



# TACHC

Texas Association of Community Health Centers

**WEEKLY WRAP-UP**

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## IN THIS ISSUE

### NEWS

National Health Center Week Wraps Up Tomorrow!  
U.S. Rep. Filemon Vela's Commentary Puts NHCW in the Texas Spotlight  
New TACHC Resource: What is a Community Health Center? Video  
HOPE Clinic Recognized for PCMH

### UPCOMING EVENTS

Register Now! TACHC Annual Conference

### GROUP PURCHASING

OPA's 340B Database Offline For Updates

### POLICY

Special Session Ends

### GOVERNANCE & FINANCE

Health Center Quality Improvement FY 2017 Grant Awards  
2016 Health Center Program Data Now Available  
Need a Letter of Support from TACHC?  
Does Your Center Need a Nurse Advice Line?

### OUTREACH

Outreach & Enrollment Annual Conference – Register Now!

### CLINICAL

August is Immunization Awareness Month  
Centering Group Care Trainings & Virtual Information Seminars  
March of Dimes Grant Opportunity  
Rapidly Growing Clusters of Ongoing HIV Transmission in Texas  
Opioid Addiction Treatment ECHO Clinics in Progress Now  
Connected Care: Raising Awareness about Chronic Care Management

### RECRUITMENT & RETENTION

Would You Like us to Help You Recruit?

### NEWS

## National Health Center Week Wraps Up Tomorrow!

As we wrap up National Health Center Week 2017, we'd like to congratulate all of our community health centers who participated in events. Across the state, centers were part of the action, hosting health fairs, back-to-school events, visits from elected officials and more. TACHC staff traveled around the state as well, and here some of

the photos from those visits: [Slideshow 1](#) • [Slideshow 2](#). Make sure to send photos of your events to TACHC Communications Director [Brom Hoban](#)

### **U.S. Rep. Filemon Vela's Commentary Puts NHCW in the Texas Spotlight**

U.S. Rep. Filemon Vela (District 34) helped showcase the great work FQHC's are doing in this commentary that ran this week in the Harlingen *Valley Morning Star*. [Read the article here.](#)



### **New TACHC Resource: What is a Community Health Center? Video**



We are proud to share the Texas version of the "What is a Community Health Center?" video. Created with help from the Hawaii Association of Community Health Centers, this short video is a brief explanation of community health centers and the services they provide the community. Note: Anyone can share or embed this video for community outreach. Only TACHC members have the ability to download of the video, and should have received an email with the video links allowing them to do so.

- [What is a Community Health Center?](#) (English)
- [What is a Community Health Center?](#) (Spanish)

TACHC members in need of the download link please contact TACHC Communications Director [Brom Hoban](#)

### **HOPE Clinic Recognized for PCMH**

HOPE Clinic (Houston) has earned Recognition as a Patient Centered Medical Home (PCMH) Level 3. The highest level, in recognition to the quality and efficient of care provided at our clinic. TACHC congratulates HOPE's quality team: Dr. Arunachalam, Mrs. Kara Green and Tam Ly.

[Back to Top](#)

### **UPCOMING EVENTS**

**[Register Now!](#) TACHC Annual Conference • October 29-November 1, 2017 La Cantera Resort & Spa • San Antonio, Texas**



## **GROUP PURCHASING**

### **OPA's 340B Database Offline For Updates**

As part of the transition to the new 340B Office of Pharmacy Affairs Information System (340B OPAIS), the current 340B database will be offline and unavailable as of August 15, 2017. HRSA will begin to archive the information in the current 340B database in preparation for the release of the registration component of the new 340B OPAIS in mid-September 2017 (exact date TBD). During this time, FQHCs will not be able to submit change requests or terminations. However, users can verify covered entity participation, manufacturer participation, and contract pharmacy locations in the 340B Program at [www.hrsa.gov/opa](http://www.hrsa.gov/opa). If you have any questions, contact [Lynn Ford](#).

[Back to Top](#)

## **POLICY**

### **Special Session Ends**

Texas' legislative special session ended a day earlier than expected; about half of Governor Abbott's priorities passed both the House and the Senate and made it to the Governor's desk. Governor Abbott declared the special session in part to pass legislation that would keep open several state agencies, including the Texas Medical Board, which licenses doctors. TACHC monitored this sunset legislation closely, along with [SB 17](#), which extended a study of the causes of maternal mortality.

### **Passed**

1. Sunset legislation to keep alive state agencies ([SB 20](#) and [SB 60](#))
2. Limiting local tree regulations ([HB 7](#))
3. Restricting cities' ability to annex property ([SB 6](#))
4. Increasing abortion complication reporting requirements ([HB 13](#))
5. Prohibiting abortion coverage under primary health insurance plans ([HB 214](#))
6. Extending a study of the causes of maternal mortality ([SB 17](#))
7. Cracking down on mail-in ballot fraud ([SB 5](#))
8. Strengthening patient protections relating to do-not-resuscitate orders ([SB 11](#))
9. Public school finance improvements and a study commission ([HB 21](#))
10. Increasing teacher benefits, including easing trims to retirees' health care ([SB 19](#))

### **Failed**

11. Teacher pay increase and more flexible contracts and salary schedule (linked in his proclamation with their benefits as one item)
12. School vouchers for special-needs children
13. Limiting growth of local property taxes
14. Caps on local government spending

15. Caps on state government spending
16. Speeding up local government permitting process
17. Preventing local rule changes midway through construction projects
18. Pre-empting local restrictions on mobile devices in automobiles
19. Restricting transgender Texans from using the bathroom of their choice
20. Prohibiting public employers from collecting union dues
21. Prohibiting local governments from sending tax dollars to Planned Parenthood

[Back to Top](#)

## **GOVERNANCE & FINANCE**

### **Health Center Quality Improvement FY 2017 Grant Awards**

The US Department of Health and Human Services has awarded \$105 million to 1,333 health centers in all U.S. states, territories and the District of Columbia as an investment in quality improvement, building upon their 2016 achievements. In Texas, there were 72 awards totaling \$4,755,625! This initiative supports continued improvement at health centers based on high levels of performance in one or more of five categories: Improving quality of care; Increasing access to care; Enhancing delivery of high value health care; Addressing health disparities; and Achieving Patient-Centered Medical Home (PCMH) recognition. [View the Health Center Quality Improvement FY 2017 Grant Awards here.](#)

### **2016 Health Center Program Data Now Available**

HRSA has released the 2016 UDS information. Data shows the HRSA funded health centers served nearly 26 million people – 1 in 12 nationwide – in 2016. In Texas, a total of 1,328,406 patients accessed care through a health center or a look-alike center. Almost all (99.6%) health centers nationally demonstrated improvement on one or more clinical quality measures. [View the Health Center Data & Reporting Here.](#)

### **Need a Letter of Support from TACHC?**

If you would like to request a Letter of Support, signed by TACHC Executive Director, José Camacho, please email [Corinne Medina](#) along with the project abstract. Once the request and abstract have been received, please allow 2-3 business days for turnaround.

### **Does Your Center Need a Nurse Advice Line?**

If you haven't heard, TACHC recently began offering a Nurse Advice Line through the Group Purchasing program. Following Schmitt-Thompson support protocols, a registered nurse, licensed in the state of Texas, will triage callers when your center doors are closed. This after-hours support service is helping centers significantly alleviate their on-call provider schedules. For some, the nurse advice line is replacing it completely. The service is available 24/7/365, and includes free translation services and unlimited calls. If you would like additional information, please contact [Corinne Medina](#) or [Nancy Gilliam](#).

[Back to Top](#)

## **OUTREACH**



The banner features the 'mytexas myhealth' logo on the left, with 'mytexas' in pink and 'myhealth' in green. To the right, the text reads: 'REGISTER NOW!' in bold black, followed by 'TACHC Outreach and Enrollment 2017 Conference' in blue. Below this is the slogan 'Together Towards Tomorrow.' in blue. At the bottom, it says 'September 27-28 | Bee Cave, TX' in green and pink.

### **TACHC Outreach & Enrollment Annual Conference – Register Now!**

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.

[Back to Top](#)

## CLINICAL

### August is Immunization Awareness Month

Flu season will be here soon! Prepare your organization's flu shot campaign now. We encourage health centers to advise patients to receive all recommended vaccinations. Adult vaccination rates are low. The CDC's [Standards for Adult Immunization Practice](#) provide a helpful framework to ensure full immunization for adults. Most adults are familiar with annual influenza immunization, which may create a convenient opportunity to assess their vaccination status in general. Public and private insurance plans usually cover common vaccinations that adults need without requiring a co-payment. Look for 2017-2018 CDC influenza season resources to become available in the near future. In the meantime, see the CDC's [information about recommended vaccinations](#) and read its recent update, "[Influenza Activity in the United States During the 2016-17 Season and Composition of the 2017-18 Influenza Vaccine](#)."



Centering®

### Centering Group Medical Visit Trainings

Group medical visits are a reimbursable model that fits in the space between fee-for-service and value-based payment. FQHCs nationwide are increasingly using group visits to increase access to care, improve patient health outcomes, reduce emergency room utilization, and increase patient and provider satisfaction. Centering® is a particular model of group care developed by the [Centering Healthcare Institute \(CHI\)](#) that is well established nationwide, with nearly 500 practice sites across the country, including over 100 in FQHCs. The visit schedule and content follow nationally recognized guidelines and there are numerous publications that show reduced costs to the health system, improved health outcomes, and reduced health disparities.

TACHC and CHI are partnering to bring the trainings necessary to successfully implement Centering groups in health centers here in Texas.

### Centering Virtual Information Seminar

- **Part 1: September 7, 2017 12:00 - 2:00 PM CT**
- **Part 2: September 14, 2017 12:00 - 2:00 PM CT**
- **Part 3: September 21, 2017 12:00 - 2:00 PM CT**

### Basic Facilitation Workshop October 28-29, 2017

Annual Conference preconference to be held at CommuniCare Health Centers in San Antonio.

### How to Participate:

- Health centers interested in implementing Centering groups must complete the [Readiness](#)

[Assessment from the CHI website.](#)

- **To register your team for the Virtual Information Seminar, [please complete the VIS registration form.](#)**
- **Space for the Basic Facilitation Training is limited, therefore health centers will need to [complete the BFT registration form.](#)** Applications will be taken on a first come, first served basis and approval will be determined based on the results of the readiness assessment and whether the health center is registered/attends all three parts of the Virtual Information Seminar.
- **For any questions, please contact Ana Sierra at [asierra@tachc.org](mailto:asierra@tachc.org).**

### **March of Dimes Grant Opportunity**

If you plan on implementing CenteringPregnancy, an opportunity to offset some of the costs may exist through the [2018 March of Dimes Texas Community Grant funding](#). March of Dimes Texas is accepting Letters of Intent (LOI) by **August 25, 2017** as a first step in requesting 2018 grant funding. If Texas FQHCs are planning on participating in the above trainings and implementing CenteringPregnancy, March of Dimes is encouraging them to submit a Letter of Intent, specifically ***highlighting that the costs for implementation are significantly reduced due the partnership of TACHC and CHI.***

If you have general grant questions, please contact [Amy Johnson-Rubio](#) with the March of Dimes. For questions on how this can specifically relate to Centering, please contact [Ana Sierra](#).

### **Rapidly Growing Clusters of Ongoing HIV Transmission in Texas**

The Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) encourages Texas healthcare providers to enhance efforts to prevent, diagnose and treat HIV in the wake of 16 rapidly growing clusters of HIV infections in the state. Laboratory analysis of these infections indicates sustained transmission of genetically similar types of HIV. The clusters range in size from 5 to 34 cases, with over 200 cases being linked to the Texas clusters. However, as public health continues their work, it is likely that additional cases may be linked to these clusters. [Click Here To Join in the Discussion](#). For more information, healthcare providers can contact their local health department, the [DSHS HIV/STD Program](#) at 512-533-3000, or [the National Clinicians Consultation Network](#) at (800) 933-3413.

### **Opioid Addiction Treatment ECHO Clinics in Progress Now**

The ECHO Institute, based at the University of New Mexico, is starting a second round of the [Opioid Addiction Treatment ECHO virtual clinics](#), which includes didactic sessions for multidisciplinary providers with the opportunity to present patient cases and receive specialty input on a bi-weekly basis. These clinics will enhance health center capacity to treat substance abuse. Participants will receive a certificate from the ECHO Institute and the American Society of Addiction Medicine as well as earn free continuing education credits for their participation in the ECHO virtual clinic.

### **Connected Care: Raising Awareness about Chronic Care Management**

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) Office of Minority Health and the Federal Office of Rural Health Policy at the Health Resources and Service Administration recently launched Connected Care, a new public education campaign. Connected Care raises awareness about the benefits of chronic care management (CCM) services for Medicare patients with multiple chronic conditions and to provide health care professionals with the tools to successfully implement and bill for CCM. [View additional information and download resources.](#)

## **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 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](mailto:aalvarez@tachc.org). To stop receiving emails, [click here](#).