



TACHC
Texas Association of Community Health Centers

WEEKLY WRAP-UP

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NEWS

Funding Cliff Update: Health Centers Cannot Continue to Wait!



Earlier this week, Congressional leaders came to [an agreement to end the shutdown](#), fund the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) for six years, and fund the government through February 8. The deal did not **include any funding for community health centers, the National Health Service Corps (NHSC), the Teaching Health Centers Graduate Medical Education (THCGME) program.** The latest CR also failed to address a number of other outstanding policy issues, including a variety of expired health program and policy extensions; disaster assistance for states hit by hurricanes and wildfires; lifting the current budget caps; additional funding to help states combat the opioid epidemic; and providing cost sharing reductions (CSRs) to stabilize the ACA marketplaces. **We continue to hear that it is the intention of Congressional leaders to move our funding alongside the next available moving piece of legislation, but with so many unresolved policy considerations, we must redouble our efforts to make sure that health center funding remains at that top of Congress's priority list.**

Your advocacy has been extremely effective in [shifting the next priority in Congress from CHIP to health center funding](#). During the shutdown debate, numerous members of Congress, on both sides of the aisle, spoke out passionately about the need to fix the Health Center Funding Cliff. This is the result of your hard work, tweets, calls, emails, and effort

As we saw in this most recent CR debate and brief government shutdown, many of the outstanding issues that Congress needs to resolve are complicated and controversial. These dynamics will continue to be beyond our control. We need to stay focused on keeping the pressure up and to carry the message that **"Health Centers cannot continue to wait - CHC funding MUST be passed immediately."**

February 6 Health Center Day of Action: On Tuesday, February 6th, health center staff, supporters, and leaders will be mobilizing across the country to push for an end to the funding cliff by February 8th. We are mobilizing health center leaders making Congressional visits in DC, press conferences in local communities, social media, and call-ins. Stay tuned for more details on how you can help and be part of the push. For any immediate questions, please email [Courtney Weaver](#), [Mimi Garcia](#) or [Mary Allen](#).

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We Want to Tell Your Success Stories!

It's more important than ever that we tell your patient success stories! Stories resonate with people, and are one of the most compelling ways to communicate. We are seeking anecdotes and success stories that highlight the quality care that you provide every day. We want to hear your success stories that highlight integrated services, care coordination, and excellent clinical outcomes. Stories that include patient names and pictures are the best, but make sure to get patient consent before sending personal information. However, we would love to hear anonymous stories as well. Please help TACHC to educate policymakers about the outstanding work that you are doing and email [Brom Hoban](#) or [Corinne Medina](#) with your best stories!

Health Center Leaders Brave Wintry Weather for Executive Leadership Initiative



Wintry Weather didn't stop a good turnout as CHC leaders from around the state gathered in San Antonio January 19-20 as part of TACHC's 17th Executive Leadership Initiative. Attendees learned how to:

- Develop understanding of what it takes to become an exemplary leader
- Develop the level of self-awareness and insight to increase leadership impact
- Master the skills and knowledge to move from the realm of doing, to the realm of managing and into the realm of leadership
- Work with and develop important relationships with other leaders
- Prepare for the current and next level leadership challenges



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.

CONGRATULATIONS!



Congratulations!

Congratulations to Yvonne Camarena, who has been promoted to Chief Operations Officer at CommUnityCare in Austin! Prior to her COO post, Yvonne served as Director of Nursing. *(Note: have any "up the ladder" announcements? Contact TACHC Communications Director [Brom Hoban](#).)*

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UPCOMING EVENTS

OC³ 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

Medline Agreement Now Available

Now more than ever it is important to save every possible penny and still access high quality products. The Medline contract will help with exactly that balance. Effective January 1, 2018, TACHC has a contract offering with [Medline](#) for their extensive line of medical supplies and equipment via the VIP program in collaboration with Community Health Ventures (the purchasing affiliate of NACHC). If your health center is already using McKesson Medical or Henry Schein Medical, this is a great opportunity to add an additional distributor to the offering of products and service at a great price. For more information, contact [Lynn Ford](#).

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.

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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.

Quality Improvement Resources from Institute for Health care Improvement

Please check out these two quality improvement resources:

- [RCA2: Improving Root Cause Analyses and Actions to Prevent Harm](#) - Root cause analysis (RCA) is a process widely used by health professionals to learn how and why errors occur. Yet, for the process to be most effective, the analysis must also lead to actions to prevent future harm. That's the focus — analysis plus action — of. Use this toolkit as a guide to identify and implement sustainable systems-based improvements that make patient care safer in settings across the care continuum.
- [Quality Improvement Essentials Toolkit](#) - Download these ten essential quality improvement tools to help you with your improvement projects, continuous improvement, and quality management, whether you use the Model for Improvement, Lean, or Six Sigma.

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](#).

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](#).

Technical Assistance Opportunity: Reduce Perinatal Transmission of Hepatitis B

According to the CDC, hepatitis B virus (HBV) infections are increasing among people who inject drugs. HRSA is supporting an innovative technical assistance initiative by the University of New Mexico's (UNM) Project ECHO to aid health centers in reducing mother-to-child (perinatal) HBV transmission. [HBV ECHO: Reducing Perinatal Transmission](#) allows primary care teams to present patient cases, receive individualized recommendations from HBV experts, and learn best practices for treating HBV in health centers. Learn more about this free technical assistance resource at one of these information sessions, hosted by UNM's Project ECHO: Wednesday, January 31, 1:00-2:00 p.m. CST, Wednesday, January 31, 2:00-3:00 p.m. CST, Thursday, February 1, 12:00-1:00 p.m. CST. [Register here](#).

Making the Connection through Integrated Behavioral Health Workflows

Wednesday, January 31, 2018 from 12:00-2:30 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](#).

Cardiovascular Disease in Women and Minority Populations

This webinar is hosted by the HRSA Office of Regional Operations and the HHS Office of the Assistant Secretary for Health - Region 7, Thursday, February 1, 11:30 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. 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.](#)

Calories, Cavities and Kids: The Role of Dental Professionals in Addressing Childhood Obesity

This webinar is hosted by the National Network for Oral Health Access, a HRSA-funded NCA and takes place Monday, February 5, 1:00-2:00 p.m. CST, [Register here](#), (1.0) Continuing Dental Education (CDE) credit is available.

Hepatitis C Infection: Updated Information for Front Line Workers in Primary Care Settings

This webinar is hosted by the National Center for Health and Public Housing, a HRSA-funded NCA/North American Management Wednesday, February 14, 1:00-200 p.m. CST, [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.

Cancer Screening Promising Practices Webinar Recording Available

Last month, BPHC hosted a webinar highlighting promising practices from two Primary Care Associations (PCAs) on quality improvement strategies to enhance cervical and colorectal cancer screening rates in health centers. Speakers shared technical assistance activities that supported health centers in clinical quality improvement, assisted in effective implementation of cancer screening interventions, and addressed the public health need for screenings. [Access the webinar recording and presentation.](#)

Examples of Collaborations with Local Health Departments to Develop New Resources Needed

As the health care and public health landscape continue to evolve, collaboration between health centers and local health departments becomes increasingly important. In partnership with HRSA, the [National Association of County and City Health Officials \(NACCHO\)](#) and the [Center for Sharing Public Health Services \(CSPHS\)](#) will work together to develop new tools and resources aimed at enhancing collaboration between health centers and health departments. If you are with a health center that has formally or informally collaborated with a health department in any way over the past 3 to 5 years, we invite you to [complete a short assessment](#) (2-3 minutes). Please contact [Melissa Mayer](#) with any question.

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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. To stop receiving emails, [click here](#).