

Texas Update – July 2008

In this issue:

1. National Health Center Week!
2. Health Center Coordinated Media Outreach
3. Community Health Vote
4. Migrant Care Network Update
5. New CHIP Perinatal Application Process
6. [Registry Link for New Advocates](#) – see below about the HCW Advocacy Contest!

National Health Center Week is Almost Here!

Invite your state representatives to visit your health center! As TACHC reminds you every year, National Health Center Week is the perfect time to invite your state representatives to visit your health center. Even if they can't make it out for a tour during the week of August 10-16, invite them to come whenever works for them. It's always good to build good relationships with your state elected officials, particularly as the state legislative session is right around the corner!

Get the media involved! Elected officials love positive press coverage, so be sure to let the media know when they are coming to your health center. You also want to make sure the media is aware of any other health center week events you have planned, so you can be a part of the Texas health center statewide media outreach effort planned for that week. You can access tools and information about media relations at www.tachc.org/mediatools. And let us know about the coverage you get!

Post your events! Please let us know about any and all health center week events you have planned at your health center. You can post them online here:
http://www.healthcenterweek.com/tools_eventPosting.asp
And/or you can send them to [Katie Coburn](#) at TACHC – I'll post them for you if you'd like.

Annual advocacy contest- Who on staff is not signed up?? – Win A Free Registration to TACHC's Annual Conference

If every staff person at a Texas health center registered as a health center advocate, we should have over 5,000 people in our network. Right now, we have approximately 1,600 people registered. There is a lot of room for improvement!!!! This year's advocacy contest will award [a free registration to TACHC's annual conference](#) to the health center that has the highest percentage of *new* staff members (compared to the number of patients your center served in 2006) registered between now and the end of Health Center Week on August 16. (If you didn't serve patients in 2006, [let me know](#) – I've got a plan for that...)

Forward this message to your colleagues and ask them to register [HERE](#).

Health Center Coordinated Media Outreach

TACHC has launched its quarterly media outreach campaign with lots of tools available to get your health center up to speed on media relations with a media guide document and a Media Basics 101

instructional video. You'll also find sample press releases, articles, and more to make inviting the media to cover your center as easy as possible. Be sure to bookmark www.tachc.org/mediatools to download these materials. We will be updating this page with new materials for each new campaign – our first campaign, as you know, is during National Health Center Week! So get started now!

Health Centers in the News! Some centers are getting some great press now. You can read some excellent articles about health centers [HERE](#). If your health center has been in the news, [let me know!](#) We'll post all that information on our website.

Community Health Vote – There's Still Time to Get Involved Before Health Center Week

A final pre-Health Center Week reminder about the Community Health Vote project. We're encouraging all health centers to encourage voter registration at your health center. This civic activity is non-partisan (it has to be!) and can make a considerable impact for the populations you serve, particularly since those populations tend to be marginalized in the political process. NACHC has posted tools for this project [HERE](#). According to NACHC, there are many organizations out there that are willing to put significant amounts money into serious voter registration efforts. If health centers across the country can come together for this effort, we may be able to benefit in ways beyond elevating the political power of our patients.

Migrant Care Network Update

TACHC is moving forward with the Migrant Care Network, and trainings are coming online for both in-state and out-of-state health center staff. During two separate webcasts in August, out-of-state FQHCs will be learning how to enroll as Texas Medicaid providers to serve Texas's migrant families. We are also working with Farmworker Health Services to conduct trainings for health center outreach staff both inside and outside Texas. Stay tuned for registration information on our **September 10 webcast** for Texas health center outreach staff focusing on effective outreach strategies to encourage Texas migrant families to enroll in Medicaid and how to connect those families with Migrant Care Network resources when they are traveling out-of-state. For more information on the program as a whole, check out our [website](#).

CHIP Perinatal Clients at or Below 185% Federal Poverty Level: Important Changes in Application Process for Emergency Medicaid

HHSC sent out the following notice this month:

The Texas Health and Human Services Commission is changing the process many expectant mothers use to get perinatal services provided through the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP). The change involves the form that must be filled out to ensure the hospital is paid the facility fees for labor with delivery for women getting CHIP perinatal coverage whose income is at or below 185 percent of the federal poverty level.

Currently women in this income range must fill out an application for Emergency Medicaid to cover their hospital labor with delivery fees. This can cause a problem for the hospital if the mother has new

income that puts her over the Medicaid limit. Beginning August 1, 2008, HHSC will instead require the expectant mother's provider to fill out [Form H3038, the Emergency Medical Services Certification](#). The expectant mother will receive this form along with her CHIP perinatal enrollment packet. The woman will be instructed to take the Form H3038 to her provider, have the provider fill out the form, then mail the form back to HHSC in a pre-addressed, postage-paid envelope. In most cases this activity will happen after delivery when the mother is being discharged from the hospital.

Once HHSC receives the completed Form H3038, Emergency Medicaid coverage will be added for the mother for the period of time identified by the health care provider. Form H3038 is the same form currently required to complete Emergency Medicaid certification.

It is important to understand that in this new arrangement, the CHIP perinatal mother will not be required to fill out a new application or provide new supporting documentation to apply for Emergency Medicaid. Instead, HHSC will determine the woman's eligibility for Emergency Medicaid by using income and other information the mother-to-be provided when she originally applied for CHIP perinatal coverage, as well as information included on the Form H3038.

In cases where a woman fails to send back the Form H3038 within a month after her due date, HHSC will send her another Form H3038 with a postage paid envelope. If the woman fails to submit the second form, and the hospital cannot locate a Type Program 30 in the TMHP system, then the hospital can bill her for facility fees incurred during her stay.

For more information on this change, contact Lisa Bartels, HHSC Office of Family Services, at lisa.bartels@hhsc.state.tx.us.

[Registry Link for New Advocates](#) – Remember our advocacy contest and get more health center staff signed up!