



TACHC

Texas Association of Community Health Centers

WEEKLY WRAP-UP

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NEWS



Start Planning Now for National Health Center Week!

Now is the time to start planning in earnest for National Health Center Week, which is set for August 13-19. Use the [National Health Center Week website](#) as your go-to resource when planning your activities and to stay current. The website is absolutely invaluable and provides everything you need including:

- [Activities & Events Ideas](#)
- [Public & Civic Support](#)
- [Media Toolkit](#)
- [Social Media Tools](#)
- [Finding Sponsors](#)
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Remember, start now for success, and post your events [here!](#)

New Clinic to Open Doors in North Lufkin

A new health clinic will be opening in North Lufkin this summer. The health clinic is spearheaded by East Texas Community Health Services, which is headquartered in Nacogdoches where thousands of uninsured and under-insured patients from all over East Texas receive care. [READ THE FULL STORY HERE](#)

We Want to Tell Your Success Stories for National Health Center Week

As we head toward National Health Center Week, 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



Agendas Available for Customer Service Training! Register NOW!

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.](#) [View the agenda here.](#) 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!



OC³ CPI Webcast: Chronic Pain in Health Center Patients – Policies and Approaches

Part 1 – Friday, May 19 9:00-11:00 AM CST • Part 2 – Friday, June 16 9:00-11:00 AM CST

Speakers are Daren Anderson, MD, Vice President/Chief Quality Officer, Community Health Center, Inc. • Director, Weitzman Institute and Constance Earl, DO, Integrative Health Director, West County Health Centers

Chronic pain and the opioid epidemic is a growing issue for health centers, both nationwide and here in Texas. Over the last couple of years, TACHC has been promoting an integrative approach to chronic pain, which is now considered the gold-standard. Many health centers are interested in finding alternatives to

opioids, especially since the data suggests that we should be doing so, although the challenge often is figuring out how to pay for these services which may not be considered billable in an FQHC environment (e.g. acupuncture, massage therapy, etc.). As a result, TACHC has been advocating for a multidisciplinary team-based approach with integrated behavioral health, mind-body therapies such as mindfulness and Acceptance and Commitment Therapy, group medical visits, as well as connecting health centers to Project ECHO so providers can feel more comfortable managing pain patients. Additionally, 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](#).

Part 1 of this CPI webcast series will feature an overview of chronic pain and the opioid epidemic, including best practices of how to address it integratively with non-pharmacologic and pharmacologic treatments. This presentation will review the data around pain management options including the numerous integrative approaches that have good efficacy and safety profiles, examine the links of chronic pain to addiction and substance abuse, discuss the safe prescribing of opiates when necessary, and highlight innovative and practical programs that allow health center providers to more easily take care of these patients in their own practices.

Part 2 will review the new template P&Ps, as well as the “homework” to see what suggestions from Part 1 health centers have been able to implement.

Please join us for Part 1 of this important and timely webcast on Friday, May 19 from 9:00-11:00 AM.

- [Details for the May 19 webcast here](#)
- [Register here](#)
- [VIEW THE AGENDA HERE](#)
- [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@340bvp.com or 1-888-340-2787 (Monday-Friday, 9:00 AM.-6:00 PM. EDT).

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POLICY

HB3151 - Children's Medicaid/CHIP Eligibility Update

The bill was voted out of the House Human Services committee on Monday, April 24, 2017 and sent to the House floor. The bill passed on the House unanimously on May 5 and was referred to the Senate Health and Human Services committee, chaired by **Senator Schwertner**, on May 9. **Senator Uresti** will sponsor this bill in the Senate, and **Senator Perry** will co-sponsor. TACHC is working to have the bill set on the Health and Human Services (HHS) committee calendar for Wednesday, May 17. If it passes the Senate HHS committee it will be sent to the Senate floor for a vote. Please contact the [Senate Health and Human Services](#) members and ask them to vote YES on HB3151 when it is considered in committee! For more information, contact [Mary Allen](#).



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.

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

Patient Targets Identified

2017 Patient Target Notifications went out earlier this week. Your center's Authorizing Official and Project Director should have received the current patient target through EHB notification on May 8.

If you have any questions about the patient target or did not receive the notification, you must reach out **by May 22**. Please send all questions and concerns to BPHPatientTargets@hrsa.gov.

FTCA PAL 2017-03: CY 2018 Application Requirements for Coverage

FTCA PAL 2017-03 contains the instructions for health centers submitting an FTCA application requesting initial deeming; or an annual FTCA redeeming application for deeming coverage for CY 2018 (January 1, 2018 - December 31, 2018). The EHB system will be **begin accepting deeming applications on June 23**. Applications are due **on or before July 24, 2017** in order to be eligible to be deemed for the entirety of CY 2018 without a gap in coverage.

In order to be deemed or redeemed for the upcoming calendar year, applicants must demonstrate via their FTCA deeming application that they meet FTCA requirements for risk management, claims management, QI/QA, and credentialing and privileging. The [FTCA deeming application](#) and [associated attachments](#) have

been updated to reflect these aligned requirements

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 HRSAs 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

CHW Scholarship Application

With funding from Baylor Scott and White Health, the Center for Sustainable Health Outreach will offer forty (40) \$250 scholarships for CHW registration for CHWs, CHRs, and Promotores to attend the Unity 2017 in Dallas, Texas, from August 6-9, 2017. Completed application and registration form must be received by 5:00 PM CST, on May 17, 2017. CHWs selected for registration scholarships will be notified on May 27, 2017. Email applications and questions to: Niki.Shah@BSWHealth.org. Visit here for [additional conference information](#).

Mumps Cases Reported

There has been an uptick in mumps cases reported in recent weeks. DSHS released [this Health Advisory](#) last month regarding mumps, and we recently received word from a health center that they have seen four cases in the last two weeks alone. Please read the advisory for more information regarding diagnosis, testing, reporting, infection control, and vaccination, and please let us know here at TACHC if you have seen any cases. Please visit this [CDC Mumps page](#) for more resources and additional information. For more information please contact Christina Brito-Tigerina at cbtigerina@tachc.org

Dental Program Redesign: Digging Deeper with Data to Create Promising Practices

This webinar is hosted by National Network for Oral Health Access, a BPHC-funded NCA and takes place Monday, May 15, 11:00 AM o 12:00 PM CST. [Register here](#)

Emerging Issues in Tobacco Use

This Webinar is hosted by SAMHSA's National Prevention Week and takes place on Tuesday, May 16, 12:30-1:45 PM CST. [Register here](#)

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 12:00-1:00 PM, 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." We are recruiting now 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. [Information Page Participation Agreement](#)

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, STDs, 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:

May is Mental Health Awareness Month



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 or SAMHSA.

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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.

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!](#)

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