



TACHC

Texas Association of Community Health Centers

WEEKLY WRAP-UP

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NEWS

Senate Health Care Bill Includes Deep Medicaid Cuts

On Thursday, June 22, Senate leaders introduced healthcare legislation that would repeal and replace major provisions of the Affordable Care Act (ACA). Like the American Health Care Act (AHCA), which passed the House in May, the Senate bill makes major changes to the Medicaid program, which covers nearly half of all patients served by community health centers. Health Center Advocates have spent this year making the case to policymakers at the federal, state and local levels about the importance of a strong Medicaid program. Unfortunately, the Senate bill represents a major step backward, damaging this important source of coverage for millions of health center patients. The bill rolls back the Medicaid expansion and makes even deeper cuts to the entire Medicaid program than those included in the House bill. Each of these changes would have a significant and detrimental impact on Health Centers and the patients they serve. [For more information on the specific provisions of the Senate legislation visit the NACHC Blog.](#)

Make no mistake: Medicaid is critical in that it provides coverage to nearly half of health center patients and is crucial to the financial stability of Health Centers as a whole. **Calling All Health Center Advocates: [take action NOW](#) - make your voice heard about the importance of Medicaid to your patients and to your Health Center.**

The potential for real solutions to the problems in our health care system exists, and can be achieved on a bipartisan basis - strengthening the Health Centers Program can serve as one of those solutions. Health centers are a real-world example of the power of bipartisan cooperation and consensus-driven policy. Now is the time to weigh in with your Senators: tell them the Senate proposal is the wrong path forward, and ask them instead to pursue common sense improvements to our healthcare system that stabilize markets and expand access to primary and preventive care to all.

TACHC President Mike Campbell: Impact of Medicaid Cuts to Rural Texas

With the deep cuts to Medicaid looming if the Senate health care bill passes, TACHC President Mike Campbell called attention to the effect that would have on people in rural areas. Read his "Opinion" article in the [San Angelo Standard-Times](#).



Jump Start Your Planning for National Health Center Week!

How is your planning going for National Health Center Week? If you need a jump start to get some ideas going for events, we've got just the thing for you. [Here's a short video full of ideas!](#) If you've already got your center's events planned, be sure to post them on www.healthcenterweek.org and email TACHC's [Courtney Weaver](#) with the details. **CLICK ON THE IMAGE BELOW TO WATCH THE NHCW PLANNING VIDEO!**



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!

Good Neighbor Healthcare Center to Close

Houston's Good Neighbor Healthcare Center will be closing its doors effective June 30. TACHC would like to thank Good Neighbor for their 45 years of service to the Houston-area community, focusing on the medically underserved. Good Neighbor Healthcare Center has been a Federally Qualified Health Center since 2005. A special thanks to all Good Neighbor board members, along with CEO **Ann Thielke** and former CEO **Janet Donath**.

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UPCOMING EVENTS

Register for the Upcoming Oral Health Metrics Convening and ROHDEO

The annual Texas Oral Health Metrics Summit is convening in Austin, TX on June 28 and 29. A Basic Screening Survey standardization session will be conducted on June 28 with the Metrics Summit featuring state and national speakers following on June 29. The standardization session will include how to collect clinical data and data for ROHDEO. [Click Here](#) to learn more about the Metrics Summit and register. If your organization is interested in contributing to the Repository of Oral Health Data Evaluation and Outcomes (ROHDEO), you can register your organization using the link below. ROHDEO Staff are available any time to discuss your program's participation in ROHDEO and how you can collect and submit your data. Please feel free to reach out via phone (210-567-3661) or email (rodeo@uthscsa.edu).

CEO Institute Set for June 29 in Austin

The purpose of the CEO Development Training would be to provide training, resources and support to help new CEOs, or existing CEOs that would like a refresher, successfully lead a health center in the ever changing

healthcare environment. The training would assist CEOs to understand the fiduciary role of the CEO, understand key health center financial measures, identify and utilize key strategies to ensure a productive CEO/Board working relationship, identify appropriate data to guide strategic decision-making and identify key strategies to achieve high performance at the health center. The training will also provide a face-to-face networking opportunity for the CEOs in order to strengthen peer relationships. [View the details here.](#)



Final Road to Customer Service Excellence Seminar Set for Austin • July 11

By popular demand, the Road to Customer Service Excellence will continue with one more session! This seminar will take place in Austin on July 11. Participants raved about presenter Guy Smith (pictured above) at the recent Houston seminar, where he encouraged attendees to “think differently about patient service.” Using tools and tips, Guy challenged the concept of “service as usual,” and encouraged participants to create a personal plan that would lead their organization down the Road to Service Excellence. “Excellent presenting information. Trainer kept all engaged! Love the interaction with all the other guests. Mr. Smith was GREAT!” said one attendee. [Register for the Austin event here.](#)

Register for the Second PCMH Bootcamp Face to Face Sessions!

[Registration is now open](#) for the July 17 Second PCMH Bootcamp Face to Face Session which will be held in San Antonio. The second PCMH Bootcamp session will build on the material covered on April 19th, with the purpose of advancing learning and knowledge around PCMH development for health center teams. This is a team-based learning event designed to help participants optimize their work in developing and sustaining the PCMH model of care. For any questions, please email Ana Sierra at asierra@tachc.org.

OC³ CPI Webcast: Emergency Preparedness – The New Requirements Part 1 • July 21

The “Medicare and Medicaid Programs; Emergency Preparedness Requirements for Medicare and Medicaid Participating Providers and Suppliers” Final Rule (“CMS Final Rule”) establishes national emergency preparedness requirements for participating providers and certified suppliers to plan adequately for both natural and man-made disasters, and coordinate with Federal, state, tribal, regional and local emergency preparedness systems. CMS has implemented new emergency preparedness requirements for 17 different healthcare provider/supplier types, including federally qualified health centers and rural health clinics. This webcast will address how the key provisions of the rule (risk assessment and planning, policies and procedures, communications plans, and training and testing) and the additional requirements apply to FQHCs and RHCs. [Click Here for Registration and Information](#)

**TACHC Annual Conference • October 29-November 1, 2017
La Cantera Resort & Spa • San Antonio, Texas • Save the Date!**



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GROUP PURCHASING

Office of Pharmacy Affairs 340B Registration Window Opens Soon

The next window to register both a clinic site and a retail pharmacy to be eligible for 340B pricing is quickly approaching, July 1-15. This is the window if you want to add a new retail pharmacy to contract with for pharmacy services (“bill to/ship to”). When registering in this window of time, the new site will be eligible for 340B pricing effective October 1st. Now is a good time to get contracts organized so to take advantage of this window. The registration process occurs electronically via the [OPA website](#). Remember that you cannot register a site to be eligible for 340B pricing till it is listed in the EHB. It is critical for any and all clinic sites that are listed in the EHB to also be listed in the database in order for patients seen at the clinic sites to fill their prescriptions with 340B. If you have any questions, please contact [Lynn Ford](#).

Henry Schein Dental Offering

Henry Schein Dental has identified a large selection of commonly used items that are great quality and aggressively priced: the Quality Value (QV) Product Listing. These items are already coded to TACHC members for easy access. Included in the QV listing, a new vendor is offering special pricing for their preventative and restorative items for TACHC members: Voco. [A flyer outlining the new offering is HERE.](#)

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POLICY

Special Session Set for July 18

Governor Abbott called a special session, set to start on July 18, to address **20 issues** that were not resolved during the regular session. TACHC will be monitoring legislation to reauthorize the Texas Medical Board, the state agency that licenses and oversees our state’s doctors. Another item on the list is a bill that would extend the state’s Task Force on Maternal Mortality and Morbidity until 2023. The task force is responsible for studying and providing the state with recommendations on how to curb the rate of mothers dying less than a year after giving birth. Task force members have expressed that they need more time to study causes of deaths among women. For now, we turn our attention to Congress, where the Senate could vote on the American Healthcare Act as early as the week of June 19. Please continue to stay involved as we work through this special session and many important issues at the federal level. For any immediate questions, contact [Mary Allen](#).

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GOVERNANCE & FINANCE

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 **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.

FTCA Webcast Now Available on HRSA Website

A [webcast](#) regarding FTCA CY 2018 deeming applications was broadcast on Monday, June 5, 2017. The FTCA [webcast is now available for viewing here](#) on the HRSA website. You will be prompted to fill out a form with your name and organization prior to viewing the webcast.

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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OUTREACH

TACHC Outreach & Enrollment Annual Conference – Registration Now Open!

Please join us September 27-28, 2017 at the Sonesta Bee Cave - Austin Hotel for the 5th TACHC Outreach & Enrollment Conference: My Texas My Health. Together Towards Tomorrow. The conference will focus on the latest health care policies at both the federal and state levels and what that means for outreach and enrollment activities in health centers, including messages and strategies to respond to any changes. Breakout sessions will highlight an updated session on immigration issues, outreach to Veterans, programs available for women's health and an improved lesson on selecting and comparing Marketplace health plans. There will be opportunities for peer learning and networking for sharing best practices as well. All health center outreach and enrollment staff and supervisors are invited to attend. [Register here](#). Contact [Sonia Lara](#) or [RexAnn Shotwell](#) for more information.

CLINICAL

SAMHSA Grant Opportunities

[Improving Access to Overdose Treatment](#): Up to \$1 million over 5 years to one grantee to expand availability to overdose reversal medications in health care settings and to establish protocols to connect patients who have experienced a drug overdose with appropriate treatment.

[Cooperative Agreements to Implement Zero Suicide in Health Systems](#): Up to \$700,000 per year for up to 5 years for a maximum of 13 grantees to implement suicide prevention and intervention programs that are designed to raise awareness of suicide, establish referral processes, and improve care and outcomes for individuals who are 25 years of age or older and are at risk for suicide.

June is LGBT Pride Month

According to [Healthy People 2020](#), lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) people are at increased risk for many health disparities when compared to the general population. These disparities are linked to a long history of stigma and discrimination for LGBT people, but can be addressed with increased training of health care providers. The [National LGBT Health Education Center](#), which HRSA supports through a national cooperative agreement with Fenway Health, provides educational programs, resources, and consultation to health care organizations with the goal of optimizing quality, cost-effective health care for LGBT people.

Health Disparities Data Widget Now Available

The Office of Disease Prevention and Health Promotion (ODPHP) and the Office of Minority Health (OMH) are pleased to announce the release of a new health disparities data widget. The widget provides an easy way to find health disparities data related to the Healthy People 2020 objectives for the Leading Health Indicators (LHIs). LHIs are critical health issues that when addressed will help reduce the leading causes of death and preventable illnesses. The widget provides charts and graphs of disparities data at your fingertips.

It's easy to [embed the widget on your own website](#) to give your networks easy access to the latest available disparities data. Once you've added the widget, there's no technical maintenance required. The content will update automatically.

IM4Us Conference and Functional Medicine Training

The [Integrative Medicine for the Underserved \(IM4Us\)](#) Annual Conference will be in Chicago **August 24-26**. The theme is *"Equity and Healing: Integrative Approaches to Bridging Racial and Socioeconomic Disparities in Health Care."* There will be presentations and workshops on trauma/ACEs, integration of services, chronic pain, group visits, and health equity as a whole. Additionally, IM4Us has partnered with the [Institute for Functional Medicine \(IFM\)](#) to offer scholarships to IFM trainings for providers working in underserved settings. Functional medicine is an approach to medicine that emphasizes identifying and addressing root causes and is therefore ideal for treating chronic disease in low-resource settings. For information about [the conference](#). For more information about [functional medicine and the scholarships](#).

IHS and CDC to Host Zika Provider Update June 29, 2017

The Indian Health Service (IHS) Division of Epidemiology and Disease Prevention in partnership with CDC subject matter experts will hold a Clinical Rounds Zika provider update from 2:00 PM to 3:30 PM CST on Thursday, June 29. This event is planned to help participants maintain and increase their understanding of transmission and the current domestic and international situation, especially in Indian country; presentation, diagnosis, management and prevention of Zika virus infection; and implications for pregnant women.

[Registration required.](#)

A Clinical Affairs Story: The Return of OC³

"A long time ago in a galaxy far, far away..."

The TACHC Clinical Team has been hard at work revamping the OC³ curriculum. The new curriculum will build on OC³ basics: access redesign, improving office efficiency, and developing quality improvement teams. The new OC³ Program will begin in the fall of 2017 and has extended to an 18-month program. A brand new OC³ portal will also launch to help teams keep track of OC³ measures. Centers interested in the new OC³ Program will need their Leadership to attend the OC³ Leadership Bootcamp on October 11. If you are interested in participating in the new OC³ Program, please email Verne LaGrega at vlagrega@tachc.org.

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RECRUITMENT & RETENTION

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!**

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