



TACHC

Texas Association of Community Health Centers

WEEKLY WRAP-UP

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NEWS

Health Center Leaders, Staff Converge on Washington D.C. at NACHC P & I Forum

Thousands of health center leaders and staff from Texas and around the country convened in Washington D.C. for last week's NACHC Policy & Issues Forum, and to visit Capitol Hill to say "thank you" for fixing the Cliff, and to share stories of how health centers care for 1.3 million patients in Texas and 27 million nationwide. Last month's budget deal provided an additional \$600 million for health centers, and a two-year extension of the Community Health Centers Fund (CHCF), National Health Service Corps (NHSC), and Teaching Health Centers Program. The extension provided by Congress gives health centers some well-deserved stability after the month-to-month drama of the cliff. "Thank yous" on Capitol Hill included recognition for elected officials who demonstrated outstanding support for health centers.

- **2018 Community Health Leadership Award**
(Held a position of leadership and used it to advance health centers)
 - Senator John Cornyn (Texas)
 - Representative Michael Burgess (District 26)
- **2018 Distinguished Community Health Defender Award**

(Took multiple actions on behalf of health centers including advocating for health center funding, cosponsoring important legislation, and engaging with health centers in their districts)

- Representative Will Hurd (District 23)
- **2018 Distinguished Community Health Champion Award**
(Led health center efforts and went above and beyond in support of health centers)
 - Representative Gene Green (District 29)
- **2018 Distinguished Community Health Advocate Award**
(Signed FY18 Health Centers Appropriations Dear Colleague Letter and accomplished two additional actions in support of health centers)
 - Representative Beto O'Rourke (District 16)
 - Representative Blake Farenthold (District 27)
 - Representative Henry Cuellar (District 28)
 - Representative Eddie Bernice Johnson (District 30)
 - Representative Marc Veasey (District 33)
 - Representative Filemon Vela (District 34)
 - Representative Kay Granger (District 12)



TACHC Members Ernesto Gomez and Michelle Carter Recognized

Congratulations to TACHC members Ernesto Gomez, PhD, CEO of CentroMed and Michelle Carter, MPA-HCA, CEO at Community Health Service Agency, Inc. Both Ernesto and Michelle were recognized at the NACHC P & I Forum last week at the Healthcare Leadership Reception and Awards. Ernesto was inducted into the NACHC Grassroots Hall of Fame, while Michelle received the Elizabeth K. Cooke Advocacy MVP Award. [See photos of TACHC members and award recipients here.](#)

TACHC Member Spotlight

Featuring Joyce Tapley, Chief Executive Officer at Foremost Family Health Centers

Joyce Tapley, Chief Executive Officer at Foremost Family Health Centers in Dallas clearly remembers when she became interested in a career in health care. Tapley was a young child when her grandmother died of breast cancer in 1971, and that sparked a realization.

"I wanted to know why," said Tapley. "She was only 55 years old. I told my mom I wanted to be a doctor to keep people from dying."

A natural math whiz, Tapley enrolled at the University of Washington, where she embarked on a pre-med path. She also made time to exercise her creative side. [Read the full story here](#)





Sandy Castro Receives 2018 Emerging Leader Award

Presented by the Geiger Gibson Program in Community Health Policy
Congratulations to Sandy Castro, CMA, Pediatric Team Lead and Medical Assistant at People's Community Clinic received an Emerging Leader award on Saturday, March 17 at the NACHC Policy & Issues Forum in Washington D.C. Pictured at left: Rachel A. Gonzales-Hanson (Community Health Development, Inc.) presents Castro with the award.

Tejas Health Care Receives PCMH Recognition

Congratulations to Tejas Health Care, which recently received PCMH Level I recognition.

Texas Health Resources, Healing Hands Ministries, Northwest Community Center Receive Outstanding Community Service Award

Texas Health Resources, Healing Hands Ministries, and the Northwest Community Center were honored by the Texas Hospital Association with the Outstanding Community Service Award in February. This award was based on a collaboration between the three organizations that engaged with the Vickery Meadow neighborhood to assure families receive affordable health care, English classes, job training, health education, and after school tutoring.



Pictured: Liz Curfman, Executive Director, Northwest Community Center, Brian Newby, External Focus Pastor, Northwest Bible Church, Janna Gardner, President, CEO, Healing Hands Ministries, Virginia Rose-Harris, Vice President, Texas Health Dallas, David Tesmer, Vice President of Community Engagement & Advocacy.

Health Services of North Texas Recognized by UNT Student Choice Award

Congratulations to Health Services of North Texas! The North Texas Daily, the official newspaper of the University of North Texas recognized Health Services of North Texas in their annual [Student Choice Awards](#) for [Best Medical/Health](#).

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UPCOMING EVENTS

FQHC Billing Boot Camp

Date: April 17-19 • Austin Marriott North, 2600 La Frontera Boulevard Round Rock, TX • Details: [Click here](#)

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OUTREACH

New Process for CMS Certified Designated Organization (CDO) Agreements

As a reminder, HRSA Outreach/Enrollment (OE) grant funds rolled into base grants **require** OE-grantee health centers to become a Certified Designated Organization or CDO and have trained CACs on staff conducting in-reach, outreach and enrollment assistance year-round. In an effort to keep contact information and site locations up-to-date, CMS will now require **existing CDOs to renew their participation every two years**. CDO points of contact at the health center should have received an **email from CMS** on or around March 14, 2018 announcing the new process to renew. Beginning in April, CMS will send all HRSA OE grantee health centers an email inviting them to renew their CDO status. All CDO points of contact should receive this email *if the contact information is current and up-to-date with CMS*. Please advise [Sonia Lara](#) if you did not receive the March 14 email and/or do not receive the CMS invitation to renew by May 2018.

CLINICAL



2018 TACHC Clinical Conference Registration Now Open!

[Agenda](#) is now available

Mark your calendars and join us for this year's Texas Association of Community Health Center's (TACHC) **2018 Clinical Conference!** The Conference takes place **April 26-28, 2018** at the [Westin Stonebriar](#) in Frisco, TX. This year's theme is "**Integrating Strategies to Meet Patient Needs.**" Conference topics and format that support the integration of services, enhancement of systems that support improved patient care, and challenge community health centers to look beyond the medical office into the community and environment affecting their patient's care. For more information [click here](#) or contact [Verne LaGrega](#), Interim Director of Clinical Affairs.

Diabetes Quality Improvement Talks: Implementing the Standards of Medical Care in Diabetes

The webinar is set for Tuesday, March 27 12:00-1:30 p.m. CT. [Join the webinar the day of the session](#). Call-in number: 888-324-8506 • Passcode: 6974476

Webinar Series: Public Health Preparedness for Community Health Centers

This webinar is hosted by the National Nurse-Led Care Consortium, a HRSA-funded NCA. It takes place on Tuesday, March 27 12:00-1:00 p.m. CT. [Register here](#).

2018 Texas Medicaid Standing Order for Mosquito Repellent Now Available

The 2018-19 Texas Medicaid Standing Order for Mosquito Repellent is available for use with the mosquito repellent benefit for people enrolled in Medicaid and CHIP. Pharmacy staff must obtain a copy of the renewed standing order because of the yearly renewal of the standing order. Pharmacy staff may directly obtain a copy of the renewed 2018-19 Texas Medicaid Standing Order for Mosquito Repellent upon request by [email here](#). To learn more about the mosquito repellent benefit please visit the [Vendor Drug Program website](#).

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RECRUITMENT & RETENTION

Would You Like Us to Help You Recruit?

Does your center have openings for clinical providers or executive management that you would like us to help recruit? [Complete the TACHC online position profile](#). Contact [Danielle Ramos, TACHC Recruitment Dept.](#)

Program Assistant for more information.

Did you know that the TACHC Weekly Wrap-Up is available to ALL TACHC members and ALL your staff?
Share this link with your health center staff to sign up for the Wrap!

Don't miss out. Follow TACHC on **Facebook** and **Twitter**.

Send **NEWS** about your health center to be considered for inclusion in the TACHC Weekly Wrap-Up to TACHC Wrap Editor **Brom Hoban**.

Sign up to receive the **TACHC Weekly Wrap Up!**

TACHC · TX, United States

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