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Would You Like us to Help You Recruit?

NEWS

TACHC Testifies at Children's Medicaid/Chip Eligibility Renewal and Re-certification Hearing- HB 3151

On April 10, TACHC's Outreach & Enrollment Project Manager **RexAnn Shotwell**, along with **Regina Rogoff**, CEO of People's Community Clinic (*pictured at right*) testified at the Capitol at a House Human Services committee hearing concerning **HB 3151** by Representative Sheffield of Gatesville. HB 3151 would coordinate eligibility renewal and re-certification for certain children in Medicaid and CHIP. The bill streamlines re-enrollment for families with multiple children enrolled in Medicaid and/or CHIP, allowing parents to re-enroll all children in a household on the same date every year. Additionally, the legislation would reduce the number of periodic income checks families with multiple children are required to submit. The bill directs HHSC to submit a waiver application to CMS to allow flexibility to modify eligibility periods. To view the video of the testimony, [please click here](#). (Once the video is running, advance it to 2:30 to go directly to HB 3151). [To view a chart showing the current certification periods for children, click here](#). Contact [Mary Allen](#) with questions or for more information.



Two TACHC Centers Make Health Center Advocacy Network's 50 Best of #valueCHCs List

Two TACHC community health centers made the Health Center Advocacy Network's 50 Best of #valueCHCs list: Centro San Vicente and Lone Star Family Health Center. [View their social media posts here!](#) The hashtag was launched by the Health Center Advocacy Network in early March to encourage advocates to share the value of community health centers with their legislators online. After being in use just over a month, the hashtag produced nearly 6 million impressions on Twitter. Read more about the [advocates who influenced the success](#) on the [HCAAdvocacy Blog](#).

U.S. Rep. Henry Cuellar Mentions FQHCs in Congressional Report

U.S. Rep. Henry Cuellar (D-TX-28) mentioned in his Congressional Report that he recently met with members of several community health centers throughout his district to discuss Federally Qualified Health Centers, the people they serve, and potential concerns in legislation. Pictured at right are: **Elmo Lopez, Jr.**, CEO Gateway CHC, **Jerry Sanchez**, Board member Gateway CHC, and Congressman Cuellar. The meeting took place during the recent NACHC Policy and Issues Forum.



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](#).

PrEP Summit Set for April 25

The HRSA Dallas Office of Regional Operations will host The HRSA Region VI Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP), Primary Care and Community Center Summit on April 25, from 9:00 AM – 1:30 PM CST at The Hilton Anatole Hotel on 2201 N. Stemmons Frwy, Dallas, TX 75207. For more information, contact CAPT. Hernan Reyes, M.D. via email athreyes@hrsa.gov or phone at (214) 767-6502. The meeting is intended for North Texas CHCs. [Click here for printable flyer](#). [Click here for agenda](#).

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, click here](#).

The Wait is Over! A Customer Service Training is Coming to a Region Near You

TACHC has received multiple requests from you, Texas Health Centers, for a Customer Service Training. Starting mid-May, our planned speaker, an expert in the Disney service model, will lead seven all-day customer service trainings, held in various cities across Texas. Tentative locations currently include: San Antonio, Laredo, Lubbock, El Paso, Tyler, Dallas and Houston. Additional details, including dates, agenda and registration, will soon be available on the TACHC Events Page, so keep your eyes peeled! Please reach out to [Corinne Medina](#) if you have any questions.

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.

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

POLICY

Bill of the Week: House Committee Substitute for Senate Bill 1 (State Budget Update)

Last Thursday, the Texas House passed its state budget for 2018/2019. As part of its \$218 billion proposal, the House recommends using \$2.5 billion from the Economic Stabilization Fund (or Rainy Day Fund). You can find the budget documents for both chambers [here](#), and a full list of House adopted, withdrawn, and tabled amendments [here](#).

The House, unlike the Senate, recognized and approved in House Bill 2 paying for \$2.6 billion (in state and federal funds) in Medicaid bills through August 2017, along with other supplemental changes needed for the current budget cycle to ensure that low-income Texans have health care. However, the Senate provides more money for the Medicaid program than the House does. Medicaid, among other things, covers 50 percent of all baby deliveries in Texas. Representative Walle successfully included an amendment that will help protect Medicaid against budget cuts by requiring HHSC to pursue flexibility from the federal government without changing eligibility, benefits, services, or otherwise negatively impacting access to care.

Both the House and Senate propose essentially level funding for the state's women's health programs. However, the Senate budget proposes that \$200 million of this funding come from the state applying for a Medicaid 1115 Family Planning Demonstration Waiver to help fund the Healthy Texas Women (HTW) program. The House also passed a number of amendments impacting women's healthcare, though not all will make it to the final version of the budget.

Funding for the Physician Education Loan Repayment Program (PELRP) in the House bill remains the same as last biennium, at \$33.8M for 2018-19. The Senate bill decreases funding from \$33.8M over the biennium to \$25.35M (or \$12,675,000/year). The next step will be conference committee, where House and Senate members will work out the differences between the two versions of the budget. For questions about the state budget, email [Mary Allen](#).

Telecommunications Update from the State Medicaid Director

TACHC sent HHSC a letter in December requesting clarification on Telecommunications policy related to FQHCs. This week the State Medicaid Director responded to our request. According to the Commission, FQHCs CANNOT bill to present patients OR serve as the distant site provider for any patients, including their own. HHSC has considered adding a facility fee for FQHCs acting as the patient site presenter, but that has not yet been confirmed. FQHCs CAN bill PPS for a contracted physician or midlevel at a distant site seeing patients presented at the FQHC so long as [affiliate rules](#) are met. TACHC will be following up with the Commission and will share any additional correspondence as we receive it. For any immediate questions, contact [Mary Allen](#).

GOVERNANCE & FINANCE

Funding Opportunity

Becton Dickinson is providing awards to community health centers with innovative programs in medication therapy management. The initiative, implemented together with Direct Relief and NACHC, provides support for programs that will operate over a two year period to improve care to vulnerable populations. Four (4) awards of \$200,000 each will be awarded. Applications are due April 19, 2017, and applicants must be NACHC members. Questions can be submitted to usaprograms@directrelief.org, and more information can be found [here](#).

Upcoming CFO Network Meeting

Don't forget to register for the CFO Network Meeting on Tuesday, April 18 from 10:00 AM-2:00 PM!!! Let us know if you will attend in person or over the phone! For those attending in person, lunch will be provided. [Register here on the events page](#).

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 last 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

Texas Cardiovascular Disease and Stroke Partnership Celebrates Check Your Blood Pressure Week (May 1-6, 2017)!

Did you know hypertension affect 29.5 percent of Texans? Hypertension, also known as high blood pressure, is a significant risk factor for heart disease and stroke. This initiative encourages local health departments, community based organizations, health systems, pharmacists, and other organizations to promote hypertension awareness and lifestyle management to achieve blood pressure control. [Click Here to Request Information and Materials](#) or contact Brandy.Lee@dshs.state.tx.us.

Sign Up Now for The Texas Immunization Partnership Coalition Capacity Building 3-Part Webinar Series

This webinar series in partnership with the Department of State Health Services- Immunization Unit will provide technical assistance and training to existing and new immunization coalitions in an effort to build and sustain immunization efforts throughout Texas. The 3-part series topics are Promoting Immunization Requirements & Addressing Parents' Concerns (April 26), Strategies for Increasing Childhood Vaccination Coverage Rates in Texas (May 10) and Strategies for Increasing Adult Vaccination Coverage Rates in Texas (May 24). [Click Here for More Information or to Register](#).

CDC Call for Cases: Mumps Cases Reporting Travel to South Padre Island -- Texas, 2017

The Texas Department of State Health Services, along with local and regional health departments, is investigating an outbreak of mumps among individuals reporting travel to South Padre Island in South Texas between March 8 and March 22, 2017. A total of three confirmed and six suspect cases have been identified among residents of two states including Texas who reported visiting South Padre Island between March 11 and March 19, 2017. Symptom onset ranges from March 30 until April 5, 2017 with symptoms including headache, low-grade fever, orchitis, and parotitis. Investigation into these cases is ongoing and contact tracing for potentially exposed individuals is underway. **Healthcare providers are asked to consider mumps** as a diagnosis for any persons who report travel to South Padre Island in the potential exposure period and who present with symptoms consistent with mumps virus infection. Public health jurisdictions investigating potentially associated cases of mumps with case-patients reporting travel in the exposure window are asked to contact the Texas Department of State Health Services during regular business hours at 512-776-7676 or after hours at 512-221-6852.

Zika Virus: CDC Vitalsigns Report and Map

The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) have issued a [new Vitalsigns report on Zika virus](#). Watch highlights in a [quick video](#). The CDC also created a new [interactive map](#) of areas with Zika risk lets you search for location-specific Zika info

Substance Abuse Webinar Recordings Available

The Great Lakes Addiction Technology Transfer Center Network, in partnership with the Health and Human Services Region 5 Offices of SAMHSA and HRSA, offered webinars on substance use and mental health disorders and integrating SBIRT (screening, brief intervention and referral to treatment) into primary care. [View the webinar recordings \(scroll down to view\)](#).

Five Strategies for Encouraging Seafood Consumption: What Health Professionals Need to Know

The Department of Health and Human Services' Office of Disease Prevention and Health Promotion wants to help health care providers encourage healthier food choices. There is confusion among many Americans, particularly women who are pregnant or breastfeeding and parents and caregivers of young children, regarding seafood consumption. [Find advice and resources to support conversations with patients](#).

RECRUITMENT & RETENTION

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](#).