



**TACHC**  
Texas Association of Community Health Centers

**WEEKLY WRAP-UP**

**Volume: 10 Issue: 47**

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**IN THIS ISSUE**

**NEWS**

Public Charge: Submit Your Comments by Monday, December 10!  
Dr. Nicholas Yagoda Receives Young Physician Award  
Gateway Community Health Center Celebrates New Dental Department  
Spring Branch Community Health Center Opens New Dental Suite  
Happy TACHCiversary

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

REGISTER NOW for Lights, Camera, Action! *Interview Best Practices and How to Stay on Message* Webcast  
Save the Date for the TACHC 2019 Policy and Issues Forum!

**OUTREACH**

ONLY ONE WEEK LEFT! Federal Marketplace Open Enrollment Continues Through December 15

**POLICY**

Public Charge: Submit Your Comments by Monday, December 10!

**CLINICAL**

Updating Your Accreditation and Patient-Centered Medical Home Recognition Information  
Million Hearts® 2022 Self-Measured Blood Pressure Monitoring Forum  
HIPAA FAQs: Real-Life HIPAA Challenges in Primary Care  
Building the Plane While You're Flying It: Lessons in Behavioral Health and Substance Use Disorder Integration  
Behavioral Health Workforce Development – Training Across the Various Behavioral Health Disciplines  
Opioid Series: The SUPPORT ACT of 2018: New Resource and Stakeholder Engagement to Influence Practice  
Addiction and Pain Management & Prevention Summit  
Workshop on Racial Inequities in Maternal Mortality  
Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP): Best Practices for Pharmacists

**RECRUITMENT & RETENTION**

Health Center Colleagues Share Best Practices: MA and DA Program Affiliations Webcast  
Would You Like Us to Help You Recruit?

**NEWS**

# Public Charge Rule: Submit Your Comments by Monday, December 10!



## Public Charge: Submit Your Comments by Monday, December 10!

There are only 3 days left to submit comments on the Department of Homeland Security's proposed Public Charge rule. The proposed changes will penalize legal immigrants seeking to obtain legal permanent residency for using programs for which they qualify, such as Medicaid, SNAP, and housing assistance. This proposed change could result in fewer insured patients at community health centers, stretching our resources even thinner.

- [Read more about the proposed changes here.](#)
- [Read TACHC's Public Charge comments here.](#)

The Department of Homeland Security is required to review and respond to all unique comments. [View comment instructions and FAQs here.](#) Volume is critical to delaying this process. Therefore, TACHC is encouraging members to submit two types of comments:

1. Institutional Comments (Comments on Behalf of Your Health Center)  
Please submit comments on behalf of your health center directly to [regulations.gov, here.](#) TACHC's organizational comments are attached as a sample, and but you can also view the [NACHC Comment Template](#) to assist with drafting your own. Once you've submitted your comments, please send a copy to [Courtney Weaver.](#)
2. Personal Comments  
For personal comments of less than 3,000 characters, please submit to the [TACHC microsite here.](#) TACHC is tracking how many comments health centers submit, and we cannot do so unless you use this site!

**Remember: It is important not to copy and paste talking points, since comments must be unique in order to merit a response. Aim to make at least 30% of your comments unique.** Questions? Email TACHC Civic Engagement Director [Courtney Weaver.](#)

### Additional Resources:

- [NACHC's Public Charge Landing Page](#)
- [NACHC 11/28 Webinar](#) (Great Primer on Health Center Impact)
- [NACHC Comment Template](#)
- [NACHC Public Charge FAQs](#)
- Center on Law and Social Policy Factsheets in [English](#) and [Spanish](#)
- [CLASP- Texas Impact Factsheet](#)
- [NILC- 5 Things to Know About Public Charge](#)

Protecting Immigrant Families has led the national effort against public charge, and has a wealth of additional resources for drafting comments. If you'd like to seek out more information, [see their resources page here.](#)

[Back to Top](#)

### **Dr. Nicholas Yagoda Receives Young Physician Award**

**Congratulations to Dr. Nick Yagoda** of CommUnityCare who was nominated for and received the 2018 Ruth M. Bain Young Physician Award by the Travis County Medical Society. Dr. Yagoda is Director of Primary Care Family & HIV Medicine and practices at CommUnityCare's South Austin Clinic.



**CLICK ON IMAGE TO ENLARGE**

### **Gateway Community Health Center Celebrates New Dental Department**

Gateway Community Health Center held a ribbon cutting on November 27 at their Zapata Clinic to celebrate their new Dental Department and first full time dentist in Zapata, Dr. Abrefi Asare. Attendees included TX Rep. Tracy King (District 80), Zapata County Jude Joe Rathmell, and Zapata County Commissioner/ Head of the Zapata County Chamber of Commerce Jose Mendoza, Jr.



**CLICK ON IMAGE TO ENLARGE**

### **Spring Branch Community Health Center Opens New Dental Suite**

On Wednesday, December 5, 2018, Spring Branch Community Health Center welcomed a new addition to the services it provides at its West Houston Clinic. A ribbon cutting was held for the grand opening of its new Dental Suite, located at 19333 Clay Road in Katy, Texas. The new Dental Suite will provide services such as dental screenings, fillings, root canals, deep cleanings, crowns, and more! The West Houston Chamber of Commerce was on hand to do the ribbon cutting as Bank of America was recognized as the Sponsor for the new suite. Guests were treated to a tour of the facility along with free refreshments. In attendance were David Ruiz,

Community Engagement Manager at Bank of America, who discussed the importance of supporting the well-being of patients through services such as the new dental suite. SBCHC Chairman of the Board, John Kemper along with Louis Faillace, MD., and other board members, staff, and invited guests were also in attendance. For more information contact 713-462-6555. [View photo slideshow here.](#)

★ ★ ★ **Happy TACHCiversary!** ★ ★ ★

### Happy TACHCiversary

Happy TACHCiversary to Alfredo Garcia since December 1, 2016; Thank you for your commitment to TACHC!

[Back to Top](#)

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### UPCOMING EVENTS



**REGISTER NOW for Lights, Camera, Action! *Interview Best Practices and How to Stay on Message Webcast • December 14***

**December 14, 9:00-10:00 a.m. • [Register](#)**

During the upcoming 86<sup>th</sup> Texas Legislative Session, community health center advocates will be involved in a number of issues as policies take shape. Health center leaders and staff will often find themselves in the spotlight as reporters and journalists from all types of media channels reach out for interviews and information. Join TACHC's Mimi Garcia, Director of Policy and External Communications, along with Oliver Bernstein, Communications Director (Center for Public Policy Priorities) for the [Lights, Camera, Action! \*Interview Best Practices and How to Stay on Message\*](#) webcast!



## **Save the Date for the TACHC 2019 Policy and Issues Forum!**

The [TACHC Policy and Issues Forum](#) will provide health center CEOs, Board Members and other staff the opportunity to learn about TACHC's legislative agenda for the upcoming state legislative session, receive in-depth information on health policy issues in Texas that impact health centers, and learn how to successfully conduct a legislative visit. Attendees will visit legislators during the conference to engage policymakers on the health center legislative agenda. The conference will also provide the opportunity for attendees to learn about creating a trauma-informed culture within health centers. **January 4, 2019 is the Omni Hotel Reservation Deadline.**

[Back to Top](#)

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## **OUTREACH**

### **ONLY ONE WEEK LEFT! Federal Marketplace Open Enrollment Continues Through December 15**

Open Enrollment is underway now through December 15, 2018. With drastic cuts to Federal Navigator funding, it is imperative that all health centers do their part in assisting their patients and communities enroll in coverage. [Please see this graphic](#) and feel free to use if you'd like to promote the [My Texas My Health website](#), which allows the public to search for free outreach and enrollment services through our community health centers. To enroll online, visit <http://www.healthcare.gov> for English or <https://cuidadodesalud.gov> for Spanish. [Use the Open Enrollment Flyer to spread the word!](#)

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## **POLICY**

### **Public Charge: Submit Your Comments by Monday, December 10!**

[See above.](#)

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## **CLINICAL**

### **Updating Your Accreditation and Patient-Centered Medical Home Recognition Information**

Need to update your health center's accreditation or Patient-Centered Medical Home (PCMH) recognition information? Submit updates from your EHBs Grant Folder by clicking the "HRSA Accreditation/PCMH Initiative" link and choosing either the "Request Accreditation Update" or "Request PCMH Recognition Update" button. We will review your updates and send an email confirmation once we have reviewed your request. Contact [HRSA's Accreditation and PCMH Initiative](#) with questions.

### **Million Hearts<sup>®</sup> 2022 Self-Measured Blood Pressure Monitoring Forum**

**December 11, 1:00-2:00 p.m. CST**

Hosted by NACHC, a HRSA-funded NCA

To register, send your name, organization, and email address to [MillionHeartsSMBP@nachc.org](mailto:MillionHeartsSMBP@nachc.org)

### **HIPAA FAQs: Real-Life HIPAA Challenges in Primary Care**

**December 12 11:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. CST • [Register](#)**

The Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) can be complex and challenging to interpret and apply. ECRI Institute receives many inquiries from health centers and free clinics on this topic. This webinar is hosted by ECRI Institute.

### **Building the Plane While You're Flying It: Lessons in Behavioral Health and Substance Use Disorder Integration**

**December 12, 12:30-1:30 p.m. CST • [Register](#)**

This webinar is hosted by the National Nurse-Led Care Consortium, a HRSA-funded NCA

### **Behavioral Health Workforce Development – Training Across the Various Behavioral Health Disciplines**

**December 13, 2:00-3:00 p.m. CST • [Register](#)**

This webinar is hosted by Community Health Center, Inc., a HRSA-funded NCA.

### **Opioid Series: The SUPPORT ACT of 2018: New Resource and Stakeholder Engagement to Influence Practice**

**December 14, 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. CST • [Register](#)**

This webinar is hosted by the Corporation for Supportive Housing and the National Health Care for the Homeless Council, HRSA-funded NCAs

### **Addiction and Pain Management & Prevention Summit**

**February 15-17, 2019 • T&T Hotel and Conference Center • The University of Texas at Austin • [Details & Registration](#)**

To combat the *growing addiction epidemic that has resulted from opioid prescriptions for pain management*, building partnerships and collaborations is critical. The Texas Society of Addiction Medicine, Texas Health Institute and Superior HealthPlan have joined forces to host a summit that addresses the state of the science in pain management and actions that can be taken to respond to the crisis. Call: 877.451.8700 or [Email](#) for more information.

### **Workshop on Racial Inequities in Maternal Mortality**

**Occurs every day from 9:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. beginning 1/4/2019 and ending after 2 occurrences • [Register](#)**

The United Methodist Women and the First United Methodist Church of Austin will be hosting a two-day workshop on racial inequities in maternal mortality. This event is a facilitated conversation with [Joyce James](#), a consultant who specializes in helping organizations identify and address systemic factors that prevent the realization of fully equitable systems and outcomes. **Space is Limited.**

### **Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP): Best Practices for Pharmacists**

**December 13, 2018 from 12:00 p.m. to 1:30 p.m. CST • [Register](#)**

NeTina J. Kanmaz, Pharm.D, BCMAS, AAHIVE

Assistant Dean, Experiential Pharmacy Education, Associate Clinical Professor, St. John's University

[Back to Top](#)

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## **RECRUITMENT & RETENTION**

### **Health Center Colleagues Share Best Practices: MA and DA Program Affiliations Webcast**

**December 13, 12:00-1:00 p.m. CST • [Register](#)**

Please join us for an R&R webcast on Dec. 13<sup>th</sup> from 12-1 pm featuring your TACHC community health center colleagues sharing best practices for Medical/Dental Assistant preceptorship/externship programs they offer. Please register for the webcast [here](#). If you have any questions feel free to reach [Jonathan Davis](#) or call 512-329-5959

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 [Jonathan Davis](#) 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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