



TACHC

Texas Association of Community Health Centers

WEEKLY WRAP-UP

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NEWS

Health Center Funding Cliff: One Week Left!

This week, 70 out of 100 United States Senators signed the [Blunt-Stabenow Health Center Cliff Letter](#) (see the [HCAAdvocacy site](#) to view signers) demanding Congress act to fix the Cliff before September 30th. We are still awaiting Texas Senators Cruz and Cornyn to sign on to this important letter.

In the House, legislation has been introduced, [H.R. 3770, the Community Health Improvement, Modernization, and Excellence Act of 2017 \(CHIME\) Act](#), that would extend health center funding for five years. Our state generated almost 500 phone calls on the September 18th call-in day, leading to several Texas Representatives co-sponsoring this legislation (Castro, Cuellar, Gene Green, Hurd, Smith, and Thornberry).

These are important steps, but specific Congressional action is still needed to fix the cliff before the end of the month. Please, [take action and encourage your friends, family, and colleagues to do the same](#). Our advocacy must be relentless until the cliff is fixed! Don't let Congress delay action any longer – demand that Congress make Health Centers a priority and demand that they take action immediately to fix the cliff.

Take Action Now!

Next week is the final week before the Health Center Funding Cliff takes effect. Despite the thousands of calls and messages sent so far, Congress still hasn't made fixing the Health Center Funding Cliff a priority. That means with only one week left until the cliff takes effect, we need to ramp up the pressure even more. **To move Congress to act to fix the cliff once and for all we need to continue to generate thousands of calls, messages and posts every day next week, to every Member of Congress, demanding action before September 30th!** Even if you've already taken action, we need you to do it again and we need you to get others to take action as well. Here's what you need to know to get ready to turn up the volume next week – start planning today for each daily activity:

- **MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 25: National Cliff Call-In Day #2** – Be prepared to overwhelm your Congressional offices with calls – advocates should dial 1-(866) 456-3949 and enter your zip code to be connected to their Members. [Access simple directions and a call script](#) to be ready to make calls. *Set a goal of having at least half your staff and board make calls on Monday.*
- **TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 26: Fix the Cliff Social Media Blitz** – Advocates should take to social media to tweet and post on Facebook demanding their Members of Congress act immediately to fix the cliff. [Click here to check out sample posts](#) and be prepared to drive a social media blitz directed at your Members of Congress. *Make a personal commitment to generate 3 social media posts to your Members of Congress on Tuesday and ask your friends, colleagues and family to commit to do the same.*
- **WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 27: Fix the Cliff Email Blitz** – Health Center Advocates, friends, family and colleagues need to clog Congressional inboxes with as many email messages possible demanding action to fix the cliff. *Set a goal to have 100% of your staff and board send a message to their Members of Congress.*
- **THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 28: National Cliff Call-In Day #3** – This will be the final day in September while Congress is in session to deliver the Health Center message demanding action to fix the cliff. Until Congress acts our calls must be relentless and our message persistent. Be prepared to raise the bar once again and help generate thousands of calls to Congress – 9 million patients are counting on our advocacy! *How many calls can your Health Center make?*

The time is NOW. Start planning, set goals, and be ready to act every day next week. Share these action items with your family, friends, colleagues, and community and ask for their help to deliver the Health Center message. There is too much at stake to stop now! Don't let Congress delay action any longer – demand that they make Health Centers a priority and demand that they take action immediately to fix the cliff. **The future of the Health Center Program depends on your advocacy...**

Take Action

Use the Funding Cliff graphic below for social media!



[\(Click to download full graphic\)](#) (Haga clic aquí para ver el gráfico en español)

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Hurricane Harvey Update: Health Centers Rebuild; Thanks to Our Supporters



Above: PanCare of Florida sent a mobile clinic to Spring Branch CHC's severely flooded Katy site.

Texas health centers, our staffs and patients were hit hard during Hurricane Harvey. Severe flooding impacted clinic operations, prevented staff from getting to work, and put patient lives at risk across Southeast Texas. As health centers and our communities recover, we wanted to share with you some of our incredible stories of giving and resilience, and thank everyone who made these past weeks possible. [READ ALL THE INCREDIBLE STORIES HERE!](#)

Have something to add? Email cweaver@tachc.org.

TACHC is Here to Help

As TACHC continues to provide assistance, we need to know your specific needs. Please send your assessments, requests for assistance, or questions for support to Christina Brito-Tigerina at cbtigerina@tachc.org. For more information about donations to Texas health centers [please visit this link](#).

HRSA O&E Grant Funds

Recent funding cuts by CMS for Navigators and Marketplace advertising and marketing means health centers will play an even more critical role to address the potential shortage of assisters for the upcoming open enrollment period. TACHC developed this helpful information sheet about the continued O&E expectations by HRSA and encourages health centers to send their O&E staff to the upcoming O&E conference next week. To register for the conference, see announcement in this newsletter for details. [Click here for Outreach Flier](#)

CentroMed's Ernesto Gómez to Receive Richard C. Alvarado Community Service Award

TACHC Board Director Ernesto Gómez (Treasurer), President & CEO of CentroMed, will receive the 2017 Richard C. Alvarado Community Service Award at the Healthy Futures of Texas 10th annual luncheon event. The Luncheon with the Stars where we will take place at [The Pearl Stable](#) on **Tuesday, October 17, 2017 11:30 am - 1:00 pm**. For more information, call 210.223.4589 or send an email at luncheon@hf-tx.org!



TACHC Employee Anniversaries

Happy "TACHCiversary" to the following:

- Maria Tamez since September 4, 2007

- Courtney Weaver since September 22, 2014

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UPCOMING EVENTS

TACHC Outreach & Enrollment Annual Conference Starts September 27- 28 – Register Now!



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

HRSA/OPA's New Information System is Live

The registration component of the 340B Office of Pharmacy Affairs Information System (OPAIS) is now available for all stakeholder use at (<https://340bopais.hrsa.gov>).

The registration component of the 340B OPAIS enhances the functionality and security of the system for both manufacturers and covered entities. The system also increases the integrity and effective use of 340B stakeholder information.

What You Should Do in Preparation for Accessing 340B OPAIS:

1. Review the 340B OPAIS Educational Resource page for "What's New" Information, Recorded Webinars, Recorded Educational Series, 340B OPAIS FAQ's, and 340B OPAIS Public User Guides ([340B OPAIS Public User Guide](#))
2. Create a 340B User Account ([Create a User Account](#))
3. Log In and Manage your 340B OPAIS records
4. Be aware that previously saved 340B Database links will not function

Contact to [Lynn Ford](#) for more information.

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](#).

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POLICY

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

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GOVERNANCE & FINANCE

Congratulations to Texas Centers that Received HRSA Funding to Increase Access to Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services!

On September 14, the HRSA awarded more than \$200 million in supplemental funding to 1,178 health centers and 13 rural health organizations in every U.S. state, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands and the Pacific Basin to increase access to substance abuse and mental health services. [Read the HHS Press Release](#).

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



REGISTER NOW!
TACHC Outreach and Enrollment 2017 Conference

Together Towards Tomorrow.

September 27-28 | 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.



Voter Registration Support Services

Does Your Center Conduct Voter Registration Activities?

Voter registration is a support service that health centers can offer patients to assist them to become more involved in their communities and civically engaged. TACHC offers training and support to help your center get started and tools and resources to help centers already involved continue these efforts. For more information on how your center can participate and/or to update TACHC with your dedicated health center voter registration staff to receive ongoing support and communication, contact RexAnn Shotwell, TACHC Voter Registration Project Coordinator, rshotwell@tachc.org, 512-329-5959

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[CLINICAL](#)



Centering®

Centering Group Medical Visit Trainings

Basic Facilitation Workshop October 28-29, 2017

The Basic Facilitation Workshop will be held 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](#).**
- **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](#).**

Implementing Substance Abuse Services in Health Center Settings Webinar Recordings Available

The SAMHSA-HRSA Center for Integrated Health Solutions recently hosted a two-part webinar series addressing challenges related to the integration of substance abuse and medication-assisted treatment (MAT) services in primary care settings. The recordings of these two interactive sessions are now available:

- **[Part 1: Challenges and Opportunities](#)**
- **[Part 2: Lessons from the Field](#)**

Watch the recordings to see providers from HRSA-funded health centers, as well as other experts, share insights on issues critical to the successful implementation of substance abuse services. Topics covered include workflows for start-up of MAT services, staffing considerations for substance abuse/MAT services, managing complex patients, making appropriate referrals to specialty care, MAT financing options, addressing stigma, and opioid prescribing protocols

HHS Establishes New Task Force on Pain Management

HHS recently announced the creation of a new task force to develop best practices for prescribing pain medication and for managing chronic and acute pain. HHS, along with Veterans Affairs and the Department of Defense, will provide oversight of the Pain Management Best Practices Inter-Agency Task Force. HHS is seeking member nominations from the public that include representatives of the mental health treatment and addiction treatment communities, individuals in recovery from substance use disorder, and groups with expertise on overdose reversal. [View the notice in the Federal Register](#).

2017 Uniform Data System (UDS) Manual is Now Available

The 2017 manual describes the annual UDS reporting requirements for all health centers that receive federal award funds (grantees) as well as for look-alikes under the Health Center Program. This comprehensive guide helps health centers understand the framework of reporting requirements, including data submissions on patients, operations, and clinical performance. The manual provides: An introduction and overview of the UDS; Instructions for completing each of the tables; and Information on how to submit the data through HRSA's EHB. Find the 2017 UDS Manual on the [UDS Resources](#) page.

How Health IT Works to Support Patient-Centered Medical Home Webinar

A "How Health IT Works to Support Patient-Centered Medical Home" Webinar (Hosted by HITEQ, a BPHC-funded NCA) is set for Tuesday, Sept. 26, 2:00-3:00 PM CST. [Register here](#)

Prevention and Control of Seasonal Influenza with Vaccines: Recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices

[CDC recently published this report](#), which updates the 2016-17 recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) regarding the use of seasonal influenza vaccines. Routine annual influenza vaccination is recommended for all persons aged ≥ 6 months who do not have contraindications. A licensed, recommended, and age-appropriate vaccine should be used.

St. David's Foundation Announces Postpartum Support Services RFP

St. David's Foundation is pleased to announce the availability of funds to aid low-income and underserved women in Central Texas in receiving timely and effective postpartum support services. The postnatal period represents a vital window to help women and babies reap health benefits that can pay dividends for years to come. Through this opportunity, the Foundation is interested in improving postpartum access and outcomes for underserved women during the "fourth trimester," the year following delivery. [See the full story here.](#)

RECRUITMENT & RETENTION

Assessment of Health Professionals

With the support of HRSA's Bureau of Primary Health Care, the Association of Clinicians for the Underserved is fielding a short assessment to gather information on health centers' current experiences with health professions training activities in order to identify potential areas for resources, training, and technical assistance. This assessment takes approximately 15 minutes to complete and should be completed by all health centers regardless of whether or not they are currently training health professions students or residents. Please preview the questions and complete the [assessment online](#). Contact [Allison Abayasekara](#) VP, Training & Programs. Phone: 703-562-8820

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](#).