



# TACHC

Texas Association of Community Health Centers

## WEEKLY WRAP-UP

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### IN THIS ISSUE

#### NEWS

Texas Medicaid Health Plans Taking Major Step to Make Medicaid Simpler  
Registration Open for the 2017 National Latino HIV and Hepatitis C Conference  
We Want to Tell Your Story—Request for Anecdotes

#### UPCOMING EVENTS

TACHC's Clinical Conference April 20-22 in Georgetown (Austin area)  
PCMH Bootcamp Registration is Now Open  
Texas Health and Housing Conference  
TACHC Webinar: Collecting Sexual Orientation/Gender Identity Data from Health Center Patients  
Complimentary Employment Law Briefings Set for Corpus Christi, McAllen

#### GROUP PURCHASING

Mosquito Repellant Available via AmeriCares  
Henry Schein's Healthy Lifestyles Healthy Communities Grant  
St. David's Foundation Announces Opportunity Grant

#### POLICY

Act Now: Bilirakis-Green House Letter Now Circulating  
Healthy Texas Women Contract Renewal Notice

#### GOVERNANCE & FINANCE

H-1B Premium Processing Suspension  
Nurse Triage Line: Wave 1 Live and Wave 2 Coming Soon!

#### CLINICAL

Clinician Consultation Center Substance Use Warmline  
PCSS-MAT Training: Monthly No Cost Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) Training  
HIV Prevention Capacity Services for Your Health Center  
Preventing Skin Cancer

#### NEWS

##### **Texas Medicaid Health Plans Taking Major Step to Make Medicaid Simpler**

The Texas Association of Health Plans (TAHP) in collaboration with the Texas Medical Association (TMA) announced a joint effort to reduce red tape and administrative burdens for physicians and health care providers seeking to participate in the Texas Medicaid program. TAHP and TMA have selected Aperture, LLC, for a statewide Credentialing Verification Organization (CVO) contract used by all 20 Medicaid health plans in Texas to streamline the provider credentialing process. [Read more here.](#)

##### **Registration 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**



## **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. For more information, agenda, or to register, [please click here](#).

**PCMH Bootcamp • April 19, 2017**

**REGISTER NOW!**

### **PCMH Bootcamp Registration is Now Open**

The [TACHC PCMH Bootcamp 1](#) will be held on April 19, 2017 at the Sheraton Georgetown Texas Hotel & Conference Center, 1101 Woodlawn Avenue, Georgetown, TX 78628. During this session, participants will receive a PCMH 2017 overview, understand the purpose of team huddles and apply the structure and strategy of team huddles, identify PCMH development issues and strategies at peer health centers, apply learned concepts, identify strategies for furthering PCMH development at the health center and identify immediate next steps and responsibilities amongst the team. Additionally, teams will learn to optimize their PCMH Team and have breakout Sessions for Peer Documentation Review. TACHC HCCN members are eligible for travel reimbursement for one Onsite Group Learning Session (up to \$150 each for up to 4 team members for travel and up to \$150 each for up to 4 team members for lodging).

The PCMH Bootcamp will be held the day before the [TACHC Clinical Conference](#). If you want to attend both,

then you will need to make a separate registrations.

### **Texas Health and Housing Conference**

The Corporation for Supportive Housing or CSH (a HRSA National Cooperative Agreement grantee) and the Texas Homeless Network (THN) are holding their [3rd Annual Texas Health and Housing Conference](#) on May 1-3, 2017 at the Omni Hotel Southpark in Austin, Texas. The conference will bring together key stakeholders to move forward on the Biggest Partnerships between health and housing systems. This is a great opportunity for health centers to meet and greet with your fellow Texans who work in the housing and health care world and learn what their priorities are and how you can partner with them for the BIGGEST impact.

### **TACHC Webinar: Collecting Sexual Orientation/Gender Identity Data from Health Center Patients**

Join TACHC on Thursday, April 27, 2017 from 11:00 AM – 12:30 PM CST. Experts from the National LGBT Health Education Center, a HRSA National Cooperative Agreement grantee, will cover a quick review of LGBT health disparities, concepts and terms; how to provide a welcoming environment; tools and strategies for training front-line staff, both clinical and non-clinical; and provide recommendations for collecting SO/GI data in EHR records. To register, visit the [TACHC Events Page](#).

### **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 of Ogletree Deakins at (210) 277-3625 or [terri.nugent@ogletree.com](mailto:terri.nugent@ogletree.com)

## **GROUP PURCHASING**

### **Mosquito Repellant Available via AmeriCares**

For most areas of Texas, summer is already here, and that means Zika prevention should be in full swing. AmeriCares continues to be generous with mosquito repellant available for donation for uninsured patients.

If your center would like to take advantage of this donation, please email [Lynn Ford](#).

### **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 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 information, please contact [Andrea Hight](#) or [Lynn Ford](#).

### **St. David's Foundation Announces Opportunity Grant**

St. David's Foundation has launched Opportunity Grants to provide financial support for new approaches to improving community health. We know that many factors outside of the healthcare system affect how healthy we are, and we seek proposals that include innovative, transformative ideas for making Central Texas the healthiest community in the world. The Foundation defines health broadly, and will consider proposals that address any aspect of improving physical or mental health and wellness, particularly among individuals facing health disparities in our community. Opportunity Grants are intended to support short-term projects that have the potential to lead to long-term, transformative impact, and may include (though not limited to) research, planning, or testing of new models. Opportunity Grants are *not* intended to support ongoing operations or scaling up of existing programs. [Details and application here](#).

## **POLICY**



## CALL TO ACTION

### **Act NOW: Bilirakis-Green House Letter Now Circulating**

Similarly to 2015 and 2016, 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 TODAY! 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](mailto:HTWContracts@hhsc.state.tx.us) or Mary Allen at TACHC at [mallen@tachc.org](mailto: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.

### **Nurse Triage Line: Wave 1 Live and Wave 2 Coming Soon!**

The first wave of centers to take advantage of the nurse advice line went live earlier this month. If you are interested in being a part of wave 2, set to launch June 1, please email [Nancy Gilliam](#) or [Corinne Medina](#) with questions or to request more information.

## **CLINICAL**

### **Clinician Consultation Center Substance Use Warmline**

The University of California, San Francisco's Clinician Consultation Center provides Substance Use Warmline consultation to health center providers. This is a free, real-time clinician-to-clinician telephone consultation, addressing the care and treatment of substance abuse, chronic pain, and behavioral health. Access the Warmline toll-free at: 1-855-300-3595 (Monday-Friday, 9:00 AM – 5:00 PM CST). [Click here for more information.](#)

### **PCSS-MAT Training: Monthly No Cost Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) Training**

The Providers' Clinical Support System (PCSS) offers free waiver training to prescribe medication for opioid use disorder (OUD) treatment for primary care providers. Medication-assisted treatment (MAT) is an 8-hour training required to obtain a Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) Drug Addiction Treatment Act (DATA) waiver to prescribe buprenorphine, one of three medications approved by the FDA for the treatment of OUD. [Find out more here.](#)

### **HIV Prevention Capacity Services for Your Health Center**

NACHC has partnered with the Denver Prevention Training Center (PTC) to offer health centers and PCAs free HIV prevention capacity building services. Denver PTC can provide free consultation, training, technical assistance, and resources to help support or enhance your health center's current HIV care coordination efforts. If you are interested in learning more about this free opportunity, please contact [abarrington@nachc.org](mailto:abarrington@nachc.org) or visit [PTC's website](#).

### **Preventing Skin Cancer**

[Farmworker Justice](#) has created fact sheets, available in [English](#) and [Spanish](#), that provide basic information about preventing skin cancer for agricultural workers. Please feel free to share these resources with patients or on your center's social media.

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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!](#)

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