



TACHC
Texas Association of Community Health Centers

WEEKLY WRAP-UP

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NEWS

Getting TACHC's Message Out and Telling Our Stories

With the status of future Medicaid funding for Community health centers uncertain, and the American Health Care Act moving through Congress, we are working to maintain adequate federal Medicaid funding to care for patients in Texas. As we communicate with legislators at the state and federal level, nothing resonates more than telling stories, and with your help, that's what we at TACHC are doing. This past week, the El Paso Times ran TACHC Executive Director José Camacho's editorial piece, which included a story submitted by El Paso's Project Vida Health Center.

[Read the article here.](#) And the same weekend, the Herald Banner (Greenville) ran the article—in this case featuring a story about Coco Green, who was cared for at the Greenville Community Health Center (*pictured at right*). [Read the article here.](#) Thanks to TACHC members, we're getting our story told!



Medicaid Restructuring Under the American Health Care Act and Nonelderly Adults with Disabilities

This informative article from Kaiser Family Foundation describes Medicaid's role for nearly 7 million nonelderly adults with disabilities living in the community to help inform the debate about the American Health Care Act's proposals to end enhanced federal funding under the ACA and reduce federal Medicaid funding under a per capita cap. [Read the article.](#)

Welcome Ana Sierra!

Please welcome new TACHC staff member Ana Sierra! Ana is a Quality and Evaluation Program Manager, and will be developing an evaluation program for clinical technical assistance programs. Originally from Honduras, Ana joins TACHC after working for El Centro de Corazón in Houston, where she was a senior program manager. Her training and experience is in epidemiology, quality management, program development, process improvement, mixed-methods research and education. Ana's passion is to support the provision of quality healthcare for underserved communities.



Registration Now Open for the 2017 National Latino HIV and Hepatitis C Conference

Registration is now open for the [2017 National Latino HIV and Hepatitis C Conference](#) to be held **May 22 – 24** on beautiful South Padre Island, Texas. Your local host Valley AIDS Council and its Westbrook Clinics, are honored to be partnering with South Central AIDS Education Training Center, Denver Prevention Training Center, Doctors Hospital at Renaissance, HIV Connection among others on this ground-breaking event.

We Want to Tell Your Story—Request for Anecdotes

Staff at TACHC are hard at work preparing for the legislative session, and we want to tell your story! 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!

UPCOMING EVENTS

Complimentary Employment Law Briefings Set for Corpus Christi, McAllen

Ms. Lara C. de Leon has extended the personal invitation to our TACHC membership for two briefings on matters of FMLA/ ADA issues, minimizing employer risk in wrongful termination claims, and the impact of the recent election regarding employment law. Members may recall Ms. de Leon as TACHC's CPI presenter from November 2016. She will be presenting at both briefings in April and there is no cost for attending either event. The briefings will take place in Corpus Christi on April 5, and McAllen on April 6. [Registration & details](#)

[here](#). Questions? Contact Terri Nugent at (210) 277-3625 or terri.nugent@ogletree.com



TACHC Clinical Conference – Putting the "U" in Value

April 20-22, 2017

Sheraton Georgetown Texas Hotel & Conference Center
1101 Woodlawn Avenue, Georgetown, TX 78628

TACHC's Clinical Conference April 20-22 in Georgetown (Austin area)

TACHC's Clinical Conference will be held April 20-22, 2017 at the Sheraton Georgetown Texas Hotel & Conference Center in Georgetown, TX. This annual conference which is open to all clinical staff provides a mix of innovative concepts along with practical skills-based trainings. This year's theme is "Putting the 'U' in Value." We will be discussing the value of staff and treating them as your most important resource, the value that health centers bring towards patients and their communities, and the current move towards value-based care. Registration is now open. For more information or to register, [please click here](#).

GROUP PURCHASING

Henry Schein's Healthy Lifestyles Healthy Communities Grant

The online invitation for applications for the Healthy Lifestyles Healthy Communities 2017 Program partners is now live. All CHCs that are NACHC members have received the invitation for grant applications direct from NACHC on January 30, 2017. The process is designed to help the Henry Schein Cares Teams determine which CHC partners will be awarded a grant of \$5,000 plus \$5,000 in medical/dental supplies to support the screening program on the day of the health screening event.

The application for submitting a request can be found [HERE](#). The deadline for applications is April 7, 2017. For more questions, please contact [Andrea Hight](#) or [Lynn Ford](#).

Cardinal Health's Annual Conference

Cardinal Health hosts a national conference for their customers: Cardinal Health's RBC. The RBC this year is in San Antonio, TX from July 26-29. Cardinal wants to do something extra special for the TACHC members, so they have made July 27 a special TACHC day. You are welcome to attend Thursday, July 27, fully free/no charge. [An invite/flyer about the conference and an agenda are available](#). TACHC members are welcome and encouraged to attend a joint TACHC/Cardinal presentation from 12:30-2:30 PM to talk more in depth of the services available to the TACHC members via Cardinal. Save the date!! Come visit the great city of San Antonio and get your pharmacy CE at the same time. If you are interested in attending the Cardinal RBC on July 27, please let [Lynn Ford](#) know.

POLICY

Bill of the Week: March 17, 2017

Senator Lucio of Brownsville filed [SCR 40](#), urging the United States Congress to preserve federal funding for community health centers and retain Medicaid and Children's Health Insurance Program protections for health centers. "An invaluable resource to the areas they serve, community health centers have contributed immeasurably to the health and well-being of millions of Texans, and it is necessary for the federal government to continue supporting these important efforts." Thank you for being a health center champion, Senator Lucio! Email [Mary Allen](#) with any questions.

Join Us for a Live Webcast Update on Federal Issues in Preparation for the NACHC Policy & Issues Forum!

Join José Camacho, Mary Allen, and Courtney Weaver for a live "fireside chat" style webcast update on federal issues in preparation for the NACHC P&I. This one hour webcast will cover emerging federal issues, including the latest on the American Health Care Act and its impact on health centers. We will devote a substantial amount of time to Q&A, so please feel free to send any current questions on federal or state policy and advocacy in advance to Courtney at cweaver@tachc.org. [Register here!](#)

Updates for the NACHC 2017 Policy & Issues Forum

- The NACHC Policy & Issues Forum will be held March 29-April 1, 2017 in Washington, D.C. at the Marriott Wardman Park hotel. [Click here for more information](#)
- The State Delegation dinner has been scheduled from 5:45 - 8:00 PM on Wednesday, March 29 in room Washington 4.
- We need to know which state legislators have sent funding cliff letters to Congress. If you know your state Representative or Senator sent a letter, please forward a copy to mallen@tachc.org. Additionally, many centers still have not filled out feedback forms from the state P&I. A link to the [survey can be found here](#).

Policy & Advocacy Update Webinar on March 21

NACHC will be hosting a webinar on March 21 at 2:30 PM (CST) designed to help advocates prepare for P&I, understand this year's policy agenda/messaging and generally ensure a successful conference. This is NACHC's monthly Policy/Advocacy webinar with custom direction for those attending P&I. [Register here](#).

Veterans Interest Group Meeting at NACHC P & I Forum

A "Veterans Interest Group" meeting for March 3. The [attached flyer](#) provides information about the Interest Group meeting.



Act Now: Bilirakis-Green House Letter Now Circulating

Similarly to 2015, Reps. Gus Bilirakis (FL) and our own Gene Green of Houston are taking the lead on supporting health center funding. A "dear colleague letter" is now circulating, and the deadline to sign on is **March 31**. With that deadline fast approaching we are asking that you **ACT NOW** by emailing, tweeting, posting or calling your Representative(s) to ask them to support your Health Center by co-signing the Bilirakis-Green Health Center Letter. Last year, Health Center Advocates confirmed 308 co-signers in the House and 62 co-signers in the Senate – an exceptional show of bi-partisan support for Health Centers. **This year our goal is to increase letter co-signers to 315 in the House and 65 in the Senate.** The number of letter co-signers will have a direct impact on our success in securing Program funding for fiscal year 2018 – we are counting on YOU, our advocates to help us reach our goal!

Healthy Texas Women Contract Renewal Notice

On March 7, HHSC sent out contract renewal packets for the upcoming State Fiscal Years (September 1, 2017 – August 31, 2018 & September 1, 2018 – August 31, 2019). Contracts went out early this year because HHSC will be updating its contracting system over the summer and their software will not be working during that time. All contracts must be fully executed by June 1 in order to ensure timely payments beginning September 1, 2017. Please review, complete the related documents, and return the documents to HHSC as soon as possible. The contract amendment is in the final stages of completion and will be sent soon for signature. The anticipated contract not-to-exceed amount is based on your center's last executed contract on file. Please be advised that

funding for your center's contract is subject to the appropriation of funds. Upon official notification of the 2018-2019 final legislative appropriations, HHSC, in its sole discretion, may adjust the contract award accordingly. If you have any questions or have concerns regarding the requested return date of contract documents, please contact Healthy Texas Women Program at HTWContracts@hhsc.state.tx.us or Mary Allen at TACHC at mallen@tachc.org.

GOVERNANCE & FINANCE

H-1B Premium Processing Suspension

US Citizenship and Immigration Services has announced that beginning on **April 3**, it will suspend for up to six months premium processing on all H-1B petitions. In the past we understand it has taken 4-6 months to process an H-1B petition without premium status. Therefore, prospective employers of J-1 physicians are encouraged to immediately file, if possible, their H-1B petitions to take advantage of premium processing, which as noted above, will terminate on April 3, 2017.

Please let [Anita Mitchell](#) at TACHC know if you currently employ individuals with J-1 or H-1B visas (or plan to) and therefore need more information.

Archived SO/GI Training to help Meet New UDS Data Tables 3A and 3B

The **2016 UDS guidance** for health center reporting metrics now calls for screening and identifying LGBT patient populations within health centers. The National LGBT health Education Center, a HRSA National Cooperative Agreement grantee, has a few **archived webinars** you can view to help ensure your health center staff responsible for collecting Sexual Orientation/Gender Identity (SO/GI) data are doing so accurately. They also have a publication on collecting SO/GI that is available for **download**.

If further training is requested, TACHC will host a webinar for Texas health centers targeted for April 2017. Please contact [Sonia Lara](#) by **TODAY** March 17 if you would like SO/GI data collection training, targeting the appropriate health center staff.

CLINICAL

Emergency Partners and Zika Updates

CDC's Emergency Partners newsletter provides updates, resources, and useful tips to subscribers interested in emergency preparedness and CDC's emergency responses. **Subscribe today**. Visit **CDC's Zika Website** for the most current updates and information about Zika virus.

FDA and EPA Advice About Eating Fish

The FDA and EPA recently finalized their guide. The updated advice makes it easy for families to include fish in their diets. For more information please see ***Eating Fish: What Pregnant Women & Parents Should Know***.

U.S. Preventive Services Task Force Recommendation on Gynecologic Screenings

The U.S. Preventive Services Task Force (USPSTF) released a final **recommendation statement on screening for gynecologic conditions with pelvic examination**. USPSTF concluded that more research is needed to recommend for or against performing pelvic examinations in adult women without any signs or symptoms.

March is Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month

March is Colorectal Cancer Awareness month, and you're cordially invited to a presentation hosted by MD Anderson on Tuesday March 14, 2017 at 10:00 AM on the importance of reaching 80% screened rate by 2018! This is an opportunity for you and your organization to learn valuable information about the importance of screening/prevention, the state of CRC screening in Texas, how to address barriers in getting people screened and the 80 by 2018 campaign. To Participate: **[RSVP Here!](#)**

Here are the tools and materials that have been made available as part of building CRC awareness this month:

- **[CDC Learning Opportunity: Screening for Colorectal Cancer: Optimizing Quality \(CME\)](#)**
This continuing education activity provides guidance and tools for clinicians on the optimal ways to

implement screening for colorectal cancer to help ensure that patients receive maximum benefit. There are two versions of this course: one for [primary care providers](#) and one for [clinicians who perform colonoscopy](#). [Continuing education](#) is available for both versions.

- [CDC's Screen for Life campaign](#) has new and updated materials for you to use in March and throughout the year. You can find them on the new [Resource Toolkit](#) for quick one-stop shopping. Many thanks to our colleagues at CDC for their work on these resources!
- [Colorectal Cancer Webinar Series for HCPs: March 14 & March 22](#)
- [Colorectal Cancer Facts and Figures](#)

[Henry Schein's Healthy Lifestyles Healthy Communities Grant \(See Above\)](#)

RECRUITMENT & RETENTION

TACHC Upcoming Recruiting Events:

- A.T. Still University Dental Recruitment Fair – St. Louis, MO (3/28/17 – 3/31/17)
- PracticeMATCH – Dallas, TX (3/29/17 – 3/30/17)

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.

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 · United States

This email was sent to aalvarez@tachc.org. To stop receiving emails, [click here](#).