); Farrar(D); Fletcher(R); Flores(D); Frost(D); Gallego(D); Gattis(R); Giddings(D); Gonzales(D); Gonzalez Toureilles(D); Guillen(D); Gutierrez(D); Harper-Brown(R); Hartnett(R); Hernandez(D); Herrero(D); Hilderbran(R); Hodge(D); Homer(D); Hopson(D); Howard, Charlie(R); Howard, Donna(D); Hughes(R); Hunter(R); Isett(R); Jackson, Jim(R); Jones(R); Keffer(R); Kent(D); King, Phil(R); King, Susan(R); King, Tracy(D); Kleinschmidt(R); Laubenberg(R); Legler(R); Leibowitz(D); Lucio III(D); Madden(R); Maldonado(D); Marquez(D); Martinez(D); Martinez Fischer(D); McCall(R); McClendon(D); McReynolds(D); Menendez(D); Merritt(R); Miklos(D); Miller, Sid(R); Moody(D); Morrison(R); Naishtat(D); Oliveira(D); Olivo(D); Ortiz(D); Otto(R); Parker(R); Paxton(R); Pena(D); Pickett(D); Pierson(D); Pitts(R); Quintanilla(D); Raymond(D); Riddle(R); Rios Ybarra(D); Ritter(D); Rodriguez(D); Rose(D); Sheffield(R); Shelton(R); Smith, Todd(R); Smith, Wayne(R); Smithee(R); Solomons(R); Strama(D); Swinford(R); Taylor(R); Thibaut(D); Thompson(D); Turner, Chris(D); Turner, Sylvester(D); Vaught(D); Veasey(D); Villarreal(D); Vo(D); Walle(D); Woolley(R); Zerwas(R)

NAYS - 21

Anderson(R); Aycock(R); Bonnen(R); Brown, Fred(R); Button(R); Cook(R); Crabb(R); Darby(R); Flynn(R); Geren(R); Hamilton(R); Hancock(R); Hardcastle(R); Harless(R); Kolkhorst(R); Mallory Caraway(D); Miller, Doug(R); Orr(R); Patrick, Diane(R); Phillips(R); Weber(R)

PRESENT-NOT-VOTING - 2

Straus(R); Truitt(R)

ABSENT - 5

Alvarado(D); Heflin(D); Hochberg(D); Kuempel(R); Lewis(R)

	Democrat		Republican	
	Votes	%	Votes	%
Yes:	70	95	52	68
No:	1	1	20	26

TEXAS ASSOCIATION OF COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTERS, INC.
5900 SOUTHWEST PARKWAY, BUILDING 3
AUSTIN, TX 78735

PH (512) 329-5959

FAX (512) 329-9189



MEMORANDUM

DATE: June 12, 2009
TO: TACHC Members
FROM: Jana Blasi, Deputy Director, TACHC
RE: National Health Care Reform

Hi All,

It looks like National Health Care Reform may actually happen this year! This is an exciting time to be involved in health care and it is critical that we continue to be involved and communicate with our federal policy makers in order for health centers to be full partners in health care reform and to help shape a new system that makes sense. Not only do health centers need to be included in any reform effort but health centers must also be adequately and reliably reimbursed, regardless of the payer source, and patients must enjoy guaranteed access to a comprehensive health care home. A critical component of our national health center strategy is to align all payments types with Medicaid PPS. We believe that the best way to protect PPS in any health reform effort is by expanding and aligning it to all other payer types, including Medicare and any new insurance product that may be developed. Getting our Congressional members to support a recently introduced Concurrent Resolution is the first, and likely the most important, step in shoring up Congressional support for health centers inclusion in national health care reform.

Late last week, U.S. Reps. Mike Capuano (D-MA) and Kay Granger (R-TX) introduced the House version of a Resolution¹ recognizing the value of health centers as full partners in health care reform by calling for the full participation of and payment to health centers, now and in a post-reform health care environment. A Senate companion bill was introduced by Senator Menendez (D-NJ). TACHC sent out an action alert to the TACHC Policy Listserv on Thursday, asking each of you to contact both your House member(s) to become co-sponsors on the House Resolution. If you haven't already done so, you can contact your Congressional House Members now to ask that they co-sponsor House Concurrent Resolution 144 and

¹ For any underlined term, you can scroll your mouse until it is over the term, hit Ctrl on your keyboard and click your mouse, all at the same time, to bring up a webpage discussing that term.

Senators Hutchison and Cornyn to co-sponsor Senate Concurrent Resolution 25 by visiting the [NACHC Grassroots Action Center](#).

After months of speculation, the public finally got its first glimpse of health reform legislation late Friday, as a piece of Senator Edward Kennedy's (D-MA) Health, Education, Labor and Pensions (HELP) Committee reform plan was leaked to the press. The 167-page document, described as a "draft of a draft" by a Kennedy spokesman, details the general direction of the HELP Committee's coverage proposals: raising Medicaid to cover all individuals below 150% of poverty, creating state-based "gateways" for purchase of insurance, an individual mandate to possess coverage, some employer responsibility, and a public plan that would compete with private insurers. For the latest info on all health reform proposals, bookmark the [NACHC Health Reform Hub](#).

Health care reform legislation is moving very quickly in Washington. The Senate Finance Committee is expected to "mark-up" legislation this month and the bill is expected to go to the Senate floor for a vote in July. In the House, there are three committees working on legislation – the House Energy and Commerce, Ways and Means, and the Education and Labor Committees. It is expected that a House bill will be "marked up" and sent to the House floor for a vote in September.

I know that you guys are still recuperating from our state legislative session but starting this week, we need you, your staffs and board members to call your Congressional members in Washington to urge co-sponsorship of this Resolution and full support for health centers in health reform. There will be more action alerts coming over the next few months. We will keep you alerted to national health care reform developments and specific provisions that will impact health centers and our patients. Thanks so much for your help and support.

Jana



Voting Record

Bill Number: HB 2154 (TX-81R)

Caption: By Edwards. Relating to the physician education loan repayment program.

Vote: S- 124 Third Reading and Final Passage

Date: 05/26/09

View: [Switch to Alphabetical](#)

AYES - 29

Averitt(R); Carona(R); Davis, Wendy(D); Deuell(R); Duncan(R); Ellis(D); Eltife(R); Estes(R); Gallegos(D); Harris(R); Hegar(R); Hinojosa(D); Huffman(R); Lucio(D); Nelson(R); Nichols(R); Ogden(R); Patrick, Dan(R); Seliger(R); Shapiro(R); Shapleigh(D); Uresti(D); Van de Putte(D); Watson(D); Wentworth(R); West(D); Whitmire(D); Williams(R); Zaffirini(D)

NAYS - 2

Fraser(R); Jackson, Mike(R)

PRESENT-NOT-VOTING - 0

ABSENT - 0

	Democrat		Republican	
	Votes	%	Votes	%
Yes:	12	100	17	89
No:	0	0	2	11
