



# TACHC

Texas Association of Community Health Centers

**WEEKLY WRAP-UP**

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## NEWS

### Funding Cliff Update: No Room for Delay



Last night, the House passed a short-term [Continuing Resolution](#) (CR) that extends government funding through February 16th. While it does include six years of funding for the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP), it does not include any funding for community health centers, the National Health Service Corps (NHSC), the Teaching Health Centers Graduate Medical Education (THCGME) program, or any other critical "health care extenders." As we shared in our last update, a recent score from the Congressional Budget Office indicated that six years of funding for CHIP can be enacted at no cost to the federal budget. We believe that this is the reason that CHIP was included while other health policy extensions, including health center funding, were not.

The Senate is scheduled to begin debate on the CR this morning, and it is very unlikely that the Senate will pass the House version of the CR. At this time it is unclear what the final version of the CR will look like, but our message to Congress remains the same: **"Community health center funding MUST be reauthorized immediately. There is no room for additional delay."** We want to emphasize that Congress' failure to include CHC funding in this week's CR in no way reflects any failures in advocacy. Your response to our repeated calls for action has been tremendous, and it is clear that as a result of your hard work there are many, many Members who feel strongly that CHC funding should have been included in the package alongside CHIP funding. Please be on the lookout for an action alert from TACHC in the upcoming days with next steps for health centers. For any immediate questions, please email [Courtney Weaver](#), [Mimi Garcia](#) or [Mary Allen](#).

### Kaiser Health News/ NPR Researching Story on State Medicaid Programs and 340B Savings

The question of who receives the discount on drugs that 340B providers dispense to Medicaid patients may soon get national media attention. A reporter from NPR and Kaiser Health News is currently researching a story comparing the California governor's repeated attempts to keep all the savings (by requiring total carve-out of Medicaid) with the Kansas Medicaid department's decision to allow health centers to keep the savings – and what that means in terms of services for underserved populations. We will keep you posted on when the story will be published.

### Latest 340B Hill Activity

At the end of last year, two 340B related pieces of legislation were introduced in Congress. While neither bill directly impacts FQHCs, they are being followed closely. The first, [H.R. 4392](#), would block CMS from

implementing cuts to Medicare Part B payments to 340B hospitals. The second, [H.R. 4710](#), would establish a two-year moratorium on new DSH hospitals and new child sites from entering the program and require additional reporting from certain hospital entities in 340B.



### **TACHC 2018 Membership Directory Now Available!**

With the input of our members and the help of some stellar TACHC staff, the [2018 Membership Directory](#) has been completed and is [available online now!](#) Hard copies will also be sent out to member centers next week. A big thanks goes out to all those who helped put this year's directory together.

### **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**

#### **OC<sup>3</sup> CPI Webcast/ECP Office Hours: Coherent Steps to Care Coordination in FQHCs Part 2**

The webcast takes place on February 16 from 9:00-11:00 AM. [Register here.](#)

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### **OUTREACH**



### **TACHC OE Webinar: What You Need to Know to Better Serve Your Veteran Patients**

This OE webinar scheduled **Wednesday, January 31, 2018 from 11:00 AM – 12:30 PM** will help Outreach &

Enrollment staff learn about military culture through the speaker's compelling personal story. Attendees will also learn about the Veterans Choice Program, screening and identifying Veterans and best practices to do outreach to Veteran patients. Resources will be shared for health centers wanting to work collaboratively with other local entities serving Veterans. [Register here.](#)

## GROUP PURCHASING

### TACHC and Henry Schein Dental Contract Continues

The TACHC and Henry Schein Dental purchasing program contract has been extended for an additional three (3) years. TACHC has had a dental purchasing program in place for the members since 2003. The dental purchasing program includes supplies, equipment, maintenance, and repair. TACHC looks forward to continuing the collaboration with Henry Schein Dental to bring beneficial service and products to the dental programs of the TACHC members. If there are any questions, please contact [Lynn Ford](#).

### NACHC Launches Office Hours on Pharmacy and 340B Issues

NACHC is launched monthly "Office Hours" on 340B, on the third Thursday of each month at 1:00 CST. Note that Office Hours will focus on operational and technical issues, rather than policy developments. (For example, this month Sue Veer discussed the treatment of clinic-administered drugs under 340B. These Office Hours will be a good place to direct people who have specific operational questions. To join, click [here](#); also feel free to [submit questions in advance](#). Also note that NACHC will continue to hold separate webinars focusing on policy updates. The next one will be Monday, January 29 at 1:00 CST.

### Mandatory Recertification Period Will Be Feb. 7 – March 7, 2018

**Your help will be needed to ensure no one loses 340B eligibility:** As you know, health centers are required to recertify the accuracy and completeness of their information on the HRSA 340B database (OPAIS) annually; failure to recertify by the deadline will cause you to lose 340B eligibility for at least 3 months. For 2018, health centers must recertify between Feb. 7 and March 7. Authorizing Officials (AO) and primary contacts must set up user accounts in the new 340B Office of Pharmacy Affairs Information System (340B OPAIS) prior to recertification. Failure to set up user accounts will prevent participants from viewing accounts or re-certifying, resulting in removal from the 340B Program. Although the look and feel of the OPAIS will be different, the recertification process remains the same. As the start date gets closer, HRSA and/or NACHC and/or TACHC will follow up with specific information – but ***in the meantime, put this on your calendar!*** Information and tutorials are available on the [HRSA website](#).

### Health Centers That Carve-in Medicaid at Contract Pharmacies Face New Compliance Risk

If a health center uses a contract pharmacy to dispense 340B drugs to Medicaid patients (FFS), HRSA requires that you have three-way written agreement between pharmacy, the state Medicaid agency, and your health center, outlining how duplicate discounts are avoided -- and that you submit a copy of the agreement to HRSA. Starting late in 2017, HRSA began [listing every agreement that it has received on its public database](#). *Health centers that carve in at contract pharmacies and do NOT have an agreement on this list could be at significant risk. Please encourage your health centers that carve in Medicaid at contract pharmacies to ensure their agreement is on file with HRSA.* This new requirement applies only to Fee-For-Service, not Medicaid Managed Care, but if operating under MMC it is still highly recommended to have a similar three-way agreement in place and share it with HRSA.

### Is Rite Aid Converting to Walgreens?

If any of your health centers contract with Rite Aid, they need to stay in close communication with each store to determine if – and when – it might convert to a Walgreens, as a conversion will interrupt its 340B eligibility. If a conversion is scheduled, they need to contact Apexus right away in order to minimize how long the site will be ineligible. Failure to do this will impact their eligibility for 340B – leading to claims of "diversion" if the "new" Walgreens continues to dispense 340B drugs.

### Remember...New Health Center Sites Can Register Through March 5 to Start 340B Eligibility on April 1

HRSA is again extending the deadline for health centers to register their new delivery sites in order for these sites to become eligible to participate in the program on April 1, 2018. While other types of providers faced a January 15 deadline, health centers have until March 5 to register. At this time, health centers should contact

Apexus directly to register a new site. Note that the extended deadlines do not apply to new contract pharmacy arrangements, and that sites registered after the March 5 deadline will not be eligible until at least July 1.

### **Proposal To End “Penny Pricing” Expected Soon**

In the near future, the Trump Administration is expected to release a proposed regulation that would end the long-standing “penny pricing” policy (under which drugs for which the statutory formula would result in a price less than zero are made available to 340B providers for a penny each.) NACHC and TACHC strongly opposes any changes to penny policy as being inconsistent with a plain reading of the 340B statute, and will submit comments.

### **E&C Review of the 340B Program**

Last week the Energy and Commerce Committee, which has jurisdiction over the 340B program in the House, released a report detailing their examination of the 340B program over the past two years, which included hearings, document requests, and stakeholder meetings. [Here is a link to the report.](#)

## **POLICY**

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

TACHC strongly encourages all health center CEOs 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**

### **Approved Uniform Data System (UDS) Changes for 2018**

[Program Assistance Letter \(PAL\)](#) 2017-08 highlights the approved changes to the UDS for calendar year 2018. The early dissemination of this PAL, released about a year in advance of the reporting period, supports the [UDS modernization efforts](#) currently underway. Changes include updates to the CMS electronic-specified clinical quality measures, removal of the Patient-Centered Medical Home measure (identified as redundant), an expanded telehealth question, and updates to the Medication-Assisted Treatment and Meaningful Use questions. The reporting changes detailed in this PAL will be used by Health Center Program grantees and look-alikes for reporting data beginning in January 1, 2019. The forthcoming 2018 UDS Manual will include additional details regarding these changes.

### **Funding Opportunity: Rural Health Network Development Planning Program**

Under 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. By emphasizing the role of networks, the program creates a platform for medical care providers, social service providers, and community organizations to coalesce key elements of a rural health care delivery system for the purpose of improving local capacity and coordination of care. [View the grant opportunity here.](#) Applications are due by February 23. For any questions, please contact [Sara Afayee](#) at (301)945-4169.

### **Changes to the Uniform Data System (UDS) Mapper**

The UDS Mapper is an open-access online mapping tool that incorporates HRSA health center data with other publicly available geo-coded data, including U.S. Census population data. The mapping tool is being updated with a new look, additional functionality, and 2016 UDS data. This webinar, held on Thursday January 25 from 10:00 – 11:00 CST will highlight how to access new mapping tools and demonstrate their functionality to support the delivery of comprehensive primary care through the Health Center Program. [Register Here.](#)

### **What Happens to Your Patients When Your Center is Closed?**

If a concerned mom calls about a child with a fever and your center is closed, what happens after that call?

How many of our after-hours callers are going to the ER unnecessarily? How many times is the continuity of care disrupted because your doors are closed? With a Nurse Advice Line, you can rest assured that your patients are being taken care of and are being triaged appropriately. This service, offered under TACHC's group purchasing program, has grown significantly since launching early last year and it's not too late to sign on! The number of calls is unlimited and translation services are also offered at no additional cost. If you would like additional information, please contact [Corinne Medina](#) or [Nancy Gilliam](#).

### **Health Centers That Receive An Inquiry From Kalderos Should Respond Promptly**

Health centers across the country are being contacted by an organization called Kalderos, asking about potential duplicate discounts. NACHC encourages health centers to respond promptly to these requests, as Kalderos is acting on behalf of multiple drug manufacturers, and failure to respond promptly can significantly increase the chances of being subject to a full-scale manufacturer auditor.

### **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**

### **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](#)

### **Glaucoma Awareness and Education**

The NIH National Eye Institute (NEI) recognizes January as [Glaucoma Awareness Month](#).

Glaucoma is a leading cause of vision loss and blindness in the United States. It has no symptoms in its early stages. It can usually be controlled if detected early, before noticeable vision loss occurs, but vision that is lost from glaucoma cannot be restored. Check out NEI's new [Keep Your Vision in the Future: Glaucoma Toolkit](#) and a [fact sheet](#) for community and health professionals.

## **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 PM 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 AM-12:30 PM CST. [Register here](#).

### **Making the Connection through Integrated Behavioral Health Workflows**

Wednesday, January 31, 2018 from 1:00-2:30 PM CST, join the SAMHSA-HRSA Center for Integrated Health Solutions to learn from experts in the field, including staff from Salud Family Health Centers, a HRSA-funded health center, as they share insights on training behavioral health providers on integrated care workflows to effectively deliver high quality and efficient whole person care. Participants will learn to create integrated workflows, implement health center integration procedures and protocols, collaborate effectively, and integrate care practices. [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. The 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](#)

### **New Course Helps Health Centers Focus on Diabetes Quality Improvement**

HRSA's course, Diabetes Quality Improvement Talks: Foundation of Change, is now available in the ECRI Institute's [e-Learn portal](#). (If you do not already have a login, [free registration](#) is required to access ECRI.) Look for it in the Learning Catalog; courses are listed alphabetically. Originally presented in December 2017, this free one-hour course is now available online for CME credit. The course is for health centers and free clinics that are interested in learning more about HRSA's current diabetes quality improvement programs, strategies from health centers that have successfully implemented diabetes quality improvement initiatives, and resources available to assist in such efforts. For any questions, please [email here](#) or call 610-825-6000, ex. 5200.

### **Adverse Childhood Experiences and Their Relationship to Substance Use Disorders**

CDC has released a [new video](#) describing how adverse childhood experiences may have a significant impact on future violence victimization and perpetration, as well as lifelong health and opportunity. The video discusses strategies for creating safe, stable, nurturing relationships and environments for all children.

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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!](#)

TACHC · TX, United States

This email was sent to [aalvarez@tachc.org](mailto:aalvarez@tachc.org). To stop receiving emails, [click here](#).