



TACHC
Texas Association of Community Health Centers

WEEKLY WRAP-UP

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NEWS



Your Turn: Take Action on HB 3151 - Children's Medicaid/CHIP Eligibility Renewal and Re-Certification

The current system of enrolling children for healthcare in Medicaid and CHIP puts continuity of care for Texas' most vulnerable children at risk. It's very confusing and has created non-stop administrative work for the state, providers and families. With so much paperwork changing hands several times a year for enrollment and income verification, the likelihood of a child getting kicked off coverage is extremely high.

HB 3151 (Representative Sheffield of Gatesville) would coordinate eligibility renewal and re-certification for certain children in Medicaid and CHIP. The bill seeks to streamline 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. As HB 3151 moves towards a vote in the Texas House, we need a united voice to ensure its passage. [Take action now by clicking the link at the end of this video](#) to ask your State Representative and State Senator to support HB 3151. Aligning the eligibility dates for families with multiple children will enable parents to enroll all of their children into Medicaid and/or CHIP on one date annually, improving continuity of care for Texas' children. It only takes one click to make your voice heard.

The important message to our legislators is that ***Continuity of Care Improves Quality; Quality Lowers Cost.***



Attendees practice stretching during the SPIRITED Primary Care: A Guide to Cultivating Resilience

Attendees Put the "U" in Value at TACHC Clinical Conference

About 54 community health center medical, dental, behavioral health and quality representatives from across Texas attended the TACHC Clinical Conference— Putting the "U" in Value in Georgetown. The conference, which began on April 20, runs through Saturday, April 22. The conference did an excellent job of providing a mix of innovative concepts along with practical skills-based training, focusing on: 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 shift from volume to value.

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](mailto:BromHoban) or [Corinne Medina](mailto:CorinneMedina) with your best stories!

UPCOMING EVENTS

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.](#)

Excellent Customer Service in the Healthcare Setting: Coming to a City Near You!

TACHC has received multiple requests from you, Texas Health Centers, for a Customer Service Training. Starting in 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. At the end of the day we are all here to help our patients. To best serve them, we must consider and understand their experience. We will explore what it means to

deliver excellent customer service in a healthcare setting and hopefully have some fun along the way. Content is aimed at front line staff, though all staff is welcome and encouraged to attend. Join us in one of the following cities: San Antonio, Laredo, Lubbock, El Paso, Tyler, Dallas and Houston. Please visit the [TACHC Events Page](#) to register. For ease of navigation, type in 'customer service training' in the search bar below the calendars to get a list of all cities and addresses. Some locations have limited availability, so sign up ASAP! We'll see you there.

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

340B FQHC Late Registration

The 340B Program will be accepting Health Center registrations beyond the standard two-week registration period (April 1-15). Health centers will be able to register a site that has been verified as implemented and the site status is reflected as "active" in EHBs Form 5B **through June 9**, after which the system will close to prepare for the July 1 start. A similar quarterly registration timeframe will be employed each quarter.

From the close of the two-week standard registration period through the end of the extended quarterly registration period, once a site is "active" in EHBs, the health center will need to contact the 340B call center to request a "one-time registration link." Health centers will be asked to provide the following information to the 340B call center staff when requesting the link:

- Health center name
- Site/clinic name
- Site IDs for all sites
- HRSA/BPHC grant number
- Contact name and email address
- Authorizing official name and email address

The authorizing official (AO) will receive an email message with the one-time registration link from the Office of Pharmacy Affairs. The AO is encouraged to read the email and follow the instructions carefully. Clicking on the link will take the AO directly to the 340B Program registration database and begin the registration process. The one-time link is valid immediately and can be used multiple times within 24 hours. It will expire if not used within 72 hours of being sent.

To reach the 340B call center that is operated by the 340B Prime Vendor Program, please contact: apexusanswers@340bpvp.com or 1-888-340-2787 (Monday-Friday, 9:00 AM.-6:00 PM. EDT).

POLICY

Bill of the Week: HB 3634

Representative Greg Bonnen of Galveston County (*pictured at right*) filed [HB 3634](#), which relates to the amendment of the Texas Health Care Transformation and Quality Improvement Program waiver. The bill calls for repeal of existing Texas laws that establish parameters for Texas' Medicaid 1115 waiver and replace that language with a directive for HHSC to seek an amendment to the current waiver that follows a list of 12 requirements. One requirement is to reverse changes to Medicaid eligibility that were part of the ACA, such as re-imposing the asset/resource limits, re-imposing "stair-step" income limits for children, and dismantling the current Medicaid-CHIP MAGI method.



Another requirement is to mandate a 6-month certification period for all CHIP & Medicaid enrollees. Currently,

pregnant women are certified until 60 days postpartum and newborns are guaranteed a full year of coverage at birth. The bill would also require all Medicaid enrollees to pay copayments and would allow patients to be fined for missing appointments. The bill also calls for a block grant Medicaid program, which would drastically cut federal funds for the state. This is the American Health Care Act brought to Texas. Cam Kleibrink testified on the bill and gave the committee several suggestions for ways to improve the language and also expressed concerns about the impact this bill would have on our vulnerable patients. Thank you for being a great advocate, Cam! For questions about the bill, email [Mary Allen](#).

GOVERNANCE & FINANCE

Proper Documentation and Coding Essential

Proper documentation and coding has always been important in terms of compliance risks at our centers, reimbursements we receive for the services we provide to our patients, regular audit work, and formal provider training. However, as FQHCs make the move towards value based care and a reimbursement system that fundamentally relies on patient outcomes, it is in our FQHCs best interest to move towards more accurate coding and billing. FQHCs have traditionally applied more generic codes to document the services they provide to their patients as a result of the Prospective Payment System (PPS). The PPS is designed to reflect the costs for all of the services associated with a primary care visit. Because FQHCs are currently reimbursed based on specific FQHC Healthcare Common Procedure Coding System (HCPCS) codes to receive PPS reimbursement, there has been an underlying sense that “coding doesn’t matter” in terms of level of specificity. Improving coding and billing practices in FQHCs will be vital going forward in determining the rates that we are reimbursed for the services we provide, and bill, to CMS and the Managed Care Plans. Improving coding specificity will be vital to FQHCs for capturing the data needed to demonstrate what screenings and services were provided to patients during a visit, and to ensure our reimbursement rates continue to reflect the level of care we provide to our patients. For more information on billing & coding, please contact [Britt Kushner](#).

Meet HRSA’s Afterhours Requirement, Save Money and Increase Continuity of Care for Your Patients

The nurse advice line, TACHC’s newest service offered through group purchasing, went live in early March. This answering service allows patients to speak to registered nurses that will follow triage protocols and be directed to appropriate care options. Reduce the number of patients being unnecessarily sent to the ER when they cannot reach your center and meet HRSA’s afterhours requirement with ease. Cost is based on patient counts, not call volume. There are no additional fees for translation services and the number of calls is unlimited. Unlike other advice lines, you can *encourage* your patients to utilize this service when your center doors are closed and ultimately provide more continuity of care.

CLINICAL

The Joint Commission (TJC) 2017 Ambulatory Care Standards Consolidation Project

TJC periodically evaluates its standards in terms of their relevance, the need to address contemporary issues, and to address feedback from customers. The Joint Commission is currently involved in the next phase of the Element of Performance (EP) review process which is designed to consolidate standards and EPs that address similar concepts. The Joint Commission is interested in your thoughts about the proposed consolidations.

Please respond by May 1 and feel free to **share this survey with others in your organization who may wish to comment on specific chapters.** [Click Here To Provide Feedback to The Joint Commission](#)

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.

What To Do When Diabetes Affects Your Mood

This webinar is hosted by the Migrant Clinicians Network, and takes place Friday, May 5, 1:00-2:00 PM (Español) and Wednesday, May 10, 1:00-2:00 PM (English)

[Register Here](#)

5th Annual Texas Primary Care and Health Home Summit May 11-12, 2017 Sheraton Gunter Hotel San Antonio, TX

This year marks the 10th anniversary of the creation and widespread endorsement of the Joint Principles of the Patient-Centered Medical Home. This new model of primary care emphasizes improved access to care; increased care coordination and care management; team-based care and rational use of technology as an adjunct to care improvement. Central to the model is meaningful engagement of patients and their families in their care. [Register now!](#) Or [Click here to view the agenda.](#)

Texas Oral Health Metric Summit – Save the Date

[The Texas Repository of Oral Health Data for Evaluation and Outcomes](#) (ROHDEO) Executive Committee would like to invite you to save the date for the upcoming Texas Oral Health Metrics Summit. It will be convened in Austin, TX at the JJ Pickle Commons Learning Center on June 28 & 29, 2017. Mark your calendars! More information will be shared when it becomes available.



2017 Million Hearts® Hypertension Control Challenge

Does your health center have exceptional rates of hypertension control? If so, you could be recognized as Million Hearts® Hypertension Control Champions! The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is announcing the 2017 Million Hearts® Hypertension Control Challenge to improve understanding of successful implementation strategies by motivating clinical practices to strengthen their hypertension control efforts. [See rules and eligibility requirements.](#)

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

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](#).

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