



TACHC

Texas Association of Community Health Centers

WEEKLY WRAP-UP

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NEWS

House and Senate Pass Budget Deal: Two Years of Funding for Health Centers Included!

We fixed the cliff! Early this morning, both the Senate and House of Representatives passed a continuing resolution (C.R.) to keep the government open and fund health centers until the end of FY 2019. The bill adds \$600 million over the next two years. Health centers have enjoyed broad bipartisan support since our inception, and this year was no exception, despite the delay in our funding renewal. It is only because of your continued advocacy and support that we were able to not only fix the cliff, but increase our federal funding. This year's budget is still pending however, and Congress must approve the \$1.5 billion in budgetary funds by March 23rd. We must stay vigilant in this era of Congressional uncertainty, so be on the lookout for more updates and action alerts!



Healing Hands Ministries President & CEO Janna Gardner and TACHC's Executive Director José Camacho with Congressman Pete Sessions earlier this week. Congressman Sessions represents the 32nd district of Texas, which contains nearly 20,000 health center patients.

Advocacy Efforts in DC and Texas Had Great Impact

This past week, as Congress moved towards a vote on what would be included in the Continuing Resolution (CR), TACHC staff along with community health center CEOs from critical districts joined other health centers around the country headed to Washington DC to meet with elected officials to ensure that health center funding gets included. "Things were very organized, and we were able to get our story across clearly and in a manner that was well-understood," commented TACHC Executive Director José E. Camacho of the Washington DC meetings. "The advocacy efforts at a local level on behalf of all our members and staff had a tremendous impact."

Simultaneously, TACHC convened a series of press conferences across the state, hosted by **Hope Clinic in Houston; CommuniCare in San Antonio; Centro San Vicente in El Paso; Foremost Family Health Centers in Dallas; CommUnityCare in Austin; Brownsville Community Health Center in Brownsville; and South Plains Rural Health Services in Levelland.**

Media stories generated by the press conferences included:

- [Houston](#)
- [San Antonio](#)
- [El Paso](#)
- [Dallas](#)
- [Austin](#)
- [Levelland](#)
- [Brownsville](#)

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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!

Happy TACHCiversary to the Following:

We would like to wish a very happy TACHCiversary to Anita Mitchell, 02/07/2000; Nancy Gilliam, 02/02/2013; Britt Kushner, 02/24/2014; and Paul Christie, 02/01/2016. Thank you for your hard work and dedication!

TACHC LGBT Collaborative

If your health center is interested in furthering their training to better serve, screen and outreach to their LGBT patients, please contact [Sonia Lara](#). The training, which will be dictated by the collaborative, will be provided by the National LGBT Health Education Center at the Fenway Institute, the HRSA NCA grantee for this special population.

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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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GROUP PURCHASING

NACHC Office Hours on Pharmacy and 340B Issues

NACHC's monthly "Office Hours" on Pharmacy and 340B, is on the third Thursday of each month at 1:00 CST. This month's **340B/ Pharmacy Office Hours is on Thursday Feb. 15, 1:00 CST and will focus on self-audits; please submit questions in advance:** Office Hours are a new monthly opportunity for health center and PCA staff to discuss and learn about 340B/pharmacy activities. They are held the third Thursday of each month at 2:00 Eastern. Each session begins with brief updates followed by a short presentation on a specific topic; the bulk of the time is left for Q&A and discussion. To join, click [here](#). (This link will work every month going forward, and you must use it to access call-in info; Office Hours are free and pre-registration is not required.) This month's Office Hours, on Thursday Feb. 15 at 2:00 ET, will focus on self-audits. We strongly encourage you to **submit your questions in advance**. A recording will be available in MyNACHC afterwards. For more information, contact [Colleen Meiman](#).

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.

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

See House and Senate Pass Budget Deal

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GOVERNANCE & FINANCE

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.

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](#)

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CLINICAL

Improving Access to Transportation in Rural Communities

The [Rural Transportation Toolkit](#) webinar is set for Monday, February 12 at 12:00 pm CST. The Rural Health Information Hub and the NORC Walsh Center for Rural Health Analysis will present best-practice models and resources for improving access to transportation, overcoming barriers, and improving transportation safety in rural communities.

HITEQ UDS Dashboards Now Live

The HITEQ UDS Clinical Analysis Dashboards are now live! The dashboards aim to help HRSA Partner organizations (Health Centers, HCCNs, PCAs, and other National Cooperative Agreement agencies) examine trends in clinical results and their relationship to the use of their EHR systems at both the individual organization and group levels. Dashboards include a National view, accessible to all organizations, as well as a view that reflects information related to individual health center results over time, and group comparisons of the members of a Health Center Controlled Network (HCCN) or State compared to all others. These dynamic customizable dashboards provide organization-specific analyses of all 14 clinical measures across 6 years of reporting. Authorized individuals from each organization should have received an email in recent weeks with log-in details. Please contact hiteqinfo@jsi.com if you have questions or need assistance.

Million Hearts Hypertension Control Change Package for Clinicians

According to the CDC, 90 percent of Americans consume too much sodium, increasing their risk for high blood pressure, a major contributor to heart disease and stroke. To help clinicians combat this risk, the CDC's Million Hearts initiative developed the [Hypertension Control Change Package for Clinicians](#). This resource provides clinicians in ambulatory clinical settings with evidence- and practice-based tools and resources to support hypertension control. The action guide is built around three major concepts: key foundations, population health management, and individual patient supports. To learn more about Million Hearts, attend CDC's Public Health Grand Rounds: Million Hearts 2022: A Compelling Call to Action, Tuesday, February 20, 2018 12:00-1:00 p.m. CST, [View the webcast the day of the session](#)

Achieving Health Equity and Improving Health Behaviors by Addressing the Social Determinants of Health

This webinar is hosted by HRSA and is on Thursday, February 22, 2018 1:00-2:30 p.m. CST, [Register here](#)

Clinician Consultation Center Substance Use Warmline—Expert Online Clinical Technical Assistance Available for Health Center Providers

The [National Clinician Consultation Center Substance Use Warmline](#) provides free up-to-date expert clinical advice on substance use to health center providers managing complex patients with addiction, chronic pain, and behavioral health issues. [Submit your questions online](#) or call toll-free at: 855-300-3595 (Monday-Friday, 8:00 a.m.-7:00 p.m. CST).

CDC is Seeking Nominations for the CDC Childhood Immunization Champion Award

CDC and the CDC Foundation are looking forward to recognizing the great work that immunization champions are doing in communities across the US to promote immunizations for children ages 0-2! Champions can come from a variety of settings. Past awardees have included parent advocates, community members, and health care professionals who go above and beyond their expected responsibilities to ensure that children in their communities get vaccinated on time. Nominations for the CDC Childhood Immunization Champion Award should be submitted to Linc.Allen@dshs.texas.gov by February 16, 2018. DSHS will then submit a nominee to the CDC. You can find the nomination packet and [more information here](#). The awardees will be announced during National Infant Immunization Week (NIIW), April 21-28, 2018.

Region VI Opioid Summit: Key Strategies to Address the Opioid Epidemic

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Region VI Office will join UT Southwestern Medical Center in hosting a **U.S. Department Of Health And Human Services Region Vi Opioid Summit on Tuesday, February 20, 2018 at UT Southwestern**. The event will engage subject matter experts, federal, state, tribal and local stakeholders to discuss opioid prevention-treatment-recovery strategies while identifying resources

and opportunities for technical assistance related to the epidemic. **Registration is now open** and can be found [here](#).

Connecting Oral and Heart Health: Blood Pressure Screening and Smoking Cessation in the Dental Setting

HRSA will present a webinar on Wednesday, February 21, 11:00-12:00 p.m. CST highlighting the connection between cardiovascular disease and oral health and the importance of integrating oral and primary health care. Participants will learn about promising practices that promote both cardiovascular and oral health within health centers and how to incorporate cardiovascular disease prevention strategies, such as blood pressure screening and tobacco cessation services, into the dental setting. [View the webcast the day of the session.](#)

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 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](#).

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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](#).