



TACHC
Texas Association of Community Health Centers

WEEKLY WRAP-UP

Volume: 10 Issue: 8

February 23, 2018

IN THIS ISSUE

NEWS

Thank Members of Congress for Their Support Health Centers to Fix the Cliff
MEHOP receives Advocacy Award
NACHC P & I Forum Early Bird Deadline Extended to February 28
We Want to Tell Your Success Stories!
Happy TACHCiversary

UPCOMING EVENTS

TACHC OC³ CPI Webcast: FQHCs and Social Media Part 1

OUTREACH

Early voting for the Texas Primaries is now underway!

GROUP PURCHASING

Mandatory Recertification Period is Feb. 7 – March 7, 2018

POLICY

FQHC Participation in MACRA/MIPS Reporting

GOVERNANCE & FINANCE

2018 TACHC Membership Dues Deadline: March 1, 2018
What Happens to Your Patients When Your Center is Closed?
Health Centers That Receive An Inquiry From Kalderos Should Respond Promptly
Do You Need to Update Your Strategic Plan?

CLINICAL

It's American Heart Month
American Heart Association's Target Blood Pressure Program and Measuring Accurate Blood Pressure in Health Centers
Save the Date: TACHC Clinical Conference April 26-28, 2018. Westin Stonebriar, Frisco Texas
Using Evidence-Informed Interventions to Improve Health Outcomes among PLWH
Workforce Grand Rounds Webinar Series:
Successful Models and Examples of Inter-Professional Oral Health and Primary Care Training Programs
Beyond the Walls: Effectively Utilizing Community Health Workers and Clinical Home Visitors as Part of the Team
Caring for Patients with Pain is a Team Sport
Save the Date: National Patient Safety Week Celebration
CDC Emergency Partners- Emergency Communication and Limited English Proficiency.
The Centering Healthcare Institute (CHI) Implementation Grant
TACHC and Henry Schein Dental Contract Continues

RECRUITMENT & RETENTION

Recruitment & Retention: 2017 Review
Assessment of Health Professionals
Would You Like Us to Help You Recruit?

NEWS

Thank Members of Congress for Their Support Health Centers to Fix the Cliff

Health Center Advocates across Texas and across the country stood up and took action to demand a fix to the Health Center Funding Cliff – months of hard work and persistent advocacy paid off! On Friday, February 9th, Congress voted to extend health center funding – fixing the health center funding cliff for two years. You can read more about the vote and what was included in the spending package [here](#). **Now is the time to thank your Members of Congress for their support for health centers and efforts to fix the cliff - visit the HC Advocacy Network to send your Thank You Message.** An enormous amount of work and advocacy went into achieving this cliff fix – there are LOTS of Thank You's to go around – make sure to begin with your Members of Congress.



ADVOCACY CENTER OF EXCELLENCE

MEHOP receives Advocacy Award

Congratulations MEHOP! The Matagorda Episcopal Health Outreach Program (MEHOP) was awarded the distinguished level of Bronze in the **National Association of Community Health Center's (NACHC)** Advocacy Center of Excellence Program. An Advocacy Center of Excellence, or ACE, is a Health Center that has achieved certain measures of advocacy success and demonstrated ongoing commitment to advocacy by making it an organizational priority. In addition to creating a true culture of advocacy at MEHOP, including operationalizing advocacy practices and creating supporting infrastructure, MEHOP staff is actively engaged and involved with NACHC and federal policy issues, as well as TACHC and key state-level policy issues impacting Health Centers and their patients. [For the full story, click here.](#)

NACHC P & I Forum Early Bird Deadline Extended to February 28

The NACHC P&I is the best time to stay up to speed on the constantly evolving discussions in DC and on priority issues ranging from entitlement reform to health innovation. Be sure to register for the P&I today to make sure you are up-to-date on the latest policy trends affecting health centers from workforce issues, to 340B, to telehealth, behavioral health and substance abuse treatment, and more. Take advantage of the Early Bird Registration rate – register [here](#) to attend in-person or virtually

[Back to Top](#)



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](#) 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; and Britt Kushner, 02/24/2014. Thank you for your hard work and dedication!

[Back to Top](#)

UPCOMING EVENTS

TACHC OC³ CPI Webcast: FQHCs and Social Media Part 1

The webcast takes place on March 23 from 12:00 to 1:00 p.m. [Register Here](#).

[Back to Top](#)

OUTREACH



Early Voting for the Texas Primaries is Now Underway!

Early Voting for the [Texas Primaries](#) is February 20 -March 2nd and polls are open now from 7 a.m.-7 p.m. at [select locations](#) in your area. This is your first chance to shape our next Congress, as well as cast your vote on critical local races that will impact health center funding, public health issues, and other community issues we care about! A nice way to motivate each other, and boost employee engagement (while you're at it), is to gather a group for a lunch outing and make some room to GO VOTE!

GROUP PURCHASING

Mandatory Recertification Period is Feb. 7 – March 7, 2018

Your help is 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. Information and tutorials are available on the [HRSA website](#).

POLICY

FQHC Participation in MACRA/MIPS Reporting

Under the MACRA final rule, FQHC services that are billed under the all-inclusive rate are not subject to MIPS or the payment adjustment. FQHC services billed under Medicare Part B are subject to MACRA/MIPS unless the FQHC meets one of the regulatory exceptions:

- Providers with a Type 2 NPI (Organizational NPI) are NOT required to participate in MIPS reporting during the 2017 Transition Year
- Clinicians who enrolled in Medicare for the first time during a MIPS performance period are excluded from having to report until the next performance period.
- If an FQHC bills less than \$30,000 a year to Medicare Part B or has less than 100 patients for which services were billed to Medicare Part B, then they are exempt from participating due to a "low volume threshold." If an FQHC as a whole does not meet the "low volume threshold," it may still apply to their individual clinicians.

CMS maintains a [searchable list](#) where providers may check their eligibility and exemption status. For more information, please see [NACHC's brief on the implementation of MACRA](#).

[Back to Top](#)

GOVERNANCE & FINANCE

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](#)

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 [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.

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](#)

[Back to Top](#)

CLINICAL

It's American Heart Month

These resources may help health care providers looking to boost their knowledge and skills related to cardiovascular care: [NIH's The Heart Truth Professional Education Website](#) and [CDC's Hypertension Control Change Package for Clinicians](#). Talking to patients about heart health? These resources can help reinforce important messages: The HHS Office of Women's Health offers a [Heart Disease and Women Fact Sheet](#) and NIH offers tools and tips for [healthy eating](#) and [staying active](#).

American Heart Association's Target Blood Pressure Program and Measuring Accurate Blood Pressure in Health Centers

This webinar is hosted by HRSA, please join your colleagues on Tuesday, February 27, 2018 from 12:00-1:00 p.m. CST. For more information you can [Register here](#).

Save the Date: TACHC Clinical Conference April 26-28, 2018. Westin Stonebriar, Frisco Texas

This year's theme is **"Integrating Strategies to Meet Patient Needs."** Conference topics and format will showcase various aspects of integration of services, edification of systems that support improved patient care,

and incite community health centers to look beyond the medical, dental and behavioral health office into the community and the environment that affects their patient's care. For more information contact Verne LaGrega, Interim Director of Clinical Affairs vlagrega@tachc.org.

Using Evidence-Informed Interventions to Improve Health Outcomes among PLWH

Please join your colleagues on Wednesday, February 28, 2018 from 11:00 AM to 12:00 CST. The goal of this session is to introduce participants to a new HRSA/HAB initiative that will disseminate evidence-informed interventions for people living with HIV (PLWH). [Click Here to Register](#). The goal of the webcast is for participants to better understand evidence-informed interventions for PLWH in key focus areas, become familiar with the HRSA/HAB Evidence-informed Interventions (E2i) initiative and learn about the work of the E2i Coordinating Center for Technical Assistance (CCTA) [Please send any questions to this email](#).

Workforce Grand Rounds Webinar Series: Successful Models and Examples of Inter-Professional Oral Health and Primary Care Training Programs

Please join the Bureau of Health Workforce (BHW) on Monday, February 26, 2018 1:00 PM - 2:30 PM CST webcast that will highlight efforts to combat health disparities through the integration of primary care and oral health training. BHW programs provide financial support to institutions and individuals to enhance training programs and support practice in underserved communities. [Click Here to Register](#).

Beyond the Walls: Effectively Utilizing Community Health Workers and Clinical Home Visitors as Part of the Team

This webinar is hosted by Community Health Center, Inc., a HRSA-funded NCA, join your colleagues on Thursday, March 1, 2018 from 2:00-3:00 p.m. CST. For more information you can [Register here](#).

Caring for Patients with Pain is a Team Sport

Hosted by Community Health Center, Inc., a HRSA-funded NCA, please join your colleagues on Thursday, March 8, 2018 from 2:00-3:00 p.m. CST. For more information you can [Register here](#).

Save the Date: National Patient Safety Week Celebration

HRSA is celebrating National Patient Safety Week on Tuesday, March 13. This year's theme is "United in Mission to Ensure Patient Safety." Partners, including HRSA's Bureau of Health Workforce, Bureau of Primary Health Care, Federal Office of Rural Health Policy, HIV/AIDS Bureau, and Maternal and Child Health Bureau, as well as the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, the Food and Drug Administration, and the Indian Health Service, will participate in a [live-streamed panel discussion](#) from 12:30-2:00 p.m. CST. In-person and remote participants will be able to ask questions. This is an exciting opportunity to discuss how HRSA and HHS are addressing patient safety in the ambulatory care setting.

CDC Emergency Partners- Emergency Communication and Limited English Proficiency

Effective communication during an emergency can sometimes mean the difference between life and death. This is true whether communicating with those whose primary language is English or with people who have [limited English proficiency](#). People who are limited English proficient (LEP) are those who "do not speak English as their primary language and who have a limited ability to read, speak, write, or understand English." For more information on how to carry out these recommendations and where to find tools to help take action, see [Tips and Tools for Reaching Limited English Proficient Communities in Emergency Preparedness, Response, and Recovery](#).

The Centering Healthcare Institute (CHI) Implementation Grant

CHI launched a plan to expand access to the Centering model of group health care in the communities where group care can have the greatest impact. With this expansion, CHI developed a program offering technical assistance and implementation services to 130 eligible sites—primarily in health centers—addressing the financial barrier to those in resource-limited communities. CHI will award these grants in several waves over 2018-2019. Applications for the second and final wave of 2018 grants are due March 15. [Click Here to Learn More and to Apply](#).

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](#).

[Back to Top](#)

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? [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? [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](#).