



TACHC
Texas Association of Community Health Centers

WEEKLY WRAP-UP

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NEWS



Community Health Centers' Inspiring Response to Hurricane Harvey

I am reminded once again this week of the essential role Health Centers play in our communities. After Hurricane Katrina, we never thought we would face a catastrophe of that magnitude, but the unthinkable has happened again.

Our thoughts and prayers are with the victims of Hurricane Harvey, particularly our centers' employees who themselves are struggling to cope.

We have 43 Health Centers in the 51 counties that are under the disaster declaration—187 sites. Up to 10 sites may not be able to re-open and get up and running for at least five to six weeks—but still, that's incredibly fortunate, all things considered.

It will be weeks before Health Centers get back to a stable environment, but the clinics, their employees, and our patients are already responding. It's incredible to watch—it's certainly inspiring to see these folks in action: delivering food and medicines, vaccinating those in need, identifying and responding to their communities.

We're laying the infrastructure for the immediate needs of Texas patients, and as people transition back into the communities, Health Centers are going to be needed more than ever, and they are prepared for that.

Always remember: you are part of the Health Center family. You are not alone. Health Centers in our state and our nation will help you respond.

– José E. Camacho, TACHC Executive Director/General Counsel

TACHC is working to Assess Hurricane Harvey's Damage to Centers

TACHC is working to assess and understand the needs of health centers in the direct impact areas of Hurricane Harvey. In order to provide assistance, we need to know your specific needs. This includes those centers in locations where evacuees are being received. TACHC is coordinating the efforts from several relief organizations and as well as other organizational donations. Please take a moment to report your specific needs to TACHC. We understand that some health centers are not accessible yet, but please let us know what you anticipate as immediate needs or items of support. We have received a multitude of offers for assistance:

- Mobile units
- Provider/clinical staffing
- Hygiene supplies
- Medical supplies
- Small operating grants
- One time federal grants for rebuilding - HRSA wants an estimate.

In order for us to effectively deploy and share these resources- we need to understand what the need may be.

Please send your assessments, requests for assistance, or questions for support to Christina Brito-Tigerina at cbtigerina@tachc.org.

Daily Calls: Check in with TACHC

Beginning today, September 1, at 11:00 a.m. CT, TACHC will host daily calls with health centers. The purpose of these short check-in calls is to ascertain resources needed from health centers affected by Hurricane Harvey and, just as importantly, give centers that were NOT affected a direct line of communication to offer support. These calls will last for approximately 30 minutes per day with the first 15 minutes dedicated to centers in need to get their asks out to all centers in the state. The last 15 minutes will allow centers that can help meet those needs to connect directly with those in need. **Please call in to: Phone 1-855-257-8693 PIN: 2177954#**

THESE CALLS ARE NOT INTENDED TO REPLACE THE DIRECT CONTACT THAT YOU HAVE WITH TACHC STAFF ASSIGNED TO YOUR AFFECTED CENTER. If you identify needs in between these calls, please continue to reach out to your designated staff member either at the office or through the direct contact information you have obtained from them.

If your Center has not been contacted by a designated TACHC Staff Member, you may join these calls to stay on top of what is going on in Texas Health Centers. In addition, you may contact [José E. Camacho](mailto:Jose.E.Camacho@tachc.org) 512-751-0862, [Daniel Diaz](mailto:Daniel.Diaz@tachc.org) 512-659-9811, [Nancy Gilliam](mailto:Nancy.Gilliam@tachc.org) 512-422-8664, [Christina Brito-Tigerina](mailto:Christina.Brito-Tigerina@tachc.org) 806-787-9738, or [Lisa Allen](mailto:Lisa.Allen@tachc.org) 512-293-7688.

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CommUnityCare Joins Other Austin Area Providers to Lend a Hand

Central Health, Seton Healthcare Family, Austin Regional Clinic and St. David's Healthcare have all assisted Hurricane Harvey survivors in some capacity. Austin Public Health and Integral Care asked for assistance from CommUnityCare's Mobile Health Team—Central Health's community health clinics—at the Toney Burger Center for people evacuated from Rockport and Victoria, according to Ted Burton, Central Health's senior director of communication. Central Health is also working with local government partners to stand up a medical treatment site on the J.J. Pickle Research Campus if required, he said.

The CommUnityCare staff is prepared to fill numerous prescriptions for people who have evacuated, especially medicines for behavioral health, Burton said. The team is working with Integral Care to get needed medication to anybody in a shelter that needs medication.



California's Clinica Sierra Vista Sends Help to Texas Community Health Centers

Clinica Sierra Vista of Bakersfield, CA, is responding to the urgent need for medical help by dispatching two fully equipped medical and dental mobile units to deluged southeastern Texas, where the catastrophic Hurricane Harvey has displaced thousands and is depriving the sick, injured and vulnerable of necessary care. Staffers loaded the 44-foot-long mobile units with medical supplies, water on Thursday, Aug. 31, at their East Bakersfield Dental complex, 1125 E. California Ave. Four Clinica staffers then departed driving around the clock to get supplies and aid to families who have lost everything in the storm and flooding. Their mobile units meet the most rigorous standards of care, making them health centers on wheels, capable of going where the greatest need is. The air-conditioned mobiles feature exam rooms, state-of-the-art equipment and restrooms.



“CSV stepped up after Katrina in '05 and we went to East Texas,” said Stephen W. Schilling, CEO Clinica Sierra Vista. “We have an obligation to do the same now. Many of our neighbors have roots in Texas, and our health-center colleagues there need us today.”

Wrap Methodology Scheduled to go into Effect Today, September 1

The wrap methodology is scheduled to go into effect on September 1. Although no official health center testing has occurred, TACHC suggests that centers submit an initial batch of 10 claims of the various types reimbursed by managed care organizations (Plans) at the PPS rate, and then call the Plans to have them check the claims to see if they are correct and will be processed for payment.

“We suggest that you first submit to each Plan centers' contract with a variety of claims paid at the PPS rate and follow up with a call to determine if there are any issues, before going through with the full billing,” said Daniel Diaz, TACHC Director of Operations. If you have any questions, contact [José E. Camacho](#) (for Plan information/questions), [Cecile Carson](#) (for contracts); [Britt Kushner](#) (for billing and coding); and [Daniel Diaz](#) (for general questions).

Health Center Funding Cliff

If Congress does not take action by September 30, health centers could see a 70% funding cut when the Community Health Center Fund expires.

The Community Health Centers Fund was established in 2010 under the ACA. It provided a supplemental infusion of funds to Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs) for expansion, operation, and allowed health centers to open new locations in poor and medically underserved areas of the country. In 2015, Congress extended the Community Health Center Fund for 2 more years. Now in 2017, we face another funding expiration. **Failure to extend funding for the Community Health Center Fund would result in a 70% funding cut for FQHCs.** Clinics could close without a funding extension.

September 30, 2017:
Essential funding for the
primary care millions of
Texans depend on will
expire unless Congress
takes action.

TELL CONGRESS TO:
FIX THE CLIFF



FQHCs are in urban, suburban, rural, and frontier areas of the state. In some communities, especially rural communities, the local health center is the only full time medical provider in the community. In Texas, 76 FQHCs deliver health services at more than 450 sites in 122 counties and see more than 1.2 million patients a year for over 4.5 million health visits a year. FQHCs serve everyone who comes to them, regardless of ability to pay. In a state like Texas with such a high uninsured population, health centers are essential.

Over the next couple weeks we will be mobilizing letters, calls, op-eds, etc. to turn up the heat and I ask all of you to join, make calls, and amplify the message through your networks and through social media. [Take action now by emailing your members of Congress and tell them to act to save health centers.](#)

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North Texas Area Community Health Centers Breaks Ground on New Facilities

The North Texas Area Community Health Centers (NTACHC) broke ground August 22 on a new 33,800-square-foot Northside Community Health Center located at 2332 Beverly Hills Drive in Fort Worth. It will replace its current 12,000-square-foot clinic currently located at 2106 Main. The new building, scheduled to open in 2018, will allow the clinic to grow from serving 9,600 patients, becoming the medical home for up to 22,000 patients by 2022. Some 100 government, community, business and healthcare leaders were in attendance. It was a great event everyone, and everyone was excited to see this project start and learn about the many services that will be provided in this much needed community.



Pictured from left to right are: Jerry Pyron, NTACHC Chief Financial Officer; Carlos Flores, Fort Worth City Councilman for District 2; Marc Veasey, U.S. Representative for Congressional District 33; Gerrie Whitaker, NTACHC Chief Executive Officer; Kay Granger, U.S. Representative for Congressional District 12; Glen Whitley, Tarrant County Judge; LeeAnna Mendoza, Hispanic Health Coalition Board; John Hernandez, Fort Worth Hispanic Chamber President

HHS Awards Nearly \$105 Million to Improve Health Center Quality

Today, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services announced that nearly \$105 million has been awarded 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. Health centers will use these funds to further improve the quality, efficiency, and effectiveness of the health care delivered to the communities they serve. This announcement was made during Health Center Week, the annual celebration of the high-quality, affordable, primary care health centers have been providing for more than 50 years.

Texas Community Health Centers received 72 awards and in Texas, La Esperanza Clinic, Inc. notably received the only National Quality Leaders award (which recognizes centers that exceeded national clinical quality benchmarks, including Healthy People 2020 goals, for chronic disease management, preventive care, and perinatal/prenatal care). [Full story here.](#) [View the Health Center Quality Improvement FY 2017 Grant Awards here.](#)

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[UPCOMING EVENTS](#)



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

13th Annual Texas Health Literacy Conference

The conference, held October 12-13 in San Antonio, is geared towards health care organizations (and their providers and staff) working with patients who are living in poverty. This conference will be covering health literacy in health insurance, LGBT, youth, older adults and mental health populations/communities via 90 or 120 minute break out sessions. For more information, please visit www.SAHealthLiteracy.com or contact Kate Martin at Mary.k.martin@uth.tmc.edu.

GROUP PURCHASING

Request for Information on 340B/Pharmacy

The 340B pharmacy program is under a microscope at the federal level and in the theme of being pro-active, NACHC has asked for two pieces of information:

1. Brief examples of how your health center uses the 340B savings to expand services to your patients and communities. For example: expanding dental services or underwriting sliding fee discounts or adding evening and weekend hours. The documenting of these services as an internal document is an excellent idea if you are ever asked what you do with these savings.
2. Information on why it is critical for your health center to be able to contract with multiple retail pharmacies.

Please forward the examples and information to [Lynn Ford](#).

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 hrsa.gov/opa. If you have any questions, contact [Lynn Ford](#).

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POLICY

[Health Center Funding Cliff \(see above\)](#)

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GOVERNANCE & FINANCE

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](#).

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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, followed by 'TACHC Outreach and Enrollment 2017 Conference' and the slogan 'Together Towards Tomorrow.' in a teal font. At the bottom, it specifies the dates 'September 27-28' and the location 'Bee Cave, TX'.

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 Today!](#) Contact [Sonia Lara](#) or [RexAnn Shotwell](#) for more information.

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CLINICAL



Centering®

Centering Group Medical Visit Trainings

There's less than a week until the first Centering Virtual Information Seminar! If you are interested in bringing group medical visits, and specifically the [Centering model of care](#), to your health center, we highly encourage you to attend this free three-part webcast series.

Centering Virtual Information Seminar

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

Basic Facilitation Workshop October 28-29, 2017

The Basic Facilitation Workshop will be held at at CommuniCare Health Centers in San Antonio prior to the start of the Annual Conference.

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](#).**

Webcast: Using Neighborhood Socioeconomic Data to Improve Health Outcomes

In this webinar on Wednesday, September 6, 2017, 1:00 - 2:00 PM CST, Dr. Amy Kind of the University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health will discuss the relationship between neighborhood disadvantage and health disparities, and the challenges of incorporating socioeconomic measures within national-level health policy and delivery. She will then introduce a practical approach to measuring neighborhood disadvantage and discuss early applications of this tool for health care delivery. Living in a socioeconomically disadvantaged neighborhood is associated with lower education, worse health behaviors, higher stress, and increased rates of mortality and disease. These associations have been recognized for decades, but there have been barriers to applying this information to health policy and health delivery. [Click Here to Register](#).

A Message from the American Cancer Society

We have worked with many of you to support the cancer prevention and early detection needs of your community health centers and the patients you serve. Our hearts go out to everyone in the community who has been affected by Hurricane Harvey. We understand that a disaster can compound and intensify the challenges a cancer patient faces. The American Cancer Society can provide knowledgeable help and compassionate guidance. We have many resources to help those fighting cancer. If Hurricane Harvey has impacted you or a loved one who has cancer, the American Cancer Society can help 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Call us at 1-800-227-2345. [Find out more here](#).

New PRAPARE Health Center Engagement and Innovation Awards

To broaden the understanding and knowledge of PRAPARE, its use, and its impact to bring PRAPARE to

scale, NACHC, AAPCHO, and OPCA are launching the first ever PRAPARE Health Center Engagement and Innovation Awards. The purpose of the Engagement and Innovation Awards is two-fold: (1) to identify, support, and learn from innovative and unique uses of PRAPARE and (2) to disseminate those models and lessons learned in order to accelerate the use of PRAPARE across health centers and more patients. Please read the [application](#) for more information. Five health centers will be awarded \$8,000 each for active participation during each round. Round One will occur between October 2017 – May 2018 and Round Two will occur between October 2018 – 2019. Only health centers are eligible to apply.

Applications for Round One are due Friday, September 15 by 11:00 PM CST. Submit applications and questions to prapare@nachc.org. Additional instructions and application can be found [HERE](#).

Frequently Asked Questions regarding the application will be posted and updated regularly on the [NACHC website](#) starting the week of September 28. Submit questions to prapare@nachc.org.

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. To stop receiving emails, [click here](#).