



TACHC Weekly Wrap-Up

The Heartbeat of Texas Community Health Centers

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UPCOMING EVENTS

MCNA FQHC Dental Guidelines Webcast

TACHC is hosting a training on February 6, 2014 from 12:00-1:30 PM where MCNA representatives will review the newly developed FQHC dental guidelines

to be utilized by MCNA, one of the dental maintenance organizations for Medicaid and CHIP dental services in Texas. TACHC and a group of health center dental directors have worked extensively with MCNA to develop these guidelines. TACHC encourages all dental directors, dentists, and dental billers to attend this webcast. The webcast will contain a short background on the guidelines, a detailed overview of the guidelines, and ample time for questions. **Register here for the FREE training.** Please contact **Shelby Massey** with questions.

Mid-Level Manager Workshops

Mid-level managers play a significant role in making your community health center a “workplace of choice” for frontline staff and as the “health care provider of choice” for patients in your community. In this time of unprecedented change where the health care market continues to grow more complex and competitive, it is critical that community health centers have strong mid-level managers to guide and manage frontline staff to ensure optimal efficiency and productivity while delivering exemplary customer service and care for patients.

Two Mid-Level Manager Workshops are scheduled, the first at the Wyndham Hotel Riverwalk in **San Antonio on February 24-25, 2014**, and the second at the Westin Galleria in **Houston on March 3-4, 2014**. **REGISTER HERE.** Contact **Daniel Diaz** for more information

GOVERNANCE AND FINANCE

IRS Informational on Reporting EHR Incentive Payments

Please be advised that the IRS has released an informational letter on reporting EHR incentive payments. Since payments were required to be paid to providers under the EHR program, most FQHCs were reassigned the funds via provider contract language that explicitly assigns all payments for professional services by the provider back to the facility. In this case, the provider is acting as a conduit and no 1099s for providers are necessary. If this payment arrangement is not outlined in provider contracts, providing a 1099 to providers for these payments may be necessary. **Read the Informational Letter HERE.**

CLINICAL AFFAIRS

Texas Quitline Can Help Tobacco Users Quit in the New Year

More than 24,000 Texans die from smoking or exposure to secondhand smoke each year. Texas Department of State Health Services encourages people who are ready to quit, or are thinking about quitting, to seek assistance and advice by calling the Texas Quitline at 1-877-YES QUIT or visiting **www.yesquit.org**. Quitline services are available in English and Spanish. The website has tips, success stories, motivational videos and an online community of people

dedicated to quitting and encouraging others to stick to it. People can create an online quitting plan that helps them take steps toward a tobacco-free life.

If you are a medical provider, be sure to look at your EHR workflows to assure that you have a system in place that includes a pop-up screen prompting medical staff to ask every patient about tobacco use at every visit. Giving your patients the Quitline number is just a start, but you will need to provide self-management support strategies and additional follow-up at subsequent visits.

GROUP PURCHASING

HRSA OPA Audit Results as of 1/8/14

HRSA recently posted the results of the 2012 audit summaries for 340B eligible entities. HRSA released the remaining summaries of the **51 audits of 340B covered entities** it performed in fiscal year 2012. HRSA's latest update includes brief descriptions of how some of the audits were resolved. Many of the audits are still not final, however. As you can see from the results, some of the infractions are minor that need very simple corrections while other findings are more severe. With the more severe infractions (16 audits), such as diversion, will force the eligible entity to repay the drug manufacturers.

SAVE THE DATE: 340B Recertification of HRSA Grantees Webinar

The Bureau of Primary Health Care (BPHC) is collaborating with HRSA's Office of Pharmacy Affairs (OPA) to announce the 340B Drug Pricing Program (340B Program) recertification for BPHC grantees. In early February 2014, all BPHC grantees participating in the 340B Program are **required to complete the recertification process**. To help covered entities with recertification the OPA will hold a **webinar on Wednesday, January 22, 2014 at 1pm ET**.

Join this WEBINAR the day of the session. To access the call, dial into the conference call audio line: 1-888-730-9136; Passcode: 1032237.

OUTREACH

TACHC Announces Group Purchasing for Patient Satisfaction Survey

The TACHC Board approved a group pricing proposal from Cultural Strategies to conduct the Patient Satisfaction Survey using the CAHPS 7 tool. TACHC contracted with Cultural Strategies last year to conduct the Patient Surveys. This year health centers can choose to contract directly with Cultural Strategies to conduct their Patient Satisfaction Surveys. **CLICK HERE for group pricing rates offered and some key dates.** If interested, contact Sebastian Puente via

EMAIL or 512.501.4971, Ext. 701.

R&R

TACHC Upcoming Staff Recruitment Activities

TACHC recruitment staff will be speaking with students at the Baylor University NP Program in Dallas on February 13th and with attendees at the University of North Texas Health Science Center PA Job Fair in Fort Worth on February 28th. If your center has a new opportunity that you would like us to help you recruit for, click **HERE** and complete the easy online position profile. Have questions or need assistance? Contact **April Sartor, Recruitment Dept. Program Assistant at TACHC.**

NOW OPEN! NHSC 2014 Loan Repayment Program Application Cycle

Please share the following information with providers who may be interested in loan repayment opportunities. The National Health Service Corps (NHSC) program provides loan repayment assistance to licensed primary care medical, dental, and mental and behavioral health providers who work in areas of great need. The deadline to submit your application is March 20, 2014. Learn more about the **NHSC Loan Repayment Program** and **Application Process. APPLY NOW.**

NOW OPEN! NURSE Corps 2014 Loan Repayment Program Application Cycle

Please share the following information with nursing staff who may be interested in loan repayment opportunities. The 2014 NURSE Corps Loan Repayment Program application cycle is now open. The application cycle will close on February 27, 2014, at 6:30 pm, CT. Eligibility is open to registered nurses and advanced practice registered nurses (e.g., nurse practitioners) who have qualifying educational loans, and who are dedicated to serving the Nation's medically underserved populations in health professions shortage area (HPSAs). NURSE Corps Loan Repayment award recipients receive 60 percent of their unpaid nursing student loans for 2 years of full-time service, and an additional 25 percent of the original balance for an optional third year. The program is seeking applicants interested in serving those most in need and remaining in a HPSA beyond their service commitment. To learn more about the funding preferences, please review the **2014 NURSE Corps Loan Repayment Program Application and Program Guidance.**

NEWS

NTACHC opens new site

North Texas Area Community Health Centers opened a new site, Southeast Community Health Center – 2909 Mitchell Blvd in Fort Worth – on Tuesday, January 21. The new location is equipped with 8 medical rooms and plans to expand for dental services in the future. Congratulations NTACHC!

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Texas Association of Community Health Centers
5900 Southwest Parkway, Building 3
Austin, Texas 78735
(512) 329-5959
www.tachc.org
www.facebook.com/TexasCHCs

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