



Volume: 9 Issue: 17

April 28, 2017

IN THIS ISSUE

NEWS

HB 3151 - Children's Medicaid/CHIP Eligibility Renewal and Re-Certification Advances
TACHC Welcomes New Staff Members Erika Canales and James Elmore
ResourceCare Shines a Light on Access to Care
We Want to Tell Your Story—Request for Anecdotes

UPCOMING EVENTS

OC³ CPI Webcast: Chronic Pain in Health Center Patients – Policies and Approaches
Excellent Customer Service in the Health Care Setting: Coming to a City Near You!

GROUP PURCHASING

340B FQHC Late Registration

POLICY

Bill of the Week: HB 1304 by Rep. Oscar Longoria (D-35)
Senate Bill 4 Advances
CMS Issues Final Rule to increase Choices and Encourage Stability in Health Insurance Market for 2018
House Freedom Caucus Leaders Back New Health Care Plan

GOVERNANCE & FINANCE

Meet HRSA's After-hours Requirement, Save Money and Increase Continuity of Care for your Patients

CLINICAL

Children's Mental Health Awareness Day, May 4
Notice to Pharmacies: Mosquito Repellent Benefit
Zika Virus: CDC Vitalsigns Report and Map
The Joint Commission (TJC) 2017 Ambulatory Care Standards Consolidation Project
Texas Cardiovascular Disease & Stroke Partnership Check Your Blood Pressure Week (May 1-6, 2017)
What To Do When Diabetes Affects Your Mood
5th Annual Texas Primary Care and Health Home Summit May 11-12, 2017
Project ECHO for Depression and Alcohol Use Disorder
Short Course for Integrative Primary Healthcare

RECRUITMENT & RETENTION

Is Your Site Eligible to Recruit NHSC Clinicians?
Would You Like us to Help You Recruit?

NEWS

HB 3151 - Children's Medicaid/CHIP Eligibility Renewal and Re-Certification Bill Advances

Last week we highlighted HB 3151 (Representative Sheffield of Gatesville) which 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.

Here's the update: Rep. Richard Peña Raymond, (District 42), laid out the Committee Substitute (CS) for HB 3151 in House Human Services.

- CS was adopted
- Rep. Wu moved to send HB 3151 to General Calendars
- Vote was unanimous
- TACHC is asking Calendars committee to consider bill
- If it passes through Calendars it will go to the House floor for a full vote



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.***

TACHC Welcomes New Staff Members Erika Canales and James Elmore

As the Community Development Specialist, **Erika Canales** provides technical assistance to federally qualified health centers to work towards health equity and increase access to quality health care services. Her role in assisting health centers includes ensuring financial sustainability and compliance with all federal, state and local regulatory requirements. Erika also assists organizations interested in becoming or collaborating with a federally qualified health center.



Please welcome new TACHC staff member **James Elmore**. As Junior Systems Administrator in TACHC's information technology (IT) department, James will be handling TACHC's webcasts, and will be part of the IT support both internally, and for our community health centers. James has a strong IT background in medical settings—prior to joining the staff at TACHC, he worked in IT support at Texas Health and Human Services Commission.





ResourceCare Shines a Light on Access to Care

TACHC members have been providing us with patient care success stories, and as a result, we are seeing greater attention in the media regarding the positive presence of community health centers in Texas. Around the state, community health centers continue to gain recognition as champions of health care. The latest story—which ran in the Albany News on Thursday, April 27, shines a light on Albany’s ResourceCare and how health centers have helped maintain a good quality of life for 100-year old Elsie Byrne through access to care. [Read the 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!

[Back to Top](#)

UPCOMING EVENTS

OC³ 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. Over the last couple of years, TACHC has been promoting an integrative approach to chronic pain, which is now considered the gold-standard. 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.](#)

Excellent Customer Service in the Health Care 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.

[Back to Top](#)

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). [Back to Top](#)

POLICY

Bill of the Week: HB 1304 by Rep. Oscar Longoria (D-35)

This **bill** is currently assigned to the Texas House Economic & Small Business Development committee, where testimony was taken and registration of witnesses was recorded on April 20, 2017. As **the fiscal note** prepared by the Legislative Budget Board outlines, this bill seeks to amend the Labor Code relating to the classification of workers for purposes of the Texas Unemployment Compensation Act; providing a penalty. The bill would allow the Texas Workforce Commission (TWC) to assess a penalty on an employer who fails to properly classify an employee as an employee or an independent contractor in an amount not to exceed \$200 for each misclassified employee. TACHC has seen TWC already audit and makes adjustments on reported wages, charging back the tax due, if they find a misclassification. The penalty would presumably be an added charge in such a case.

This bill was left pending in committee and TACHC’s policy team will continue to monitor this bill for movement, along with its companion bill in the Senate, SB 592 by Senator Lucio. For questions about this bill or the senate companion bill, email [Mary Allen](mailto:Mary.Allen@tachc.org).

Senate Bill 4 Advances

Early Thursday morning, after 16 hours of debate, **SB 4** passed out of the House of Representatives (this bill passed out of the Senate in February). SB 4 seeks to stop applicable entities from adopting or enforcing a measure under which those entities prohibit the enforcement of state or federal immigration laws. The bill’s provisions relating to such enforcement by applicable local entities expressly do not apply to (certain) hospitals or hospital districts created under Health and Safety Code provisions. Representative Lucio (*pictured at right*) passed an amendment that would also exempt federally qualified health centers as defined in Section 31.017 of the Health and Safety Code. Thank you Representative Lucio for your commitment to our patients!



CMS Issues Final Rule to Increase Choices and Encourage Stability in Health Insurance Market for 2018

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) recently issued its final rule on Marketplace stabilization, which included provisions such as: shortening the Marketplace open enrollment period, tightening the Special Enrollment Period requirements and allowing Qualified Health Plan (QHP) networks to be made up of just 20 percent Essential Community Providers (ECPs). While this rule is intended to provide stability to the Marketplaces, much remains in flux due to the uncertainty of the continuation of the Cost Sharing Reductions. For a more detailed summary of the final rule and other regulatory news, check out the NACHC [Policy Shop blog](#). Additionally, here is the [Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services page](#) outlining the health insurance market for 2018.

House Freedom Caucus Leaders Back New Health Care Plan

White House officials and several Republican lawmakers claimed Tuesday they were nearing a deal on health-care legislation with the House Freedom Caucus, with at least three leading figures in the hard-line group ready to support an overhaul after the dramatic collapse of talks last month. Reps. Mark Meadows (R-N.C.), Jim Jordan (R-Ohio), and Raúl R. Labrador (R-Idaho) — all leaders of the Freedom Caucus and central figures in the latest discussions — signaled Tuesday they are ready to support a new plan, according to two White House officials who were not authorized to speak publicly. A lawmaker close to the Freedom Caucus later confirmed that those members were close to or ready to support the tweaked bill. [Read the full story here.](#)

[Back to Top](#)

GOVERNANCE & FINANCE

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](#).

CLINICAL



Children's Mental Health Awareness Day, May 4

Awareness Day 2017's national focus is on the importance of integrating behavioral health and primary care for children, youth, and young adults with mental and/or substance use disorders. The 2017 national theme is "Partnering for Help and Hope." The national event will take place on Thursday, May 4, at 7:00 PM EDT in Washington, D.C. [REGISTER](#) to watch Awareness Day Live! Olympic champions Michael Phelps and Allison Schmitt will serve as Honorary Chairpersons, and HRSA's Acting Administrator, Jim Macrae, will speak. The event will feature interactive panel discussions about understanding the connection between physical and behavioral health; improving communication between primary care providers, behavioral health providers, and youth and families; and supporting the mental health needs of youth who experience chronic illness. [Find a](#)

local Awareness Day event.

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.](#)

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 and lets you search for location-specific Zika info.

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.](#)

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](#)

Short Course for Integrative Primary Healthcare

The National Center for Integrative Primary Health Care has developed a HRSA-funded online curriculum entitled *Foundations in Integrative Health* to educate primary care providers on the core integrative health competencies needed to create inter-professional primary care teams. This 45 hour course includes content on

prevention and lifestyle behavior change, addressing patients through an integrative lens in primary care, addressing social determinants of health by looking at community settings and systems at large, and most importantly, healthcare professional wellbeing. The curriculum will be available FREE to all from May 1 to August 31. Slides from a recent webinar describing the program can be found [here](#). For more information, go to the [NCIPH website](#). [Back to Top](#)

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!**

TACHC · United States

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