



# TACHC

Texas Association of Community Health Centers

**WEEKLY WRAP-UP**

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### **NEWS**

## What Our Patients Are Saying



Texas Community Health Centers are all about helping people obtain excellent health care, and no one can say that better than patients themselves. Michael Brims, a board director at HOPE Clinic, created a [wonderful video](#) showcasing some great patient testimonials at HOPE Clinic! What great recognition as we head into the new year!

### Funding Cliff Update

On December 21, Congress passed a short-term Continuing Resolution extending government funding through January 19th. One of the few additional provisions included in the bill was short-term funding specifically for Community Health Centers (\$550 million), the National Health Service Corps (\$65 million) and Teaching Health Centers (\$15 million), as well as limited funds for the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP). These funds represent the minimum amount necessary to maintain current services long enough for Congress to revisit this issue in January.

This solution, while avoiding a direct funding lapse, is far less than is necessary to resolve the uncertainty facing Health Centers. Members of Congress on both sides of the aisle and the Capitol have also expressed publicly both their disappointment with this outcome, and their commitment to finishing the job of a long-term fix early in the New Year. We will continue to push for a permanent solution in 2018. For any immediate questions, please email [Courtney Weaver](#), [Mimi Garcia](#) or [Mary Allen](#).



### Our Leaders Speak Out About CHC Funding

TACHC Executive Director José E. Camacho, along with Regina Rogoff, CEO of People's Community Clinic are featured on KXAN TV in this [news spot/video](#) about community health center funding.

# Take Action

## **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**

### **CMS Bootcamp Lufkin Set for Monday, January 8**

The Office of Emergency Management for Angelina county, along with local partners, invites you to attend this one day workshop. The Boot Camp will review the new CMS rules for healthcare facilities; provide strategies to meet the new rules, role of the local, regional and state governments, and coalition involvement. The day finishes off with hands-on workshops that include emergency notifications, bed reporting, Emergency Plan reviews and much more! The event will take place on Monday, January 8 from 8:00 AM – 4:30 PM CST. For more information call Lisa Spivey at 281-822-4446 or [email her](#). To register, follow this [link](#).

### **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 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 all members 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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## **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](#)

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## **GOVERNANCE & FINANCE**

### **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 [ecanales@tachc.org](mailto:ecanales@tachc.org) or [ngilliam@tachc.org](mailto:ngilliam@tachc.org)

### **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.

### **Does Your Center Need a Nurse Advice Line?**

If you haven't heard, TACHC recently began offering a Nurse Advice Line through the Group Purchasing program. Following Schmitt-Thompson support protocols, a registered nurse, licensed in the state of Texas, will triage callers when your center doors are closed. This after-hours support service is helping centers significantly alleviate their on-call provider schedules. For some, the nurse advice line is replacing it completely. The service is available 24/7/365, and includes free translation services and unlimited calls. If you would like

additional information, please contact [Corinne Medina](#) or [Nancy Gilliam](#).

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## CLINICAL

### CDC Emergency Partners- Hurricanes- Special Edition

This issue of the [Emergency Partners Newsletter](#) is the last special edition regarding the 2017 hurricanes. It includes updated key messages, mental health information, information on mold, and much more. Please contact [emergencypartners@cdc.gov](mailto:emergencypartners@cdc.gov) with any questions.

### Oral Health Integration Webinar Recordings Available

#### [Clinical Best Practices to Improve the Oral Health of Individuals with Substance Use Disorders](#) —

Speakers identify ways that oral health and behavioral health professionals can integrate oral health into the care of patients with substance use disorders. [Before You Say Ahhhh...Integrating Oral Health and Behavioral Health in Primary Care Settings](#) — Behavioral health care providers are an integral component and can have a significant impact on a client's emotional and physical well-being. [Learn more about HRSA's oral health programs, resources, and initiatives.](#)

### 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](#)

### SAMHSA's Prescription Opioid Use and Misuse Fact Sheets

The recently released publication series, "[Rx Pain Medications. Know the Options. Get the Facts.](#)" is a set of 13 fact sheets to increase awareness of the risks associated with prescription opioid use and misuse, to educate patients who are prescribed opioids for pain about the risks, and to provide resources on methods for alternative pain management.

### Reducing Clinician Burnout

From February through April, the STAR<sup>2</sup> Center invites health center C-Suite and management staff to join the 2018 Retention Academy to learn about five organizational influences on burnout and create action plans to begin to address them. In addition to the educational programming of webinars, office hours, and assignments, this cohort of 25-30 health center staff will benefit from peer sharing by way of an online discussion forum. Interested health centers can apply here before Wednesday, January 17, 2018. Please contact [Mariah Blake](#) or call 703-577-3327 with any questions.

### 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](#).

### Digital Interventions and Chronic Conditions

The [Community Preventive Services Task Force \(CPSTF\)](#) recommends the use of [diabetes self-management mobile phone applications \(apps\)](#), when implemented in healthcare systems, to improve blood

glucose among patients with type 2 diabetes. The Community Preventive Services Task Force (CPSTF) also recommends the use of [interactive digital interventions to improve blood pressure control in patients with high blood pressure](#) and the use of text messaging interventions to increase [medication adherence among patients with chronic medical conditions](#).

### **Team-based Care Learning Collaborative Applications are OPEN**

Apply to participate in a 10-month intensive learning collaborative to implement or advance team-based care at your health center. The Community Health Center, Inc., a HRSA-funded National Cooperative Agreement, will host the learning collaborative. Applications are due Jan. 11, 2018. [Find out more and apply now.](#)

### **Team-based Care Learning Collaborative**

[Missed and delayed diagnoses](#) can stem from problems in the [outpatient referral process](#). The [Institute for Healthcare Improvement](#) convened an expert panel addressing safety vulnerabilities in the current referral process. The [report](#) delineates nine steps in the referral process, starting from the primary care provider ordering the referral and ending with communication of the treatment plan to patients and families.

### **Upcoming Webinar: Adapting Medical-Legal Partnership (MLP) to Your Health Center & Community**

On Tuesday, January 9, 2018 from 1:00-3:00PM CST, HRSA's Office of Regional Operations, Region 9, presents a webinar to help participants understand: (1) the MLP approach and field, and how it aligns with existing health centers' services and priorities, especially enabling services; and (2) the opportunities for multi-sector engagement across all health centers and civil legal aid offices with a focus on population health strategies. The target audience includes HRSA grantees, health care providers, public health officials, community-based organizations and legal aid staff wanting to learn more about how this intervention could work in their community. Free registration in advance is required and space is limited. [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](#).

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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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