



TACHC
Texas Association of Community Health Centers

WEEKLY WRAP-UP

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NEWS

Texas Women's Healthcare Coalition (TWHC) Names Senator Jane Nelson 2017

Legislative Champion



Pictured from left to right: Leah Gonzales (HFTX), Mary Allen (TACHC), Alice Bufkin (HFTX), Dr. Jan Realini (HFTX), Jane Nelson (Texas State Senator), Stacey Pogue (CPPP), Mimi Garcia (TACHC), Tom Banning (TAFP).

On July 19, the TWHC, which TACHC is a member of, presented Senator Jane Nelson with the 2017 Legislative Champion award for her support of preventive healthcare for Texas women. As Chair of Senate Finance, Senator Nelson was instrumental during the 83rd and 84th legislative sessions in restoring and adding new funding for the state's women's health programs. Her support in the Finance Committee for the state's women's health programs was vital in ensuring those programs received level funding this session. Thank you for your leadership, Senator Nelson!

GOP Senators Try to Revive Health Care Bill

The health care bill is not dead. There is very difficult math for leadership to corral 50 votes on either the procedural motion to debate the bill, or on final passage, but they are still working hard to do so, with a goal of a vote on Tuesday of next week. Whether the Senate eventually votes on "repeal and delay" or a modified version of the BCRA, the bill is still harmful to health centers and our patients. Both versions contain devastating cuts to Medicaid, which is the largest source of coverage for patients served at health centers. Even with an additional \$200 billion, the BCRA cannot be fixed. The Medicaid cut in the bill alone amounts to \$756 billion, according to the CBO. Patchwork funding does not make up for the loss of coverage these bills would cause. Right now, we are asking advocates to stay engaged and keep up the pressure! Continue calling and emailing your Senate offices to deliver the Health Center message. Today, more than ever, wavering Senators are under tremendous pressure to change their votes and support these changes, which would have a significant negative impact on Health Center patients.

Here's how you can TAKE ACTION: visit the [Health Center Advocacy Network](#) to access NACHC's [BCRA Action Alert](#), and ask your Senators to set aside this damaging proposal and focus on common-sense, bipartisan solutions to the problems in our health care system.

Plan Your Event NOW 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!**



Lone Star Family Health Breaks Ground on New Clinic in Grangerland

Officials with Lone Star Family Health Center (LSFHC) broke ground on a clinic on Monday that will be located on the campus of Conroe Independent School District's (CISD) Ben Milam Elementary. The new clinic, which will open in September, will to serve the community of Grangerland. "Our new Grangerland clinic will fill a large need for primary healthcare services in this part of our county," said LSFHC CEO Karen Harwell (*pictured at right*). [Read the full story here.](#)



Member Spotlight: Bill Schlesinger, CEO, Project Vida Health Center

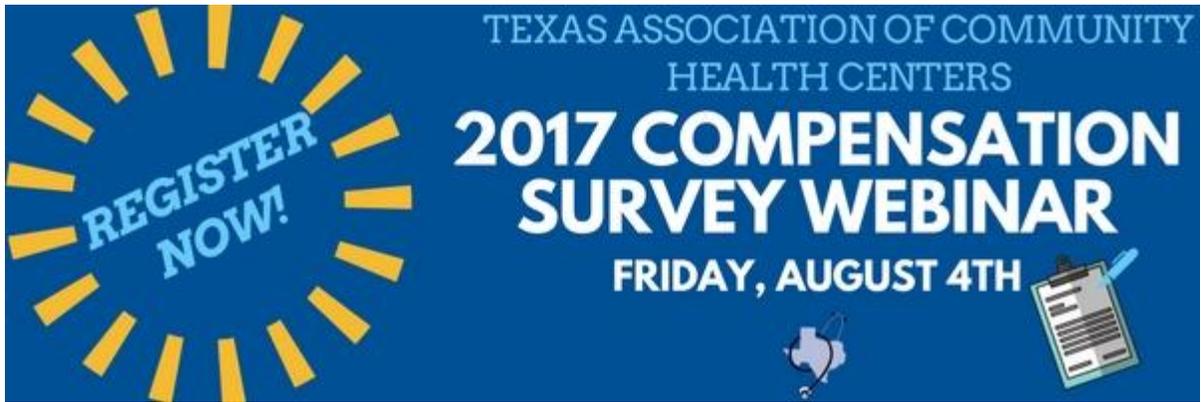
You could say that "caring about people" has been the central driver in Project Vida Health Center CEO Bill Schlesinger's career path since the he was a theology student at the University of Chicago Divinity School back in the 60s.

"My wife Carol and I have been doing community work since we were students," said Schlesinger. [Read the full story here.](#)



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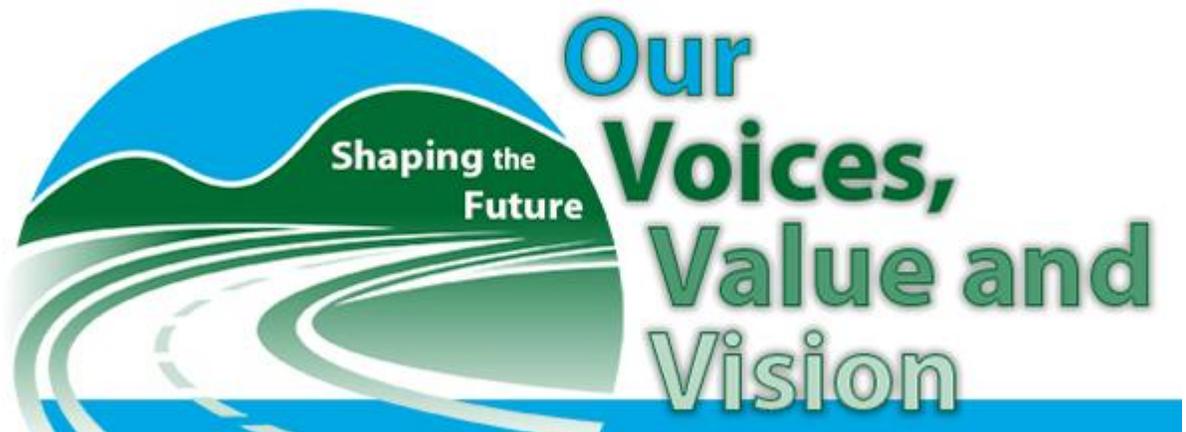
[UPCOMING EVENTS](#)



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 a clinic site to be eligible for 340B pricing will be open until August 4. 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 Update

Special Session began on July 18 and could last for up to 30 days. The first item of business the legislature is considering relates to the reauthorization of the Texas Medical Board (TMB), the state agency charged with licensing physicians in Texas. The agency is currently set to sunset this year, but legislation has been filed in both the House and Senate that would reauthorize the TMB for an additional two years. TACHC does not anticipate any issues with this bill passing. Once debate closes on the sunset legislation, the legislature can start addressing the [19](#) other charges the Governor included on his agenda. While legislators may file bills on any issues during the special session, it is unlikely they will move unless they are included on the Governor's agenda. TACHC will be monitoring [SB 27](#) (Miles) and [HB 112](#) (Walle), relating to automatic enrollment of eligible women into Healthy Texas Women from CHIP or Children's Medicaid; [HB 102](#) (Coleman) and [SB 44](#) (Rodriguez), relating to postpartum depression treatment under Medicaid and CHIP-P; and [HB 144](#) (Farrar), relating to a report concerning health care providers participating in the breast and cervical cancer services program, the family planning program, and the Texas women's health program. For more information on these bills, please contact TACHC's new Director of Policy & External Communications, [Mimi Garcia](#).

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GOVERNANCE & FINANCE

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

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 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.

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CLINICAL

One Week Left to Apply for AIMS Funding (HRSA-17-118)

Non-competitive applications for Access Increases in Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services (AIMS) supplemental funding are due by 5:00 PM. EDT on July 26. AIMS funding will enable health centers to expand access to mental health services and substance abuse services focusing on the treatment, prevention, and awareness of opioid abuse. All current Health Center Program award recipients are encouraged to apply for up to \$150,000. Find application resources on the [AIMS technical assistance website](#), including the AIMS instructions document, sample forms and frequently asked questions. Follow the application submission steps included in the email you received from HRSA on June 30 to complete your application in EHB. Contact bphcsupplement@hrsa.gov if you cannot locate this email.

Expand Access to Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services with Weitzman Project ECHO

Are you applying for [Fiscal Year 2017 Access Increases in Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services \(AIMS\) Supplemental Funding](#)? Are you looking for resources to support your organization better train staff? The Weitzman Institute offers comprehensive training opportunities in Medication-Assisted Treatment as well as education for primary care providers in pain management. Learn about how the Weitzman Institute can help your organization make the most out of AIMS Supplemental Funding. Visit our website at <https://www.weitzmaninstitute.org> or contact Agi Erickson at EricksA@chc1.com

Oral Health Database and Guide

The Administration for Community Living has developed a [database](#) of nearly 200 community-based oral health programs and an [Oral Health Guide](#) to promote low-cost, community-based oral health programs for older adults.

Implementation of the Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System 2.0 Reporting Form

The Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System (VAERS), co-managed by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), is the national post-market safety monitoring system that accepts reports about adverse events that occur after administration of U.S.-licensed vaccines. On June 30,

CDC and FDA implemented a revised reporting form and a new process for submitting reports to VAERS. [Read more.](#)

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](#).

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.

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RECRUITMENT & RETENTION

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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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