



# TACHC

Texas Association of Community Health Centers

**WEEKLY WRAP-UP**

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## NEWS

### Funding Cliff Update: Time is Running Out



## Time is Running Out...

Congress's month-long continuing resolution that funded community health centers with \$550 million through March 31 expires next Friday, January 19. While health centers are still funded through the end of March, Congress must take action again next week to ensure that the government stays open. This resolution will likely fund the government through March, and is **another opportunity for Congress to fix the cliff long term**. Negotiations are currently ongoing, but **right now, a long term fix for health centers is not included, while CHIP is funded for 6 years. If health centers are not funded simultaneously with CHIP, our work will become increasingly difficult over the coming months. Call your Member of Congress at 866-456-3949**, as well as Senators Cornyn and Cruz TODAY and tell them that health centers must be funded next week. Every member of Congress who has committed their support to health centers should be asking Congressional leadership to include health centers in the next continuing resolution. We will keep you updated as developments occur, so please be on the lookout for cliff communications. For any immediate questions, please email [Courtney Weaver](#), [Mimi Garcia](#) or [Mary Allen](#).

### STAR2Center 2018 Retention Academy

The following announcement comes from the Association of Clinicians for the Underserved (ACU). From February through April 2018, the STAR<sup>2</sup> Center invites health center C-Suite and management staff to explore five organizational influences on burnout in just 30 minutes a week through a mix of webinars, office hours, and assignments. Retention Academy cohort members will learn about the role of team-based care; overcoming EHR challenges; administrative structures; and creating positive management relationships and create action plans to begin to address these topics within their organizations. In addition to the educational programming, this cohort of 25-30 health center staff will benefit from peer sharing by way of an online discussion forum, and have access to our team of expert faculty during live Office Hour sessions. Interested health centers [can apply here](#) before Wednesday, January 17, 2018. Please contact [Mariah Blake](#) or call 703-577-3327 with any questions.

### Happy TACHCiversary to the Following:

Christina Brito-Tijerina, January 25, 2016; Brom Hoban, January 30, 2017. Congratulations on your TACHCiversary to each of you and thank you for your wonderful work.

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## UPCOMING EVENTS

### OC3 Learning Session 1 Set for January 16-18, 2018

OC3 Learning Session 1 will take place January 16-18, 2018 at the Menger Hotel, 204 Alamo Plaza, San Antonio, TX 78205. [Click here for registration/agenda](#).

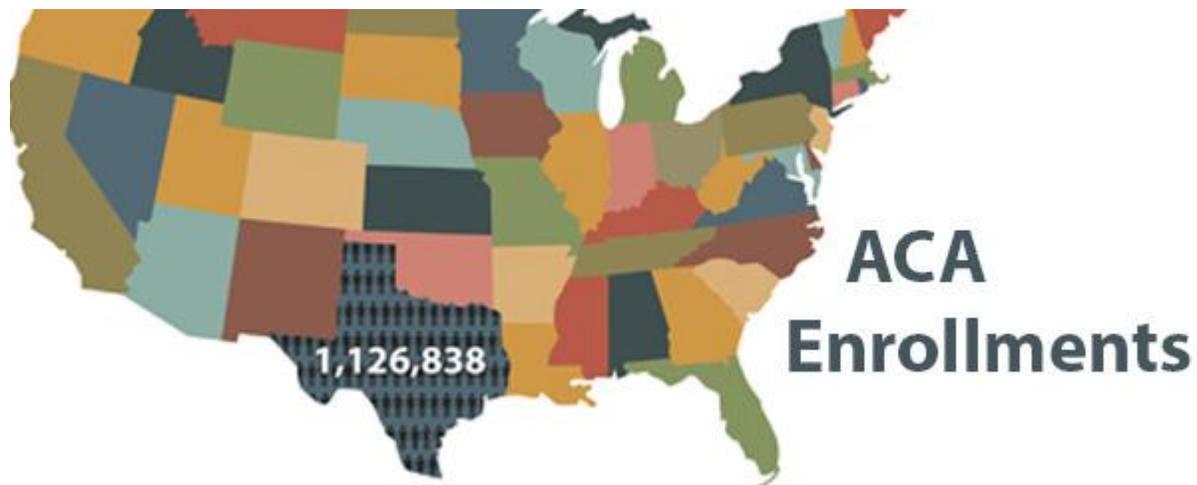
### Joint TACHC CPI Webcast and [ECP](#) Office Hours: Coherent Steps to Care Coordination in FQHCs

As FQHCs approach participation in a value based care environment, understanding the complexities of comprehensive care coordination becomes increasingly important. TACHC has invited Regina Neal, MPH, MS of Qualis Health Practice Transformation to provide a baseline understanding of care coordination and walk participants through examples of care coordination for complex patients. As always, we will assign homework after Part 1 related to the contents of Part 1; then in Part 2 TACHC staff will present the homework survey

results so you can compare yourself to your peers. TACHC staff will then provide recommendations regarding the gap areas the homework reveals. This webcast is open to staff of all FQHCs and is *required* for all health centers participating in the ACO. **Join us Friday, January 19 at 9:00 AM CST.** Contact [Cecile Carson](#) or [Ramona Whittington](#) with any questions.

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## OUTREACH



### ACA Enrollments in Texas Reach 1.126 Million Consumers

As of December 23, 2017, **1,126, 838 million consumers** selected a health plan in the Marketplace showing a slight drop (-.3 %) in enrollment sign-ups since open enrollment ended on December 15. Although there was a slight difference, primarily due to plan cancellations, the current figures do not include 8 days of the Harvey special enrollment period; therefore we could see an increase of individuals enrolled in the final report. A more detailed 2018 enrollment report will be released by CMS in March, including final plan selection data from State-based Exchanges that do not use the HealthCare.gov platform. Contact [RexAnn Shotwell](#) for more information about this weekly snapshot

## POLICY

### HHSC Releases Draft Medicaid Medical Policies as a First Step to Implement HB 2466

HHSC released draft Medicaid medical policies as a first step to implement HB 2466, legislation that Chair Davis and Senator Huffman passed during regular session. HB 2466 enables moms to be screened for postpartum depression during a baby's well-child visit and paid for through a child's Medicaid or CHIP coverage. The goal of this policy is to outline how the new screening benefit would work, including guidance on use of validated screening tools, expectations for referrals and follow-ups, any limitations, and billing codes providers would use. Once finalized, the medical policy will become part of the Texas Medicaid Provider's Procedure Manual (TMPPM). Reimbursement rates for screening at well-child visits are developed through a separate process. [TACHC's comments on this draft policy can be found here.](#) For questions, please email [Mary Allen](#) or [Mimi Garcia](#).

### HR 4667 (Disaster Assistance) Filed in the House

Community health centers in Texas affected by Hurricanes Harvey, Irma, and Maria are in desperate need of funding to rebuild critical infrastructure that was lost during the storm. On December 21, **HR 4667** passed the House, making further supplemental appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2018, for disaster assistance. If this legislation becomes law, \$60,000,000 shall be transferred to "Health Resources and Services Administration—Primary Health Care" for expenses related to the consequences of Hurricanes Harvey, Irma, or Maria for disaster response and recovery, for the Health Centers Program under section 330 of the Public Health Service Act. This bill has not yet reached the Senate but TACHC will send additional information to

health centers as this legislation progresses. Please email [Mary Allen](#) or [Mimi Garcia](#) for more information.

### **HHSC Accepts Comments on Healthy Texas Women Draft Rules**

HHSC requested informal comments on the new Healthy Texas Women draft rules, developed in response to the state's application for a federal 1115 Family Planning Demonstration Waiver. These rule amendments are "intended to implement the HTW demonstration and to be consistent with budget provisions from the 85th Legislature." Following informal stakeholder review, it is anticipated the proposed rules will be posted in the Texas Register for a formal 30 day comment period. If the HTW waiver application is not approved by CMS, the amendments based on the waiver application in the proposed rule project will not be implemented. The proposed rules appear to be primarily aligning current state rules with federal Medicaid rules, which is a step in the right direction. TACHC submitted comments on the original waiver application in July, and we were pleased to see that many of our recommendations were included in the draft rules. [TACHC's comments on the draft rules can be found here](#). For questions or additional information, please email [Mary Allen](#) or [Mimi Garcia](#).

### **NACHC Survey Documenting Health Center Capacity and ACA Experiences**

TACHC strongly encourages all health center CEO's to complete NACHC's [Survey Documenting Health Center Capacity and ACA Experiences](#) (*sample for viewing only*). The survey is being conducted in partnership with the George Washington University Geiger Gibson Program in Community Health Policy, the Kaiser Family Foundation Program on Medicaid and the Uninsured, and the RCHN Foundation. The survey covers: (1.) health center capacity constraints; (2.) health centers' role in health insurance outreach and enrollment; and (3.) addiction treatment services. The survey must be completed online. If your health center CEO did not receive a link to complete the survey, please email [ggprogram@gwu.edu](mailto:ggprogram@gwu.edu).

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## **GOVERNANCE & FINANCE**

### **2018 TACHC Membership Dues Deadline: March 1, 2018**

The notice for the 2018 TACHC membership dues was emailed to each Executive Director in early January. Full or partial payment (as per Payment Policy), must be received by TACHC by 3/1/18; postmarked not acceptable. If you have any questions about the dues payment process, please contact [Lynn Ford](#) or [Danielle Ramos](#)

### **Do You Need to Update Your Strategic Plan?**

If it's been a while since your organization reviewed and updated its strategic plan, now is the time to do it and the TACHC Community Development team can help! In today's changing environment, assessing and adjusting the organization's roadmap is more important than ever to ensure long term sustainability and provide continued access to quality care to its community members. The TACHC Community Development team offers a fun and interactive strategic planning session that will identify where the organization is going, action steps for progress and determine whether the organization has been successful in operationalizing its strategic efforts. This service is free of charge to TACHC members. For more information or to schedule your strategic planning session, contact [Erika Canales](#) or [Nancy Gilliam](#)

### **Need a Letter of Support from TACHC?**

If you would like to request a Letter of Support, signed by TACHC Executive Director, José Camacho, please email [Corinne Medina](#) along with the project abstract. Once the request and abstract have been received, please allow 2-3 business days for turnaround.

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## **CLINICAL**



Centering®

### **Centering Implementation Grants--PROPOSALS DUE MONDAY!**

**CHI** has developed a program offering technical assistance and implementation services to 130 eligible sites - primarily in FQHCs and community health centers - eliminating the financial barrier to those in resource-limited communities. These grants will be awarded in several waves over two years beginning in January 2018. For more information on the grant, please visit [CHI's site announcement](#). The first informational round of proposals is due **January 15**.

### **January is Cervical Health Awareness Month**

Each year about 12,000 women in the United States are diagnosed with cervical cancer. Two screening tests (Pap test and HPV test) can help prevent cervical cancer or find it early. **More than 1.9 million patients received Pap tests at HRSA-funded health centers in 2016**. Learn more about best practices for screening and preventing cervical cancer in these resources:

- [View a recent HRSA webinar about Cancer Screening Promising Practices in Primary Care Associations](#)
- [Access the HHS Office on Women's Health \(OWH\) Cervical Cancer Fact Sheet](#)
- [Read about CDC's National Breast and Cervical Cancer Early Detection Program](#)

### **Rural Health-Grant Opportunity**

As part of the [Rural Health Network Development Planning Program](#) up to 20 rural public and nonprofit entities forming a consortium of three or more organizations will be awarded total funding of \$2 million to assist in the planning and development of an integrated health care network at the local level. A rural health network is defined as an organizational arrangement among at least three separately owned regional or local health care providers that come together to develop strategies for improving health services delivery systems in a community. For example, a critical access hospital, a community health center, and a public health department may collaborate to form a network around a shared purpose. Applications are due by February 23, 2018. If you have any questions about the program, please contact [Sara Afayee](#).

### **Meaningful Use Versus Quality Payment – Health IT Incentives for 2017 and 2018**

This webinar is hosted by the Health Information Technology, Evaluation, and Quality (HITEQ) Center, a HRSA-funded NCA, and is set for Tuesday, January 23, 2:00-3:00 p.m. CST, [Register here](#).

### **National Drug and Alcohol Facts Week – January 22-28, 2018**

Start planning now for [National Drug and Alcohol Facts Week – January 22-28, 2018](#), aimed at raising teenagers' awareness and knowledge of facts about drug and alcohol. Launched in 2010 by scientists at the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA), the annual observance relies on locally-planned school and community events that present scientific facts about drug and alcohol use, what causes addiction, and evidence-based strategies for helping friends or family. NIDA provides an online guide for planning and promoting events, as well as free booklets and other resources for teens. Recent research has shown that roughly 10% of rural teens meet criteria for alcohol use disorder, and that [rural areas have a higher rate of drug overdose deaths](#).

### **Health Center Strategies for Diabetes Screening and Prevention for Children, Adults, and the Elderly Webinar**

This webinar is hosted by the Special and Vulnerable Populations Diabetes Taskforce. It is set for Monday, January 29, 11:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m. CST. [Register here](#).

### **Upcoming Conference: Changing the Paradigm in the Treatment of Chronic Pain and**

## **Substance Use Disorder in Texas February 2 – 4, 2018**

No recent health-care crisis has captured the attention of the American public as the opioid epidemic. An important component of this epidemic, one that is often neglected in addressing the health-care needs of the affected population, is the role that chronic pain plays in sustaining the epidemic. The goal of this summit is to catalyze the development of learning communities and networks of excellence for dealing with chronic pain, dependency and addiction. Attendees will learn how Project ECHO can empower Primary Care Providers to develop expertise and confidence in the management of these disorders. In addition, pain experts will share evidence-based best practices from both the physical and mental health communities. Conference is being sponsored by Superior HealthPlan, Dell Medical School, The Meadows Mental Health Policy Institute, St. David's Foundation and The Hogg Foundation. [Register Here](#)

## **SAMHSA Finalizes Rule Supporting Payment and Health Care Operations Activities While Protecting Substance Use Disorder Patient Privacy**

SAMHSA has finalized changes to the [Confidentiality of Substance Use Disorder Patient Records \(42 CFR part 2\)](#) regulations. These changes will facilitate sharing of substance use disorder patient information (with patient consent) for payment and health care operations purposes; support audit and evaluation activities; and permit use of an abbreviated notice of prohibition of redisclosure that may assist those using electronic health records. The new rule will be published in the Federal Register. For further information, please refer to SAMHSA's [press release](#).

## **AHRQ New Ambulatory Care Toolkit**

Clinical staff working in ambulatory care settings have a new resource to improve the quality and safety of care transitions, especially for patients with chronic conditions. AHRQ's Safe Transitions Toolkit provides practical and evidence-based tools to help clinical staff work more effectively with patients for new and follow-up appointments. Resources for patients and caregivers provide added insight about health conditions and how to work with their medical team. Access the [toolkit here](#).

## **AHRQ Studies Quantify Increase in Primary Care Services Provided by Non-Physicians**

A study published in the *Journal of Primary Care & Community Health* found primary care provided by physicians alone declined from 86 percent to 71 percent from 2008 to 2014. Meanwhile, shared care provided by physicians, NPs or PAs increased from 12 percent to 23 percent. Care from NPs and PAs alone grew from 3 percent to 6 percent. Access the [abstract here](#).

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## **RECRUITMENT & RETENTION**

### **Recruitment & Retention: 2017 Review**

TACHC's R & R Department would like to thank all of the TACHC member centers who utilized the R & R program in 2017, helping the department complete a total of 15 placements for the year! We look forward to assisting you with your Recruitment & Retention needs in 2018! Does your center have openings for clinical providers or executive management that you would like us to help you recruit for? [Complete the TACHC online position profile](#). Contact [Danielle Ramos, TACHC Recruitment Dept. Program Assistant](#) for more information.

### **Assessment of Health Professionals**

With the support of HRSA's Bureau of Primary Health Care, the Association of Clinicians for the Underserved is fielding a short assessment to gather information on health centers' current experiences with health professions training activities in order to identify potential areas for resources, training, and technical assistance. This assessment takes approximately 15 minutes to complete and should be completed by all health centers regardless of whether or not they are currently training health professions students or residents. Please preview the questions and complete the [assessment online](#). Contact [Allison Abayasekara VP, Training & Programs](#). Phone: 703-562-8820

### **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 for? [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!**

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