



TACHC
Texas Association of Community Health Centers

WEEKLY WRAP-UP

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NEWS

It's Not too Late to Contact Your Senator!

The U.S. Senate delayed its vote on a dangerous health care bill that would make it harder for health centers

to care for our patients, but our work isn't done yet! [Send an email, tweet, or post on facebook](#) to tell our Senators to VOTE NO on the Better Care Reconciliation Act and reject disastrous Medicaid cuts and a secretive policy process. Better yet, call 1-877-958-8094 to share your concerns about this bill. [You can find instructions and a call script here](#). Questions? Contact TACHC Civic Engagement Director Courtney Weaver at cweaver@tachc.org

CEO Institute in Austin Provides Training, Resources, Support

The CEO Institute in Austin on June 29-30 provided training, resources and support to help new or existing CEOs to successfully lead a health center in the ever-changing healthcare environment. The training covered CEO fiduciary roles, key health center financial measures, and key strategies to ensure a productive CEO/Board working relationship. Additionally, TACHC's COO Daniel Diaz provided a great presentation on the history of community health centers from a national and state perspective.

The event also served as a face-to-face networking opportunity for CEOs to strengthen peer relationships.



Above: Speaker Jennifer Genua-McDaniel of Genua Consulting presents at the CEO Institute in Austin on Thursday, June 29. Genua-McDaniel spoke on the different roles health center CEOs and board members play.

New FTCA Video Recruiting Resource Available

TACHC has created a new recruiting resource: a video showcasing the benefits of medical liability coverage provided under the Federal Tort Claims Act (FTCA). [You can view the video here](#). The video is also available as a link on www.tachc.org on the TACHC home page. Note: To download the video, click on the "vimeo" icon.

Build Your National Health Center Week Planning Around Focus Days

By now your National Health Center Week planning should be well under way. One way to help your planning is to build events around this year's "Focus Days."



- [Elected Officials Day](#)
- [Health Screenings Day](#)
- [Public Housing Health Centers Day](#)
- [Healthcare for the Homeless Day](#)
- [Agricultural Worker Health Day](#)
- [Consumer Board Member Day](#)
- [Children's Health Day](#)

Health Center Week focus days help narrow attention to some of the unique features and services of health centers in light of the annual theme. Read more about 2017 focus days and access specific content and data related to [each focus day here!](#)

For more NHCW planning, [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.

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St. David's Foundation Gives \$33 Million to Austin-area Health Programs

The charitable arm of the St. David's hospital network announced Wednesday it was donating \$33.2 million to Austin-area nonprofits that provide health care services for the poor. Roughly a third of the money, \$12.4 million, will go to support "safety net" clinics, where low-income individuals can receive basic health care services, including check-ups, prenatal care and help treating chronic illnesses such as diabetes. Two providers — People's Community Clinic and the Lone Star Circle of Care — combined to receive the bulk, \$9.4 million, of that money. [READ THE ARTICLE HERE.](#)



Above: Peter Pincoffs, chairman of the St. David's Foundation board; **Regina Rogoff**, CEO of People's Community Clinic; and Earl Maxwell, CEO of St. David's Foundation, present a symbolic check for over \$33 million in grants to Austin-area nonprofits to bolster health care services available for low-income patients during a ceremony at People's Community Clinic in Northeast Austin

UPCOMING EVENTS



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 19, 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

Cardinal Health's Annual Conference

Cardinal Health hosts a national conference for their customers: [Cardinal Health's RBC](#). The RBC this year is in San Antonio, TX from July 26-29. Cardinal is hosting a special track for the TACHC members on Thursday, July 27.

You are welcome to attend July 27, at no charge. An [invite/flyer](#) about the conference and an [agenda](#) are available. TACHC members are welcome and encouraged to attend a joint TACHC/Cardinal presentation from 12:30-2:30 PM to talk more in depth of the services available to the TACHC members via Cardinal.

Save the date!! Come visit the great city of San Antonio and get your pharmacy CE at the same time. If you are interested in attending the Cardinal RBC on July 27, please let [Lynn Ford](#) know.

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 1. Now is a good time to get contracts organized 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](#).

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POLICY

No Immediate Ruling on Fate of Texas' "Sanctuary Cities" Law

A federal judge Monday questioned the reach of a new Texas "sanctuary cities" law supported by the Trump administration. Four of the nation's largest cities, some police chiefs and immigrant-rights groups are trying to stop it from taking effect in September.

Hundreds of protesters, waving flags and carrying signs that read "Stop Separation of Families," packed the plaza outside a San Antonio courthouse where U.S. District Judge Orlando Garcia will decide whether Texas can carry out the law that President Donald Trump's Justice Department says is in-line with its crackdown on immigration. [READ THE ARTICLE HERE.](#)

Survey of Family Planning Services in Community Health Centers

TACHC strongly encourages health center CEOs (or their representatives) to complete the Survey of Family Planning Services in Community Health Centers. The survey is being conducted by the Geiger Gibson Program in Community Health Policy and the Jacobs Institute of Women's Health at the George Washington University (GWU), with support from the Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation. The survey started going out mid-May and was emailed to health center CEOs. Your input is very valuable in helping researchers understand health centers' important role in family planning and any changes since the previous survey (conducted in 2011), as well as to identify opportunities to further strengthen family planning services at CHCs. All federally-funded health centers are eligible to take the survey. Another survey reminder was sent out on Tuesday, June 27. If the CEO has not received any emails about the survey, please contact the Geiger Gibson Program in Community Health Policy (ggprogram@gwu.edu).

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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 **began 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 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

Ambulatory Care Accreditation: The Joint Commission's Patient Safety Resource on Infection Control

Check out the most recent issue of the Joint Commission's monthly [Quick Safety newsletter](#). It addresses improperly sterilized or high-level disinfected (HLD) equipment and how it continues to be a frequently scored noncompliant standard. For additional resources, [contact HRSA's Accreditation and Patient-Centered Medical Home Initiative Team](#).

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. Click here for information about [the conference](#). For more information about [functional medicine and the scholarships](#).

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.

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.

Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services Notice of Funding

HRSA recently announced the availability of FY 2017 Access Increases in Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services (AIMS) supplemental funding. This Health Center Program award will enable recipients to expand access to mental health and substance abuse services focusing on the treatment, prevention, and awareness of opioid abuse. The [FY 2017 AIMS Instructions](#) document, sample forms, and other resources are available on the AIMS technical assistance website. An informational webcast was held on 6/29, but you can view the [Presentation Slides](#). **Applications are due in HRSA's Electronic Handbooks (EHB) by 5 p.m. EDT, July 26.** You may access the EHB application module beginning June 30. There is no Grants.gov submission requirement. You are encouraged to use the sample forms and other resources on the [AIMS technical assistance website](#) to begin developing your proposals before working in the EHB application module.

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New Behavioral Health Barometer from SAMHSA

SAMHSA recently released the [Behavioral Health Barometer, United States, Volume 4](#). Topics include substance use, serious mental illness, serious thoughts of suicide, and behavioral health treatment. The barometer uses data from the National Survey on Drug Use and Health and the National Survey of Substance Abuse Treatment Services. It presents findings by age, gender, racial and ethnic categories, poverty status, and health insurance status.

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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