

## Texas Update – October 2007

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### **Three Visits to FQHCs in Women's Health Program APPROVED by CMS!**

FINALLY! Just in time for the October Update (and *Halloween...*) HHSC gave TACHC word *today* that CMS has approved the Women's Health Program amendment that allows FQHCs to be reimbursed for three visits per client per year. The official approval date is October 30, so claims for additional visits for WHP clients will be reimburseable retroactive to that date. Some information to keep in mind:

- Three visits in the Women's Health Program will only be reimbursed prospectively from the approval date of the program amendment, October 30.
- Three visits for regular Medicaid family planning clients will be retroactive to September 1.
- Health centers will *not* need to resubmit claims denied claims for regular Medicaid family planning services provided between September 1 and October 30. TMHP will reprocess those automatically.
- **BE AWARE:** Please do not resubmit claims for additional visits for WHP clients for dates of services between September 1 and October 30. Because of the simultaneous implementation for three visits in regular Medicaid family planning, only with a different retroactive date, the state's system *will* pay additional WHP claims for this time period if they are resubmitted. The state will then recoup the claims later. To save your center the recoupment hassle, only submit additional WHP claims for dates of service October 30 and after.

### **Medicaid Reform Update**

HHSC has reached the next stage of its Medicaid reform process. Late on Friday October 26, HHSC posted a draft concept paper for the 1115 waiver application they plan to submit as part of their Medicaid reform strategy. On Tuesday October 30, the Medicaid Reform Subcommittee of the HHSC Council held a meeting to hear public comments on the proposal, which focused how best to provide premium subsidies to Texas' uninsured populations. Few people provided oral comments that day, presumably because of the tight turn around between the posting of the proposal and the hearing. Most hearing attendees plan to submit written comments, as does TACHC. Some good news is that it is clear from the comments of the Council subcommittee members that they share FQHC goals of ensuring appropriate access to preventive and primary care as a critical piece of the Medicaid reform process.

*Written comments on the draft concept paper are due November 6 – still a very tight timeline for stakeholder input.* Click [here](#) to see a copy of the draft concept paper along

with instructions on how to submit written comments. As TACHC recently emailed out to members, if you would like to offer comments to be submitted along with TACHC's, please email them to [kcoburn@tachc.org](mailto:kcoburn@tachc.org) by noon on Thursday November 1.

\*\*\*For those of you who missed picking up a copy at the Annual Conference see the attached document for more detailed information on Texas Medicaid reform and ways community health centers can participate.

### **TACHC 24<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference Wraps Up**

Thanks to all our members, prospective members, partners, and friends who attended the TACHC 24<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference in Austin this year. We had a record number of attendees at 175, a packed exhibit hall, and a variety of sessions centered on pressing health center issues. Highlights of the conference include election of the new TACHC board of directors – congratulations to Lynda Bible of Fort Bend Family Health Center who was elected President. Jeff Goldsmith, PhD from Health Futures, Inc. spoke on Tuesday giving participants a view of the reforming and evolving health care system and how health centers will and must play a role. He stressed the health center mission of providing access to care is getting lost in the drive to get people covered with health insurance. And don't forget our TACHC Mixer dance contest winners! Joyce Tapley of Martin Luther King, J. Family Clinic, Loyce Sinegal of Gulf Coast Health Center, Debbora Thompson of Communicare Health Centers, and Raymond Best of Martin Luther King, Jr. Family Clinic all showed that after our hard work, health center folks know how to have a good time!

### **Congratulations to Dr. Elena Marin, CEO of Su Clinica Familiar and Recipient of the \$25,000 Cheerios® Angel de me Corazon Grant!**

Our very own Dr. Elena Marin was recently honored by Cheerios as an Angel de mi Corazon award winner! Award recipients are recognized for their wide reaching contributions to education, and ultimately eradicate heart disease and receive a \$25,000 grant to continue those efforts. Dr. Marin was honored for her efforts to educate the Harlingen community about the risks and consequences of obesity, heart disease, and diabetes. Congratulations Dr. Marin!

### **New BPHC New Access Point PIN Released**

In case any of you haven't heard yet, HRSA released PIN 08-077, the New Access Point grant guidance for federal FY2008. The submission date is December 18, 2007. Unlike the recent High Poverty County Initiative, this funding opportunity is open to all applicants. The guidance returns to the previously used needs scoring and need for assistance methodology. Contact [Erica Swanholm](#) or [Daniel Diaz](#) at the TACHC office if you need assistance with your application.

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