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NEWS

Senate Health Care Bill Update

The U.S. Senate released its updated version of the Better Care Reconciliation Act on Thursday. You can read

the full updated bill [here](#), and summaries of the key sections [here](#), and [here](#). The bill features Sen. Cruz's amendment to weaken insurance policies by allowing insurers and states to opt out of the Affordable Care Act's required 10 essential health benefits, and will essentially turn the ACA marketplace into a high risk pool. The bill is no better for health centers than the last version, and will decimate the Medicaid program. We expect a CBO score next week, so be on the lookout for an opportunity to take action, and in the meantime [email TACHC Civic Engagement Director Courtney Weaver](#) with any questions!



Request a Proclamation for National Health Center Week

In recognition of National Health Center Week, Texas **Governor Greg Abbott** has proclaimed August 13-19 Community Health Center Week in Texas. [View the proclamation here](#). Don't forget to REQUEST a proclamation recognizing National Health Center Week 2017 from your State Legislature, Mayor, City Council, County or local governing body. [You can download a proclamation template here](#). Please let us know when you have a proclamation! Contact [Courtney Weaver](#).

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TACHC Welcomes Mimi Garcia to Leadership Team

As the Director of Policy and External Communications for TACHC, Mimi Garcia will be providing leadership on state and federal policy issues, and overseeing strategic communications, as well as civic engagement supporting health centers across Texas. Prior to joining TACHC Ms. Garcia was the Texas State Director for Enroll America, a national non-profit organization committed to maximizing the number of uninsured Americans enrolling and retaining health coverage. She has worked in health advocacy, public investment, and social justice projects for more than 15 years. Please welcome Mimi at upcoming TACHC events, and feel free to [email her here](#).



Director of Operations Daniel Diaz addresses TACHC staff while Director of Legal Affairs Cecile Carson, Esq. and Director of Finance Lisa Allen take notes

TACHC Staff Holds Retreat/Strategic Planning Session

TACHC staff gathered for a retreat/strategic planning session at the Hyatt in downtown Austin on Thursday, July 13. During the session, staff evaluated what is absolutely essential for TACHC's success, and reviewed TACHC's programs and services to set priorities, identify opportunities for improved efficiency and use of resources, as well as opportunities for redirection of resources. Staff wrapped up the retreat with an exercise to generate and prioritize bold ideas on how to make TACHC the best place to work and best membership

association.



Pictured from left are Site Manager Brad Nelson, Dr. Marel Hanks, CCMA Maria Figueroa, Silvia Lopez, Esmeralda Garcia and Theresa Vasquez, RN.

Family Circle of Care Opens New Clinic in Athens

Family Circle of Care has been serving patients in Tyler since 1993, providing affordable health care to women and children. In 2012, FCC expanded its healthcare to all adults. The clinic currently has three locations in Tyler, one in Jacksonville and its newest one located in Athens. FCC opened its Athens clinic in April after conducting research and studying the demographics in Henderson County, [Read the story here.](#)

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.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Register for the Second PCMH Bootcamp Face to Face Session!

[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](#)

2017 Compensation Survey Webcast

The Results Are In...Register Now!

BKD, LLP supported TACHC in conducting the 2017 Compensation and Benefits Survey of TACHC member centers and will present the results-including comparisons of the TACHC compensation rates benchmarked against other national data-on Friday, August 4 at 11:00 AM CST. In this webcast, BKD will highlight the study's findings and conclusions. Webinar participants will have the opportunity to understand the best ways to apply these findings to the Center's compensation model. There is no cost to participate but registration is

required. We look forward to you joining the presentation. Contact [Anita Mitchell](#) with questions. [REGISTER HERE!](#)

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



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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 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 Now Open

The window to register both a clinic site and a retail pharmacy to be eligible for 340B pricing is now open and will be open until July 15. During this registration period, you can add a new retail pharmacy to contract with for pharmacy services ("bill to/ship to"). When registering during this time, the new site will be eligible for 340B pricing effective October 1. The registration process occurs electronically via the [OPA website](#). Remember that you cannot register a site to be eligible for 340B pricing until 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

Special Session to Kick Off July 18

A special session of the 2017 Texas Legislature will 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 **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 broadcasted 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

National HIV Curriculum Now Available

The AIDS Education & Training Center (AETC) National Coordinating Resource Center, in partnership with the University of Washington, with support from HRSA's HIV/AIDS Bureau, is pleased to announce the launch of the [AETC National HIV Curriculum \(NHC\)](#). This unique online tool, offers FREE CME/CEU training for physicians, physician assistants, nurse practitioners and pharmacists, and is appropriate for clinicians of all levels – from novice to expert – as well as health profession faculty and students. [Share the site with your colleagues](#), and consider ordering NHC promotional [cards](#) or [posters](#) – free of charge – to display or disseminate to colleagues at your health center, clinic, university, or training event. Email info@aidsetc.org to place an order or for more information.

Emergency Preparedness and Response Resources

CMS and ASPR TRACIE are partnering to provide technical assistance and share resources to help affected providers start or update the documents mandated by the CMS EP Rule. For your ease, ASPR TRACIE developed the [CMS EP Rule: Resources at Your Fingertips](#) document so all related materials can be accessed with one click.

The rule was published on September 16, 2016 and became effective November 15, 2016. The regulations must be implemented by affected entities, including FQHC's, by November 15, 2017. More information on ambulatory care and FQHCs can be found [here](#).

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](#).

FORHP Rural Health Opioid Program Funding Opportunity

HRSA's Federal Office of Rural Health Policy (FORHP) is making \$3 million available to expand opioid-related health care services in rural communities. The funding will support up to 12 grantees for three years.

Applications for the FORHP program are due July 21. [Find more information about the FORHP program and instructions for applicants.](#)

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 4:00 PM CDT, July 26.** 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.

Recommendations for Promotores(as) de Salud and Language Access Services at Your Health Center

Community Health Workers/Promotores(as) de Salud are frontline public health workers who are members of the community they serve. By serving as a liaison between the health organization and the community, they facilitate access to services and improve the quality and cultural competence of service delivery. Farmworker Justice and MHP Salud, both BPHC-funded NCAs, have developed [recommendations for Promotores\(as\) de Salud](#) involved in language access services at health centers.

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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 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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