



# TACHC

Texas Association of Community Health Centers

WEEKLY WRAP-UP

Volume: 9 Issue: 18

May 5, 2017

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### NEWS

#### House Narrowly Passes GOP Health Care Bill

By the slimmest of margins, the House of Representatives passed the American Health Care Act Thursday afternoon, sending the measure to a skeptical Senate where it is almost certain to change shape. Republicans passed the bill by a vote of 217 to 213, just one vote over the 216 needed.

Going forward, the House measure faces great uncertainty in the Senate, where a handful of Republican senators immediately rejected it, signaling that they would start work on a new version of the bill virtually from scratch, the [New York Times](#) reported.

The National Association of Community Health Centers (NACHC) reacted with a statement urging senators to focus on a clear goal: to improve the nation's health care system so that care is more equitable, affordable, and accessible to every patient in this country who needs it as the debate moves to the U.S. Senate.

"The rollback of Medicaid mandated by this bill would jeopardize coverage for an estimated three million health center patients over the next several years. Longer-term, the bill's cap on the federal share of Medicaid coverage would inevitably force a reduction of benefits such as critical substance use disorder treatment at a time when the nation faces an unprecedented opioid crisis, as well as reductions in eligibility criteria, and cuts to provider payments." [READ NACHC's full statement here.](#)

### **TACHC Commends Will Hurd (R-Texas, 23rd) for AHCA Opposition Health Care Hero**

TACHC wishes to thank U.S. Representative Will Hurd (R-Texas, 23rd) for his opposition to the American Health Care Act AHCA, which narrowly passed in the House (217-213) on Thursday, May 4. Though his party carried the GOP health care plan, Hurd was one of 20 Republicans—and the only Texan Republican—who voted against it.



"Our patients in Congressman Will Hurd's district are fortunate to have a policymaker who thoughtfully examined what the AHCA proposed, and based on his knowledge of the district, voted for their best interests. Congressman Hurd became a health care hero on May 4, 2017," said José E. Camacho, Esq., TACHC Executive Director/General Counsel.

In a statement regarding his opposition, Hurd emphasized that actual access to quality, affordable care—not just health insurance—is what we need most. [Read Hurd's statement here](#)

### **HB 3151 - Children's Medicaid/CHIP Eligibility Renewal and Re-Certification Bill Vote Likely This Weekend**

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.

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 this link](#) 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.

### **Member Spotlight: Sherry Hill, Chief Executive Officer, AccelHealth**

Long before TACHC member Sherry Hill became Chief Executive Officer at AccelHealth, she was a probation officer, mental health case manager and social worker.

"I started off in juvenile probation in Lubbock and then spent 13 years in Austin in adult probation. I worked my way up from the bottom to assistant chief," said Hill. There were four assistant chiefs.



However, a big 50% layoff in the probation department had the positive effect of

starting Hill on her road to health care when she moved to New Braunfels and became a mental health case manager for the San Antonio State Hospital. [READ THE FULL STORY HERE](#)

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### **Lone Star Family Health Center Congratulates Rep. Brady on Healthcare Award**

At a meeting last week, the Lone Star Family Health Center (LSFHC) Board of Directors signed a letter of congratulations for U.S. Representative Kevin Brady on his receipt of the 2017 Distinguished Community Health Defender Award from the National Association of Community Health Centers (NACHC). [READ THE FULL STORY HERE](#)

### **We Want to Tell Your Story—Request for Anecdotes**

Staff at TACHC are hard at work during 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!

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## **UPCOMING EVENTS**



### **The Road to Service Excellence Starts May 17 In San Antonio**

You asked, we listened! Customer service training is here! The Road to Service Excellence kicks off on May 17 and our planned speaker Guy Smith will be presenting these all-day customer service trainings in various cities across Texas. The objectives of the training are 1) to identify 3 approaches to breaking your patterns that limit your success, 2) to recognize the importance of prioritizing service standards and 3) to apply 3 tools designed to help you achieve Service Excellence. [Registration is open on the events page of the TACHC website.](#) The scheduled trainings are:

- [San Antonio – Wednesday, May 17](#)
- [Laredo – Friday, May 19](#)
- [Lubbock – Tuesday, May 23](#)
- [El Paso – Thursday, May 25](#)
- [Tyler – Wednesday, June 14](#)
- [Dallas – Friday, June 16](#)
- [Houston – Tuesday, June 20](#)

Some locations have limited availability, so sign up ASAP! We look forward to seeing you there!

## **2017 Uniform Data System (UDS) Reporting Changes Technical Assistance Webinar**

This technical assistance webinar set for Tue May 9 from 12:00 PM– 1:30 PM CST will provide an overview of changes related to the 2017 UDS. Health Center Program grantees and look-alikes are the intended audience. The purpose of this webinar is to summarize the approved changes for 2017 UDS, introduce possible changes for 2018 and 2019, and revised clinical measures resulting from alignment with electronic specified clinical quality measures (eCQMs). To read a summary of the approved changes, see this [Program Assistance Letter](#). [Webinar Details Here](#). Phone: 888-455-9640, Passcode: 6864111

## **OC<sup>3</sup> CPI Webcast: Chronic Pain in Health Center Patients – Policies and Approaches**

Chronic pain and the opioid epidemic is a growing issue for health centers, both nationwide and here in Texas. An integrative approach to chronic pain is now considered the gold-standard. Many health centers are interested in finding alternatives to opioids, although the challenge often is figuring out how to pay for evidenced-based services which may not be considered billable in an FQHC environment (e.g. acupuncture, massage therapy, etc.). As we await a value-based payment model which may more easily allow for some of this, TACHC has been advocating for a multidisciplinary team-based approach, to utilize group medical visits, and to connect health centers to Project ECHO so providers can feel more comfortable managing pain patients. TACHC has recently completed template Policies and Procedures around the safe prescribing of opioids for chronic pain, which are now available in the [TACHC Manual](#). [Details for the May 19 webcast here](#). [Register here](#). Please join us for Part 1 of this important and timely webcast. [Connect here the day of the session](#)

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## **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](mailto:apexusanswers@340bpvp.com) or 1-888-340-2787 (Monday-Friday, 9:00 AM.-6:00 PM. EDT).

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## **POLICY**

### **Women's Health Update**

This week, TACHC sent a [letter](#) to the budget conferees urging them to preserve funding for the Family Planning Program as the state negotiates the women's health waiver with CMS. Additionally, HHSC has provided an [update](#) on the various state funded women's health programs. If you have any questions or need any additional information, please contact [Mary Allen](#).

### **Notice to Pharmacies: Mosquito Repellent Benefit**

Texas covers mosquito repellents for the prevention of the Zika virus. The following notice describes claims processing, eligibility, and benefit information specific to the mosquito repellent benefit for the covered programs listed below. The last page of this document contains a prescription template for claims processing. [Details here.](#)

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## **GOVERNANCE & FINANCE**

### **TACHC Compliance Reminder**

Since **June 13, 2016** individuals hired as independent contractors, i.e. receiving a 1099, must be reported just like employees within 20 days of engagement to the Texas Attorney General's Office for child support, unemployment and other tracking per 42 USC §653a and Texas Family Code §§234.101-104 (regulations at 1 TAC §55.302). For more information see FAQ 10 on page 18 [here](#) and also [here](#). Go to [employer.oag.state.tx.us](http://employer.oag.state.tx.us) for the reporting portal.

### **Meet HRSA's After-hours 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 after-hours support 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 after-hours requirement with ease. The flat monthly rate is based on unduplicated UDS 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. For more information, please contact [Corinne Medina](#) or [Nancy Gilliam](#).

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## **CLINICAL**



### **May Is Mental Health Awareness Month**

According to the UDS in 2015, there were over 7.2 million mental health related visits at HRSA-funded health centers, a 29% increase from 2013. This increase also coincided with a 33% increase in the number of health center patients seeking mental health services between 2013 and 2015. In response to increased need, between 2013 and 2015, health centers increased their capacity to meet the growing demand for mental health services by increasing the number of mental health providers by about 36% (including psychiatrists, clinical psychologists, clinical social workers, and other licensed mental health providers). Health centers looking for resources and strategies to incorporate behavioral health into primary health care and other child-serving systems like child welfare and education should [view SAMHSA's list of behavioral health integration](#)

**resources.** For more information and mental health resources, visit [MentalHealth.gov](http://MentalHealth.gov) or [SAMHSA](http://SAMHSA).

### **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.](#)

### **Free Antibiotic Stewardship**

FQHCs are invited to participate in a **free** antibiotic stewardship project led by the TMF Quality Innovation Network Quality Improvement Organization, under contract with CMS. This new QI initiative will focus on improving patient outcomes, reducing microbial resistance and decreasing the spread of infections caused by MDROs. Project benefits include assistance with developing or strengthening existing ABS programs and incorporating the CDC's [Core Elements of Antibiotic Stewardship](#). Additionally, the TMF QIN-QIO will provide no-cost evidence-based educational Webinars, materials, tools and resources, individualized technical assistance in applying ABS principles, and opportunities to network with and learn from renowned ABS experts. For more information about this new project, go to the [TMFQIN.org Antibiotic Stewardship Network](http://TMFQIN.org) or email [ABSnetwork@tmf.org](mailto:ABSnetwork@tmf.org).

### **Project ECHO for Depression and Alcohol Use Disorder**

TMF Health Quality Institute is sponsoring a Project ECHO collaboration for which they are recruiting primary care practices throughout Texas, Oklahoma, Arkansas and Missouri. It's a great way for clinicians and their office staff to get advice and learn from behavioral health experts. This edition of Project ECHO will focus on Depression and Alcohol Use Disorder. Once a week on Wednesday morning from 8:00-9:00 AM, the primary care practices will meet with the Project ECHO Subject Matter Expert team at the UT Dell Medical School in Austin via webcam. The session will consist of a didactic material presentation and then a review of cases (which providers will submit ahead of time) in a sort of "virtual rounding." Recruiting has now begun for Cohort 2, which begins on May 24 and runs for 12 consecutive weeks. Physicians and NPs (in Texas) can gain 10 CME credits for participation. [See details here.](#) [Letter of Participation](#)

### **Save the Date: 13th Annual Women & HIV International Clinical Conference (WHICC)**

Sponsored by the South Central AIDS Education and Training Center (SCAETC), the event will be held on **Friday June 9, 2017** 8:00 AM - 5:00 PM and **Saturday June 10, 2017** 9:00 AM– 3:00 PM. **Key topics include:** HIV in pregnancy, assisted reproduction for people with HIV and Hep C, STD's, and PrEP in women, disparities in women with HIV: migrants, Hispanic, and African Americans and retention in care/access to care issues including substance abuse in women with HIV. [Click Here for Abstract Submission and Registration information.](#) For questions please call Elyse Malanowski (214) 590-1650 or e-mail: [Elyse.Malanowski@phhs.org](mailto:Elyse.Malanowski@phhs.org)

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## **RECRUITMENT & RETENTION**

### **Is Your Site Eligible to Recruit NHSC Clinicians?**

Did you know that BPHC-funded Community Health Centers and FQHC Look-alikes are auto-approved for the **NHSC? There's no application to submit or waiting time for approval.** After BPHC approves your site's scope, reach out to your Bureau of Health Workforce [Division of Regional Operations \(DRO\) point of contact](#). Interested sites should read the [2017 NHSC Site Reference Guide](#) for program requirements, as well as the [NHSC Sliding Fee Discount Program Information Package](#).

### **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 you recruit for?** [Complete the TACHC online position profile.](#) Contact [Danielle Ramos, TACHC Recruitment Dept. Program Assistant](#) for more information.

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